



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes Friday April 25, 2008

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Cook County Conference Room

Transportation Committee Members Present:

Luann Hamilton, Chairman, CDOT
Bill Brown, NIRPC
Matt Cuddy, Northwestern University
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, Metro Office
Heidi Files, Kane County
John Fortmann, IDOT-District One
Henry Guerriero, Illinois Tollway
Jack Groner, Metra
Rupert Graham, Jr., Cook County
Robert Hann, Private Transportation Providers
Don Kopec, CMAP
Christina Kupkowski, Will County
John Loper, DuPage County
Les Nunes, IDOT – OP& P
Jason Osborn, McHenry County
Paula Trigg, Lake County
David Simmons, CTA
Peter Skosey, BLT
Holly Smith, Kendall County
Vonu Thakuriah, UIC-UTC

Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Charles Abraham, Illinois DPIT
Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
Rocky Donahue, Pace
Jan Metzger, Center for Neighborhood Technology
Mayor Arlene Mulder, Council of Mayors
Randy Neufeld, Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Leann Redden, RTA

Mike Rogers, IEPA
Ken Yunker, SEWRPC
Tom Zapler, Railroad Companies

Others Present

Chris Byars
Leonard Cannata
Joe Deal
Kama Dobbs
Bud Fleming
Paul Heltne
Chalen Hunter
Kazuya Kawamura
Hugh O'Hara

Chad Riddle
Mark Rinnan
Chris Slattery
Chris Staron
Emily Tapia
Mike Walczak
Thomas Weaver
Tammy Wierciak

CMAP Staff

Patricia Berry
Teri Dixon
Leroy Kos
Kerry Leigh
Roseann O'Laughlin
Holly Ostdick
Ross Patronsky

Russell Pietrowiak
Tom Murtha
Jose Rodriguez
Joy Schaad
Diana Torres

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 9:37. Members of the Committee and others in attendance introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chairman Hamilton stated that in addition to the items listed on the agenda, Mr. Patronsky will be discussing the recommended bi-annual schedule for consideration of TIP amendments requiring a conformity analysis under Agenda Item 7.

Mr. Murtha announced the Designing Pedestrian Facilities for Accessibility Workshop to be held in June. Chairman Hamilton suggested that the City of Chicago's stringent requirements for accessibility be acknowledged during the workshop. Mr. Murtha agreed and said the facilitator of this workshop is John LaPlante who is very knowledgeable about this issue.

Mr. Nunes announced that the Illinois Enhancement program applications are due by May 5, 2008.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – March 28, 2008

Mr. Groner asked that Lynnette Ciavarella's name be corrected in the March 28 minutes. Chairman Hamilton stated that staff will make the correction and also correct Cook County's representative. Mr. Groner made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Mr. Cuddy seconded. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports

The coordinating committees have not met since the last TC meeting. Ms. Berry noted that the Programming Coordinating Committee's April meeting was deferred to May, since the April Board meeting was cancelled. The May 14th meeting will focus on Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). Subsequent to the May meeting, the Programming Coordinating Committee will resume its regular schedule of meeting in even months.

5.0 RTA Update

Ms. Redden could not attend the meeting and asked Mr. Kopec to give the RTA report. He stated that RTA is fully committed to implementing all aspects of the new transit legislation; many of these items will take time to develop and fully execute. Nevertheless, the RTA staff continues to work to implement all areas of the recently passed legislation. The RTA is focused on several implementation items: a minor update to the strategic plan goals; developing a capital evaluation process; performance measures; and a more robust budget process. These items will be reflected in the updated strategic plan document that will be presented to the Board in June.

6.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments and Administrative Modifications

Ms. Ostdick requested Committee approval of amendments to not exempt and exempt TIP projects that exceed amendment thresholds. On a motion by Mr. Groner and seconded by Ms. Trigg, the not exempt and exempt project amendments were approved. The administrative modifications were received for information.

7.0 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Update, FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Mr. Patronsky stated that staff is requesting the Transportation Committee to release the conformity analysis, RTP update, and TIP amendments for public comment. He stated a memo and summary were available in their meeting

materials that describe the revisions. He stated the conformity analysis shows that Northeast Illinois is still within the State Implementation Plan (SIP) budgets.

On a motion by Mr. Nunes and second Mr. Loper, the Conformity Analysis, TIP Amendments, and RTP Update were released for public comment.

7.1 Bi-Annual Conformity Analysis/30 Day Public Comment Amendment

Mr. Patronsky stated CMAP staff is proposing consideration of TIP amendments requiring conformity analyses and a 30 day public comment period twice a year. The April 23 memo describing the proposal was at each member's place and calls for consideration of such amendments at the March and October CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee meetings. Project amendments that require a conformity analysis include:

- Adding a new, non-exempt project
- Deleting a non-exempt project
- Adding a work type that changes a project from exempt to non-exempt.
- Deleting a work type that changes a project from non-exempt to exempt.
- Changing the completion year of a non-exempt project so that it moves across a conformity analysis year, currently 2010, 2020 and 2030. (For example, a project previously scheduled for a 2011 completion that is moved to a 2009 completion crosses the 2010 analysis year. The reverse also requires a conformity analysis.)

These points apply both to federally-funded projects and regionally significant projects regardless of fund source.

