



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 3.0

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MPO Policy Committee

Minutes

January 9, 2014

DuPage County Conference Room

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago, Illinois

MPO Policy Committee Members Present:

Frank Beal – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Lynette Ciavarella – Metra, Shiela Clements – Federal Transit Administration, Michael Connelly, Chicago Transit Authority, Tom Cuculich – DuPage County, John Donovan – Federal Highway Administration, Luann Hamilton – Chicago Department of Transportation, Elliott Hartstein – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Joe Korpalski – McHenry County, Rich Kwasneski – Pace, Christopher J. Lauzen - Kane County, John McCarthy – Private Providers, Leanne Redden – Regional Transportation Authority, Jeffery Schielke - Council of Mayors, Secretary Ann Schneider - Illinois Department of Transportation, John Shaw – Kendall County, Paula Trigg – Lake County, Larry Walsh – Will County, John Yonan - Cook County, Rocco Zuccherro – Illinois Tollway

MPO Policy Committee Members Absent:

Wes Lujan – Class I Railroads

Staff Present:

Patricia Berry, Randy Blankenhorn, Dolores Dowdle, Jesse Elam, Tom Garritano, Don Kopec, Jill Leary, Matt Maloney, Jacquelyn Murdock, Jason Navota, Holly Ostdick, Gordon Smith

Others Present:

Len Cannata – West Central Municipal Conference, Pat Carey – Cook County, Bruce Carmitchel – Illinois Department of Transportation, Bruce Christensen - Lake County, Tony Greep – Federal Transit Administration, Jessica Hecter-Hsu – Regional Transportation Authority, Charles Ingersoll - Illinois Department of Transportation, Jon-Paul Kohler – Federal Highway Administration, Katie Kulielka - Illinois Department of Transportation/AECOM, Mark Pitstick – Regional Transportation Authority, Peter Pollis – Guest, Thomas Rickert – Kane County, Steve Schilke – Illinois Department of Transportation, Chris Schmidt - Illinois Department of Transportation, David Seglin - Chicago Department of Transportation, Karen Shoup - Illinois Department of Transportation, Chris Staron - North Shore Council of Mayors, Thomas Vander Woude – South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Mike Walczak – Northwest

Municipal Conference, David Werner – Federal Transit Administration, Tammy Wierciak
– West Central Municipal Conference

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Secretary Schneider called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – October 17, 2013

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Joe Korpalski, the minutes of October 17, 2013 were approved.

4.0 Agency Reports

4.1 Council of Mayors' Report

Mayor Schielke reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on November 19. The mayors have spent over \$75 million of their STP mark for 2013, reducing the amount of carryover. The Executive Committee also considered and approved an additional \$4 million in advanced funding

The committee also discussed and decided to support a Buy America waiver for four projects CMAQ projects sponsored by local communities. At the end of December FHWA granted a partial Buy America waiver as long as the vehicles are assembled in the United States.

Finally, the committee discussed the GO TO 2040 update scheduled for public comment in June and the USDOT Certification review.

Mayor Schielke noted that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee will next meet on Tuesday January 28, 2014.

4.2 CMAP Board Report

Ms. Redden reported on the past two meetings of the CMAP Board. In November the Board approved an amendment to their by-laws clarifying residency requirements for non-voting members of the Board and they also had a presentation on the third year of GO TO 2040's implementation. Yesterday, the Board addressed many of the items on today's agenda and also received an update on the Governor's Transit Task Force. They also approved a contract examining transportation, land use and open space in the IL 53/120 Corridor.

4.3 CMAP Staff Report

Mr. Kopec followed up on Ms. Redden's Transit Task Force report by noting that the Task Force engaged the RTA and service board appointing authorities to provide feedback on the challenges to improving the region's transit governance and service delivery. The Task Force also gathered information from other metropolitan regions such as New York and Washington D.C. to inform its recommendations. The Task Force's final report was

initially due to the Governor by January 31, but has since been pushed back to the end of March. The Task Force's meeting materials, testimony, and correspondence is available online at IDOT's website.

