



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

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

Committee Members

Present: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Jackie Forbes (for Jennifer Becker) – Kane County Division of Transportation, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Vincent Waller (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA

Staff Present: Jason Navota, Elizabeth Irvin, Kristin Ihnchak, Elizabeth Oo, Nora Beck, Jesse Elam

Others Present: Edith Makra – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

1.0 Call to Order

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

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Wiedel explained that the agenda would be reordered as follows

3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 2, 2015

With a clarification of when the committee would receive an update to the Green Infrastructure Co-benefits strategy paper (November) and some grammatical updates, a motion to approve the minutes of the September 2 meeting was made by Patty Werner, seconded by Ed Collins, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Next Regional Plan: Broad Priorities – Kristin Ihnchak, CMAP Staff

Building on prior guidance from the CMAP board and a staff charrette conducted in August 2015, Kristin Ihnchak discussed the overarching vision, priorities, and audiences for the next comprehensive regional plan using a [powerpoint presentation](#). ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Shared services and government consolidation. Members discussed how shared services should be emphasized and how this is being discussed more in Lake County. Consolidation of services could also be a way to reduce the number of governmental units in NE IL.
- Collaboration with IDOT. IDOT has a representative on the ENR committee who was engaged with the creation of GO TO 2040. Need a similar level of collaboration with this next plan.
- Defining the scope. Discussion about how we often limit what a project can cover when really the scope should be redefined.
- Support for more actionable policies and request for an example. Ihnchak explained that that is something CMAP will explore so don't have a definitive example at this time. Feedback has been that more detail will help local implementers; however, this will need to be prioritized and some of the detailed information will need to come during implementation.
- Support for regional equity and the difference between equity and equality. Inclusive growth strategy paper will be investigating this further; right now, thinking about economic inclusion and accessibility within the region.
- Inclusion of health. Has environmental and equity considerations; currently being covered in a variety of strategy papers since it does straddle different topics.
- Support for the provocative. Committee member liked the use of this word, encouraged CMAP to actively use it when addressing environmental issues.

5.0 Next Regional Plan: Undeveloped, Agricultural, and Natural Areas Strategy Paper – Nora Beck, CMAP Staff

GO TO 2040 focuses on encouraging compact and infill development; while also containing several strategies for those areas of the region that are currently undeveloped, in agricultural use, and/or contain natural resources. CMAP is exploring this topic further for the next plan by evaluating where and how development and preservation efforts have occurred and then evaluating the existing message, policies, and programs currently in place. The goal is to identify effective strategies for preserving these areas as well as guidance on where and how development on these lands can reduce negative impacts and support community livability. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Nora Beck reviewed the timeline and structure of the project, previous GO TO 2040 recommendations and targets, and the scope outlined for the strategy paper. Beck anticipates coming back to the committee in January with an update.

ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- **Agriculture:**
 - Differences between commodity and local food agriculture. Commodity farmers are often farming 2,000 – 4,000 acres of land and are making different types of decisions about land use.
 - Recommendation to handle these two types of agriculture differently in the analysis.
 - Pressures on Agriculture. Aging farmers and generational challenges, land access.
 - Forest Preserve Districts and the farming that is being done on their lands. Some are encouraging local food production on these landholdings as it may be more complimentary with their mission.
 - Openlands Regional Food System study is looking at the supply-side gaps and barriers of local food production.
 - Contacts in commodity agriculture. Several members offered to help CMAP connect with people in this field.
- **Natural Areas:**
 - GIV doesn't contain new information about Oaks and should be added to the mix.
 - Natural Areas has a specific definition, but the GIV contains other aspects to get at the potential connections between these areas.
 - Larger land protection projects (Midewin, Hackmatack, potentially one in Kankakee).
- Use of the word undeveloped implies that developed is the higher state condition. Recommend using a different word.
- High resolution aerial imagery could be helpful, follow up with Patty Werner.

6.0 Introduction of CMAP Executive Director, Joseph Szabo

CMAP's new Executive Director, Joseph Szabo, introduced himself to the committee and explained his background.

7.0 Environmental Evaluation of Major Capital projects – Nora Beck and Elizabeth Irvin, CMAP Staff

In past evaluations of capital investments, CMAP has estimated both environmental and economic impacts of candidate transportation improvements. For the environmental impacts, Beck and Irvin will be reviewing [past methods for calculating environmental impacts](#) and identifying additional techniques used by other states and MPOs. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Beck and Irvin reviewed the analysis that CMAP has used in the past and posed some questions to the committee. Beck and Irvin anticipate coming back to the committee with more information in the next few months.

ENR committee members made a number of comments and asked questions, which prompted discussion on the following points:

- Agriculture. Support for including the impacts of new development on agricultural lands.
- Ecosystem fragmentation is an important concept to consider. The GIV contains both high quality resources as well as the potential for restoring the functional connections between these areas.

- Roads themselves fragment the natural landscape as well as nearby neighborhoods.
- Discussion about how to include the positive environmental impacts of road projects. Redesigning an existing road that reconnects the landscape.
- Impervious cover. Are we looking at existing ordinances? Development in some areas, particularly redevelopment may trigger reductions in impervious cover based on the existing ordinance.
- Other considerations:
 - Social barriers of roads.
 - Noise
 - Light pollution
 - Health, particularly respiratory issues
 - Sense of place, does the road bring redevelopment opportunities to existing buildings or does it bring new structures on previously undeveloped land?
 - Access to lower cost goods and services for low income households.

8.0 Other Business

No other business.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to meet next on Wednesday, November 4, 2015.

10.0 Adjournment