Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400
www.cmap.illinois.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: **Freight Committee**

From: CMAP Staff

Date: February 4, 2013

Re: **Outline of Regional Freight Authority Feasibility Analysis**

GO TO 2040 calls for an adequately funded multimodal freight mobility system. One of the plan's recommendations is for CMAP to investigate the feasibility of establishing a Regional Freight Authority, a freight institution that provides leadership and funding for freight projects.

The attached overview is a synthesis of a staff analysis describing the major steps in the feasibility study. The synthesis calls for first analyzing the existing conditions of freight movement in the region and contrasting those existing conditions with a preferred condition. That preferred condition is a detailed description of freight mobility performance expectations in terms of quantitative measures, such as hours of delay, and qualitative expectations of what needs to be done to advance freight in the region. As such, meeting freight system performance expectations will require looking at what kinds of institutional focus or leadership is required to advocate for freight needs, the institutional functions that substantively advance projects and revenue source sources to pay for it all.

The overview identifies a need for a Board approved taskforce to examine the issues of regional freight governance and make recommendations about how to bridge the leadership and functional gap between existing and preferred conditions on the one hand, and the funding gap on the other to the CMAP Board. The recommendations will also consider what, if any, institutional format would be helpful in bridging the leadership/functional and funding gaps.

With Freight Committee input on the issues identified in the analysis, staff will prepare a detailed internal workplan assigning staff and responsibilities to the respective parts of the feasibility analysis.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

###