It's Thursday! Let's DANCE! Live Music and Dancing Click for Details WHERE CHICAGO AND THE NORTH SHORE MEET EVANSTON DOWNTOWN

Regional plan aired at city plan meeting

Thursday, July 15, 2010, at 10:12 am by Brittney Wong

Evanston Plan Commission members got an update on planning efforts across the Chicago region Wednesday night.

Erin Aleman, Senior Regional Planner of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, presented the draft of the GO TO 2040 plan, explaining each of 12 recommendations CMAP, who crafted the draft, is proposing for Cook County and six neighboring counties.

GO TO 2040's recommendations range from promoting sustainable local food to reforming state and local tax policy. CMAP's specialization lies in land use and transportation, so the plan discusses ways to make both more efficient.

In response to a question from Plan Commissioner Charles Staley about how those goals would be funded, Aleman listed several grants CMAP has or aims to acquire, including a $25 million grant received from the U. S. Department of Energy.

She also suggested the idea of a regional motor fuel tax, saying existing state and local gas taxes are relatively low here.

Plan Commission Chair Stuart Opdycke said it will be very difficult to initiate many of the steps of the plan because they'll need to be approved by state officials.

"It's a mountain to climb," he said. "I applaud your efforts thus far, but none of this is going to be easy."

Planning Division Director Dennis Marino said this plan fits in a previously unoccupied space in policy. "One of the things this plan clearly does is fill a vacuum that exists," he said. "I think that makes a critical difference both in the public debate and in Springfield and Washington."

CMAP's board is scheduled to approve the plan in October, when Aleman said CMAP's recommendations would turn into action. One of the first steps is constructing a website for residents to explore 240 different characteristics of their community, such as demographic data or housing trends.

And how will it affect Evanston specifically? "We really hope that this will continue the high quality of life here, increase transit access and also just make the region a better place," Aleman said.

The draft is available for comment online and a public meeting for Northwest/North Central Cook County will take place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, July 29, at the Arlington Heights Public Library, 500 N. Dunton Ave.

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- Theft in 1400 block of Sherman
- Theft in 800 block of Davis
- Criminal damage to vehicle in 1300 block of Main
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- Theft in 800 block of Noyes
- Graffiti in 1500 block of Seward
- Burglary in 600 block of Hinman

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Preview

- Theft in 800 block of Michigan
- Theft in 100 block of Dempster

Crime map | Crime list

EVENTS

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- Library group sets book sale fundraiser
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 5:00pm
- It's Thursday, Let's Dance
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 6:00pm
- Green Topics: Wind farm
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 6:30pm
- Housing Commission
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 7:00pm
- 5th Ward meeting
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 7:00pm
- Father/Son Book Group: Bang! by Sharon Flake
  Evanston Public Library
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 7:00pm
- Starlight Concert Series features Robbie Fulks at James Park
  James Park
  When: Jul 15 2010 - 7:30pm
- Library group sets book sale fundraiser
  When: Jul 16 2010 - 9:00am
- Central Street Sidewalk Sale
  When: Jul 16 2010 - 10:00am
- Document destruction event
  Evanston Civic Center
  When: Jul 17 2010 - 9:00am

More events

CALENDAR

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