Mr. Kopec informed the Committee that staff has prepared draft detailed comments on FHWA's Primary Freight Network which is out for comment from USDOT. The purpose of the National Freight Network is to strategically direct resources to highway corridors most critical to the movement of freight. The National Freight Network will be composed of a Primary Freight Network, the remainder of the Interstate system not included in the Primary Freight Network, and critical rural freight corridors. The comments by staff present overarching policy comments, as well as two scenarios for consideration of the freight network for metropolitan Chicago. The deadline for comments is Friday, January 17. We have reached out to IDOT, the Tollway, the City of Chicago, and the Counties asking for feedback and input on our comments.

And related to freight issues, next week Kermit Wies of our staff will be participating on a workshop panel at this year's TRB Annual Meeting, presenting CMAP's innovative Freight Forecasting model research.

Mr. Kopec noted that at member's places are copies of the 2013 implementation report in poster form. The report briefly summarizes a number of GO TO 2040 implementation successes and provides an overview of progress on the plan's major capital projects.

Finally, he noted that at yesterday's Board meeting, CMAP received the audit results from last year. Notably, there were no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses. CMAP received an unqualified opinion which is the highest level of approval you can receive.

Secretary Schneider commented on both the work of the Transit Task Force and the Primary Freight Network about which IDOT is working with the Tollway to get their mileage accurately included. She also noted that the National Freight Committee, created by MAP-21 and which she chairs, is meeting in Chicago the next two days and will have a site visit to some CREATE projects and an intermodal facility.

5.0 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Dolores Dowdle informed the Committee that the UWP process for FY15 is beginning. At the UWP Committee's last meeting earlier in the month, it was decided to maintain the process as it has been the past few years with core and competitive sections of the program. A call for competitive projects will be released soon.

Mr. Cuculich inquired about a project related to Positive Train Control and whether that would be a core or competitive project. Ms. Dowdle felt that it would be a competitive project.

6.0 GO TO 2040 Update

Mr. Kopec referred the Committee to a memo in their packets describing the update process for GO TO 2040. He noted that while it was unlikely that any of the major policies

of the plan would change, there will be adjustments to the implementation action areas and the indicators. However, most significantly for transportation, there financial plan and major capital projects will be thoroughly reviewed and revised as necessary.

Mr. Kopec observed that the initial financial forecasts are coming in somewhat lower than what had been forecast initially for GO TO 2040. There will be an even greater need to develop reasonably expected revenues to go beyond simply maintaining and operating the system. The major capital projects are also under review and staff has been working with implementing agencies to get the latest information regarding project status and costs. He explained that the Transportation Committee will be closely involved with all activities updating the plan.

Mr. Hartstein spoke to the financial forecasts and mentioned that the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding transportation financing at their meeting. Mayor Schielke noted that the economy might be turning around based on the fact that there is much more activity in the housing construction market in Batavia. Secretary Schneider requested some additional information regarding the forecasts and if the latest pension reform legislation was taken into account. She strongly urged staff to examine all opportunities for innovative financing. Staff committed to providing the information she requested regarding the financial forecasts.

7.0 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

Jesse Elam presented the recommended projects for the FY 2013 and 2014 Transportation Alternatives Program. He noted that there was a public comment period and only positive comments were received. He described the process used to arrive at the proposed program, going over the screening and selection criteria and that the Transportation Committee has reviewed the program and has recommended approval. On a motion by Michael Connelly, seconded by Luann Hamilton, the proposed FY 2013-2014 TA Program was approved.

8.0 New CMAP Website Demonstration

Tom Garritano presented an overview to the Committee of CMAP's revised website. He described the added functionality provided.

9.0 Illiana Corridor Update

Steve Schilke of IDOT updated the Committee on the Illiana Expressway, covering the status of the NEPA study, the P3 activities and what the next steps will be. He covered some of the milestones of the project, including its inclusion into the long range plans of both CMAP and NIRPC. Ongoing activities included detailed engineering studies, environmental and geotechnical surveys, and stakeholder outreach. The Draft EIS is expected to be released for a public comment period later this month, with public hearings held in February with a Record of Decision expected in the spring of this year.