Mr. Cuddy asked if this is a change from current policy. Mr. Patronsky stated that in the past CMAP has performed air quality amendments only on rather large projects. Mr. Kopec followed up by stating that as we get closer to the 2010 analysis year we will require more air quality amendments. Chairman Hamilton asked what the analysis years are. Mr. Kopec stated they are 2010, 2020, and 2030.

Mr. Fortmann asked if a simple resurfacing project would trigger an air quality amendment. Mr. Patronsky stated a resurfacing project is exempt and therefore not subject to air quality analysis. Mr. Cuddy stated that only projects that require changes to the highway network affect air quality. Mr. Patronsky added that some transit projects do as well.

Mr. Cuddy asked the cost to CMAP if we do or don't approve this measure. Mr. Patronsky stated that air quality amendments are time consuming for staff but he was not sure of the cost if the recommendation is not passed. Mr. Groner stated it

could delay a project which could possibly lose funding as a result. He continued that the only difference is that program implementers need to do better planning when coordinating their internal programs with the TIP.

Chairman Hamilton asked if this is to better comply with federal regulations. Mr. DiPalma stated if the Committee does not approve this measure it will consume CMAP staff and not to approve the schedule solely to comply with federal regulations, but to ensure the TIP does not have a conformity lapse which in turn will put a complete stop on all non-exempt projects.

Mr. Osborn asked for another month to determine which projects need an air quality amendment. Mr. Patronsky stated that implementers have until July 31, 2008 to submit changes to non-exempt projects for approval at the October CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee meetings.

Mr. Cuddy moved approval of the recommendation scheduling air quality amendments to be considered twice a year. Mr. Osborn seconded the motion. Vote: All ayes. Motion Carried.

8.0 Fiscal Year 2009 Unified Work Program (FY 09 UWP)

Mr. Maloney gave a brief update on the progress of the UWP committee on the recommended list of projects for funding in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009. On a motion by Mr. Nunes and seconded by Ms. Files the Committee released the proposed 2009 UWP for public comment. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9.0 Aging Snapshot

Mr. Pietrowiak presented a Snapshot on Aging. His presentation is available online at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=7634>. A committee member asked if the trend is shifting that more people over 65 are working passed 65? Mr. Pietrowiak stated that there is no current data on that but a new source is being developed and should be completed during the summer. Ms. Thakuriah asked if national organizations such as AARP and Easter Seals have been contacted to participate in the research. Mr. Pietrowiak stated that national organizations have been contacted but do not seem interested in participating. Chairman Hamilton asked if CMAP has contacted Metro Seniors in Action. Mr. Pietrowiak stated the data from that group is largely anecdotal and wants to engage groups in current issues. Mr. Groner asked what the next steps are. Mr. Pietrowiak stated research will continue and possibly there will be a summit on aging.

10.0 FREQ Simulation and Ramp Meter/HOV Bypass Optimization for the Northwest Study Area (Jose Rodriguez, Kazuya Kawamura UIC Urban Transportation Center)

Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Kawamura gave a presentation of the traveler, system, and environmental benefits achievable by the implementation of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) priority entry ramps along I-290/I 53, as determined by the traffic simulation software package FREQ. HOV priority entry systems are a complementary transportation management strategy that supports larger scale HOV/HOT networks. An I-290 HOV corridor extending from the I-294/I-88 merge eastward to Austin Boulevard is recommended as a major capital project in the 2030 RTP. Their presentation is available at <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=7636>. Mr. Cuddy asked if the modeling took into account the proposed rail extension of the blue line. Mr. Seglin asked why rail is not simulated in the analysis. Mr. Kawamura stated that the FREQ software does not support rail analysis. Mr. Hann asked if the exit/entrances on the left have any affect on the traffic back up near the area. Mr. Kawamura stated that the main cause of the traffic back up near the area is not the left on/off ramp but the design of the road, he stated the elevation changes in that area make it difficult to see what is ahead.

11.0 Other Business

Ms. Torres of CMAP stated CMAP is introducing the FLIP program, Future Leaders in Planning. She stated it will be involving freshman and sophomores entering into the next school year. She stated the group will be representative of the CMAP board times three and applications will soon be available.

Ms. Slattery of the Delta Institute was introduced and explained that the Delta Institute was funded to complete a study for strategic analysis of Transportation and Environment. She stated that she will keep the committee updated.

12.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 23, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Cook County Room.

13.0 Adjournment

Mr. Loper made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Cuddy seconded. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Transportation Committee Members:

___ Charles Abraham	___ Fran Klaas	___ Mike Rogers
___ Vanessa Adams ***	___ Don Kopec	___ Joe Schofer
___ Thomas Cuculich**	___ Paul Losos	___ Dick Smith
___ Chris DiPalma ***	___ Mike McLaughlin	___ Jeffrey Sriver
___ Rocky Donahue	___ Jan Metzger	___ Steve Strains
___ John Fortmann	___ Arlene Mulder	___ Vonu Thakuriah
___ Bruce Gould	___ Randy Neufeld	___ Paula Trigg
___ Rupert Graham Jr	___ Jason Osborn	___ Ken Yunker
___ Jack Groner	___ Leanne Redden	___ Tom Zapler
___ Luann Hamilton*	___ Thomas Rickert	___ Rocco Zuccherro

*Chair, **Vice-Chair, ***Non-Voting