



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes Thursday, April 6, 2017

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Lake County Conference Room  
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

**Members Present:** Nancy Williamson (for Lynn Boerman) – IDNR, Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, K.C. Doyle (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Mike Warner (via phone) – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

**Members Absent:** Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Chris Mulvaney – Chicago Wilderness, Stacy Meyers – Openlands

**Staff Present:** Nora Beck (staff liaison for ENR), Alex Beata, Noah Boggess, Brian Daly, Pat Day, Kristin Ihnchak, Tom Kotarac, Ricardo Lopez, Thomas Murtha, Dan Olson, Elizabeth Oo, Jared Patton, Joe Szabo

**Others Present:** Justin Keller – UIC, Peter Toth – Foresight Design Initiative

### 1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- **Alternative Futures Forum:** "[Thriving in a Changing Climate](#)," on Thursday, April 6, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m., co-sponsored and hosted by the Chicago Academy of Sciences/Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum (2430 N. Cannon Dr., Chicago).
- **Kane County Forest Preserve Open Space Referendum:** Voters approved \$50 million for land acquisition and capital improvements in the election last Tuesday.
- **Changes for Chicago Wilderness:** The coalition announced cutbacks to the organization last week. Next steps will be discussed at the Executive Council meeting on Wednesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at 9 am at CMAP.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 2 meeting was made by Jackie Forbes, seconded by Nancy Williamson. The motion carried with all in favor.

### 4.0 ON TO 2050: Alternative Futures: Climate Kiosk and MetroQuest

The Alternative Futures project will explore five distinct futures for the Chicago region. A [memo](#) describing a future with a changed climate has been finalized. Using a [presentation](#), Jared Patton present on the various outreach activities related to the Alternative Futures project, including the Changed Climate interactive kiosk, a Metroquest Survey, and Alternative Future Forums and workshops. Committee members asked clarifying questions and expressed interest in getting the word out about the outreach activities. Please visit the CMAP Alternative Futures [webpage](#) for more details and grab potential email text from the CMAP [Weekly Updates](#).

### 5.0 ON TO 2050: Public Health Strategy Paper Scope

With support from the Chicago Community Trust, CMAP has partnered with Adler University Institute on Social Inclusion to develop a strategy paper on Public Health to inform ON TO 2050. Using a [presentation](#), Ricardo Lopez described the initial phase of the project, which is focused on analyzing the public health landscape and identifying CMAP's role as an MPO in public health outcomes. Lopez led a discussion about the vision statement of the project, how members currently engage with public health, and what barriers will we need to overcome to become a health region by 2050. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- Vision Statements:
  - "Build livable communities" encompassed many of the other statements.
  - "Eliminate health inequities" had support as the top choice from some members, citing that this is the standard that actions should be focused on.
  - Discussion how the communities who are on the receiving end of identified health inequalities have to be part of the identification process. And that the combined contexts in which communities live must be taken into consideration; it's not the 1 facility that is causing air quality and corresponding health impacts, it is the combined impacts from multiple sources.
  - Discussion on the role of transportation and how the negative impacts should be partially mitigated by environmental projects.
  - Discussion on both physical and mental health; this project is focused broadly on health and how land use and transportation decisions can affect outcomes.
  - Discussion on water quality and more broadly natural resources. MWRD has been focused on reducing the pharmaceuticals in the wastewater stream.
- Barriers:
  - Engaging public health and planning professionals in the other's decision-making process.
  - Difficulty in engaging county public health departments in becoming advocates for impacted communities

- Integrating public health outcomes in planning processes
- Stakeholders to talk with:
  - Environmental groups should be part of this conversation. The Illinois Environmental Justice Commission has been working with IEPA on improving data access and analysis.
  - SSMMA and south suburbs of Cook County.

## 6.0 ON TO 2050: Energy Strategy Paper: Initial Findings

As part of ON TO 2050 development, CMAP is working with Foresight Design Initiative in an effort to evaluate regional energy issues. Foresight has been working with a steering committee and several working groups to explore the following topics: building efficiency, transportation energy, generation sources, electric grid infrastructure. Ultimately, Foresight will produce a strategy paper highlighting the role and strategies that CMAP should pursue in the next plan. Using a [presentation](#), Peter Toth explained the project and their findings so far. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- The need for spatially-tailored strategies. The strategies needed in the city are very different from some of the suburbs based on their energy use and built environment.
- Inclusion of the role of water treatment and reclamation in energy discussion.
- Recommendation to think of the strategies in two categories – the consumer side and the grid side, which has an entirely different set of strategies and audience.
- ComEd / Nicor and an evolving bi-directional business model. Strategies should recognize the impacts on land use of this shift and where bi-directional programs are helpful and where it is not.
- Prioritize efforts to address social inequities.