In terms of the Public-Private Partnership activity, Illinois recently passed P3/Design-Build legislation. Illinois will own the road which will be a tolled facility and enter into a P3 agreement with a developer. The P3 agreement will be a 35-year availability payment

model with the developer being responsible for the design, construction, financing, operation and maintenance of the facility. In December of 2013, IDOT issued a Request for Qualifications and subsequently received Statements of Qualifications from five teams. Later this year, IDOT intends to issue a Request for Proposal to the shortlisted firms, with a selection made in the fall of 2014. Construction is expected to begin in 2015.

10.0 Legislative Update

Gordon Smith referred the Committee to the 2014 State Legislative Framework and State Agenda which was by the CMAP Board yesterday. Staff has revised the State Agenda and Legislative Framework to reflect policy priorities based on research developed at CMAP and issues that remain important to the implementation of GO TO 2040. The Framework document highlights 12 policy priorities for CMAP during the 2014 legislative session. The principles were developed to guide staff and inform our partners, the Governor, legislators, state agency directors and others about CMAP's policy positions regarding legislative initiatives being discussed or introduced in the 98th General Assembly.

Mr. Smith noted that the State Agenda is developed and approved in advance of each regular session of the Illinois General Assembly. The agenda identifies specific state policy issues of interest to CMAP and its partners. The 2014 State Agenda identifies seven priority issues:

- Sustainable Funding for Comprehensive Regional Planning;
- Steady and Reliable Capital Investments for Transportation;
- Innovative Strategies to Manage Congestion and Fund Capital Projects;
- Performance-based Transportation Funding;
- State Tax Policy;
- Water Supply Planning and Management; and
- Transparency and Accountability.

Mr. Smith then covered in detail those priority areas of particular interest to the Policy Committee. This included support for the diversification of funding from the state with stable, non-transportation sources, in addition to a \$6 million appropriation under Metropolitan Planning and Research in the IDOT FY 2015 budget for Illinois' (MPOs).

Regarding capital investments for transportation, CMAP supports a new program that must: 1) be funded through new user-fee generated revenues; 2) move away from the 55/45 split and toward a performance-based funding system; and 3) provide additional capital funding for both highways and transit.

Speaking to innovative strategies to manage congestion and fund capital projects, Mr. Smith noted that the Chicago region is consistently ranked as one of the most congested regions in the United States. The region needs to invest strategically in proven solutions, such as congestion pricing, to help alleviate delay experienced on roadways. CMAP supports legislative initiatives that encourage IDOT and the Illinois Tollway to prioritize the implementation of congestion pricing on new highway capacity. He also noted that value capture strategies have the potential to generate significant revenue for new transportation facilities but that statutory changes are required to make value capture

work in Illinois. CMAP supports legislative initiatives that enable the establishment of these taxing districts, while also ensuring equity considerations for underlying jurisdictions and the region's taxpayers. CMAP also supports the appropriate use of Public-Private Partnerships but cautions that these arrangements must be handled with a high degree of transparency and care. CMAP supports legislative initiatives that require increased transparency as well as safeguards to protect the State of Illinois from undue financial risk in P3 projects.

And finally, related to performance-based transportation funding, CMAP recommends that transportation funding decisions be based on transparent evaluation criteria, utilizing performance measures developed by the state, MPOs, and the region's transportation stakeholders. CMAP supports legislative initiatives that encourage IDOT to implement a transparent process of performance-based funding for the selection of transportation projects.

11.0 Other Business

Secretary Schneider congratulated both Leanne Redden and Rebekah Scheinfeld on their recent appointments. She noted that this continues a healthy trend of women being appointed to leadership positions in the field of transportation.

12.0 Public Comment

There was no additional public comment.

13.0 Next Meeting – Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

The next meeting of the Policy Committee is scheduled for March 13, 2014 at 10:00 a.m.

14.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Joseph Korpalski, seconded by Michael Connelly, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.