



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental and Natural Resources Working Committee

FROM: Dawn Thompson, CMAP Staff

DATE: April 24, 2013

RE: Facility Planning Area Revised Procedures Manual

CMAP or one of its predecessors has long served as the areawide water quality planning agency in northeastern Illinois. As such, it has aided in implementation of areawide water quality management plans¹ through the Facility Planning Area (FPA) review process. In light of a recent change to the FPA process² and the fact that the CMAP FPA Process and Procedures manual has not been updated since the 1990s, CMAP staff is reevaluating its role in executing the FPA process to determine how it might better fulfill its areawide water quality management responsibility. (The original manual is available at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/water-quality/about-fpa-requests>).

CMAP believes that it would best add value to the overall water quality protection efforts within northeastern Illinois by focusing its planning expertise where it will have the most significant return. To do so, CMAP believes it should, as far as possible, align the FPA process to implement its regional comprehensive plan, GO TO 2040. It should also simplify and streamline the review process to avoid duplication of efforts between CMAP, Illinois EPA, and other agencies.

In an effort to realize this vision, CMAP has revised its FPA Process and Procedures manual. Specifically, the draft manual (available at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/environmental-and-natural-res/minutes>) modifies the review procedures for FPA review Criteria 2, 4, 7 and 8 to reflect GO TO 2040 priorities and other changes in the policy landscape and deemphasizes the remaining criteria. The draft manual also streamlines CMAP's existing FPA processing procedures to lessen the workload for applicants while focusing attention on the most critical regional planning issues.

Highlights of these changes are as follows:

¹ Delegated authority to develop the areawide plan has its roots in the federal Clean Water Act (P.L. 92-500).

² Illinois EPA has ultimate authority for FPA reviews and recently announced it will no longer deny a State construction permit based solely on a project not being consistent with an FPA boundary.

Proposed Changes

- **Criteria 2** – Criterion 2 specifies that a FPA amendment request should be consistent with CMAP’s regional forecasts. CMAP’s review of these criteria would continue to provide standardized regional population projections. Review of this criterion would also help implement GO TO 2040’s priority recommendation to “Achieve Greater Livability Through Land Use and Housing.”
- **Criterion 4**- In this case, proposed amendments should “not reduce the effectiveness of the water quality improvement strategy contained in the original plan, either for point source or nonpoint source control.” Continued review of this criterion would ensure that wastewater and other “gray infrastructure” expansion does not come at the expense of the regional green infrastructure network and that water conservation efforts are implemented throughout the region. Review of this criterion would also help implement GO TO 2040’s priority recommendation to “Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources” in an efficient manner.
- **Criterion 7** – Criterion 7 specifies that adjoining units of governments should not be negatively impacted by an amendment request. Maintaining review of this criterion would assist CMAP in maintaining its role in helping local governments resolve disagreements over their responsibilities for providing wastewater service and encourage intergovernmental cooperation as specified in GO TO 2040’s priority recommendation to “Pursue Coordinate Investments.”
- **Criterion 8** – Criterion 8 considers whether an amendment request is consistent with other county and regional plans. Redefining the process would ensure wastewater infrastructure investments are consistent with regional goals. It would also implement GO TO 2040’s priority recommendation “Achieve Greater Livability through Land Use and Housing”.

Additionally, staff proposes to cease reviewing NPDES permits and loan applications, which are handled by the Illinois EPA permitting stage. CMAP would also simplify the process by collapsing review Levels I, II, and III into a single review process.

The Environment and Natural Resources Committee is encouraged to provide feedback, especially in response to the following questions:

Questions:

1. How may GO TO 2040’s goal to manage energy resources be used as a component within the FPA review process?
2. Should the criteria review language be changed to align with core goals of GO TO 2040 or eliminated all together?
3. What partners should staff engage for review of the revised manual?
4. How may GO TO 2040’s goal to prioritize funding to communities engaging in intergovernmental planning be used within the FPA review process?
5. How may the FPA review process be aligned with the recommendation of GO TO 2040’s Preferred Regional Scenario to increase efforts to conserve resources, namely farmland?

Action Requested: Provide feedback on the draft Process and Procedures Manual and specific recommendations for improvement.