## 7.0 Freight and Environmental Justice

CMAP is developing a near-term freight policy agenda, titled the Regional Strategic Freight Direction. This project is separate from ON TO 2050 but the two projects will inform each other. Using a [presentation](#), Alex Beata provided an overview of the Regional Strategic Freight Direction and focused in on recent research into freight and environmental justice, highlighted in this [memo](#). Beata shared potential recommendations for the Regional Strategic Freight Direction and asked for additional ideas from the committee. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- Indoor air quality (in addition to outdoor) and industrial corridors. Little Village Environmental Justice Organization has been coordinating with USGBC about their LEED system accounting for the surrounding land use context in indoor air quality standards, specifically for schools.
- Communities need to know their current air quality issues and then consider this information when making land use decisions.
- Discussion on the role of community benefit agreements and how to meet other community objectives through that process, yet the legal limitations of this approach.

- Discussion on the role of environmental mitigation and the co-benefits that can be achieved, including green jobs.
- Discussion on using an approach similar to Total Maximum Daily Loads for water quality.
- Understanding industry data and predictive demand through a community.
- Discussion on last-mile congestion and how to tackle the dispersed and distributed nature of urban freight deliveries. Role of alternative forms of transportation, such as biking, to minimize congestion and air quality impacts.
- Water quality impacts in addition to air quality impacts – the creation of large impervious surfaces.
- Freight-supportive land uses may also be large water consumers and our large clusters are located in areas with constrained water supply, which may impact residents with higher water costs.
- Role of building codes to address air quality standards. Could be established like stormwater regulations where there are a menu of options for compliance.
- Electrification of fleets.
- Discussion on the difficulty of addressing specific incidents without a central freight governance organization. The dispersed nature of the freight system makes coordination difficult and lends itself for issues migrating to specific communities.
- Freight pinchpoints that transform mobile sources to stationary sources of air pollution.

## 8.0 Vision for the Northeastern Illinois Expressway System

Staff introduced a project to develop a multi-modal vision to guide future capital investments, coordinate transportation operations, and recommend policy and management strategies for the existing northeastern Illinois expressway system. This project is separate from ON TO 2050 but will inform. Using a [presentation](#), Tom Murtha explained the project and led the committee on a discussion of goal statements. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and discussed the following points:

- Attention to specific destination traffic.
- Coordination with planned manufacturing districts and other land uses that intensively rely on the expressway system.
- Coordination of data sharing with changing automated and ridesharing economies.
- Consideration of lower-emission and zero-emission vehicles in expressway management.
- Developing a financially sustainable system is the central goal with tolling, congestion pricing, and value capture.
- Expanded role of high-quality transit. Discussion on the role of transit to connect residents to jobs. How are people accessing large employment centers and how can this connect to inclusive growth goals? Consider needs of suburban employers and workers, as the proposed STAR Line intended to do.
- Critical role of enhanced bus service but also blue line enhancements as well.
- Connectivity of the system and the potential for instantaneous re-routing to enhance performance and reliability.
- Coordination with rail and truck traffic.

- Identifying the barriers that are off the expressway system but impact its performance, such as Randall Road.
- Addressing the physical barriers the expressway can present in a community – whether it's the pedestrian and bicycle traffic trying to go through or access the expanded transit on the expressway system itself. Context-sensitive design for the municipality to make the transit system work.
- Emergency response access within a community and to the expressway system itself.
- Adaptation to climate change and the need to incorporate innovative nature-based solutions to respond to the increasing weather events that cause congestion in the system.
- Consider water quality impacts
- Lack of a transportation demand management program. Maryland DOT is a leader.
- Other discussion topics included the role of distracted drivers; handling traffic during special events (sports, festivals, etc);

#### **9.0 Other Business.**

- Given the level of content the committee is reviewing, meetings have been running past 11 am. Nora anticipates that this could occur next month as well. Committee members suggested updating the Outlook calendar to reflect this.

#### **10.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **11.0 Next Meeting**

The ENR Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, May 4, 2017.

#### **12.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)  
 April 7, 2017