



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Transportation Committee Minutes November 15, 2007

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

Transportation Committee Members Present:

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra
Luann Hamilton, Vice Chairman, CDOT
George Catalano, Will County
Bruce Christensen, Lake County
Thomas Cuculich, DuPage County
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, Metro Office
Neil Ferrari, IDOT-DPIT
Heidi Files, Kane County
Rupert Graham, Jr., Cook County
Don Kopec, CMAP
Pete Harmet, IDOT-District One
Rebecca Macey, BLT
Jan Metzger, CNT
Arlene J. Mulder, Council of Mayors
Randy Neufeld, Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force
Les Nunes, IDOT-OP&P
Jason Osborn, McHenry County
Leanne Redden, RTA
Mike Rogers, IEPA
Joseph Schofer, Northwestern University
David Simmons, CTA
Steve Strains, NIRPC
Vonu Thakuriah, UIC-UTC
David Tomzik, Pace
Mary Wells, Illinois Tollway
Erin Willrett, Kendall County

Transportation Members Absent:

Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
Paul Losos, Private Transportation Providers
Ken Yunker, SEWRPC
Tom Zapler, Class One Railroads

Others Present

Chris Byars
Leonard Cannata
Lynette Ciavarella
Rob Cole
Kama Dobbs
Sharon Feigon
Bud Fleming
Chalen Hunter

Hugh O'Hara
Mark Pitstick
Chad Riddle
David Seglin
Vicky Smith
Karen Somner
Tammy Wierciak

CMAP Staff

Patricia Berry
Teri Dixon
Doug Ferguson
Bill Kiley
Kerry Leigh
Tom Murtha

John O'Neal
Holly Ostdick
Ross Patronsky
Ylda Pineryro
Dan Rice
Jose Rodriquez

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Jack Groner, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Members and all present introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

Ms. Hamilton stated that the minutes of October 26, 2007 should reflect that "Metra will not move forward on any new Starts projects if a permanent funding solution for transit is *not* approved." Mayor Mulder stated that Mr. Groner's name is misspelled and that should be corrected. A motion was made and seconded. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports

Mr. Groner stated that the Coordinating Committees have not met since the last Transportation Committee, but this item is a standing agenda item. The Planning Coordinating Committee has not met since the last TC meeting, and will meet again on November 28.

5.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

5.1 TIP Changes

Ms. Ostdick stated that staff requests a suspension of the rules to include a TIP change that was not included in the TIP change attachment for a Chicago Department of Transportation request involving the reassignment of \$500,000 in Federal CMAQ funds from the 41st Street Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge to the I-Go shared car program. A motion was made and seconded. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Ms. Hamilton stated that Chicago DOT is requesting the transfer of funds due to the hold-up of the 41st Street Bicycle-Pedestrian Bridge and the movement of the I-Go project. She stated that in order to spend down the large unobligated balance CDOT would like to transfer the funds. Ms. Feigon of I-Go said the funds would be used for vehicles (through purchase and rental), in vehicle hardware/software, a new reservation system, and additional hardware (server/computers/phones). Mayor Mulder made a motion to approve the change. Mr. Christensen seconded the motion. Vote: 26 Ayes. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain (Metzger). Motion Carries.

Ms. Ostdick stated the TIP change attachment was distributed in the committee's packet. Mr. DiPalma stated that we need to omit the Algonquin Bypass TIP change located on page nine of the TIP change attachment. Ms. Ostdick stated that staff requests the approval of TIP changes including 1 change project action, no delete project actions, 48 line-item change actions, and 54 new projects, omitting the Algonquin Bypass line item change. Mayor Mulder made a motion to approve the TIP changes, Ms. Hamilton seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Ms. Ostdick stated that after FHWA review of the Algonquin Bypass TIP change, a TIP amendment will need to occur. Ms. Ostdick requested the approval of release of the public comment for the Algonquin Bypass TIP amendment. Mr. DiPalma stated that due to new Federal Regulations published on February 14, 2007 it states that any major cost change to a project must result in a TIP amendment. Mr. Kopec stated that CMAP does not agree with FHWA's finding because the new regulation has not been discussed at the Tier II consultation meeting and will be discussed at the next meeting on November 27, 2007 at CMAP offices. He stated that major cost changes in Northeastern Illinois should be defined before using the examples in the regulations. Mr. Osborn stated that McHenry County agrees with CMAP's opinion. Mr. Harmet made a motion to approve the

release of public comment for the TIP amendment. Ms. Hamilton seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion carries.

5.2 Self Certification of the Planning Process

Ms. Ostdick thanked the committee and requested to give a brief status report on the TIP database update. Ms. Ostdick stated that the consultants working on the database update have quit working due to non-payment. She stated that when the consultants are paid they will return to work and hopefully have a product roll-out within two months, with the enhanced database in use within four months. She stated that CMAP is awaiting payment from IDOT to pay vendors. Mr. Kopec stated although money is funneled through IDOT, it is really a State of Illinois issue that CMAP has not received payment.

Ms. Ostdick continued to request recommend MPO certification of the regional planning process for northeastern Illinois. She stated that every four years the MPO is required to certify the regional planning process is being conducted in accordance with applicable federal laws and regulations. Ms. Metzger asked whether the planning process is well documented by the TIP, UWP and RTP. Ms. Metzger asked for more information on the process. Mr. Kopec said staff would draft something up. Ms. Hamilton made a motion and Mayor Mulder seconded recommending the approval of the resolution certifying the planning process to the Policy Committee. Vote: All Ayes. Motion carries.

5.3 Reauthorization and Rescissions of Federal Transportation Programs

Ms. Ostdick stated that with the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU quickly approaching we are calling on CMAP partners to begin thinking of possible issues with the reauthorization. Written into SAFETEA-LU is a major rescission at the end of the bill, the conference report that was posted yesterday states that a rescission of \$3 billion nationwide is likely, however with the letter writing campaign that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee began last week, the rescission is prohibited from using safety funds and its subparts of the STP urban funding that is distributed to population groups in urbanized areas. IDOT estimates that the rescission will be in the \$103 million range.

Ms. Ostdick distributed a chart that shows the history of rescissions (attached), it shows what dates the rescissions occurred, how much they

were, and which programs were affected. Rescissions have only affected unobligated balances. Due to the transportation needs in the region, CMAP is working with the implementers to follow through with Active Program Management for the agencies and programs that have large unobligated balances in order to reduce the amount of rescissions that affect Northeastern Illinois. Ms. Ostdick asked the committee if any member has comments regarding the reauthorization of SAFETEA-LU, the rescissions written into the law, or the active program management initiative. Committee members agreed that they would like to work with IDOT to be part of the conversation about what programs are affected by this rescission.

6.0 Regional Comprehensive Plan

CMAP is continuing to collect feedback on our vision statements for the 2040 Regional Comprehensive Plan. Committee members participated in short activity on one of the core vision themes that is most relevant to the committee: Transportation Accessibility and Efficiency. One of the main concerns coming out of the Visioning event was that participants were not able to comment or vote on each theme statement individually. This activity was created to address this concern. Committee members were given 5 Transportation Accessibility and Efficiency statements that were modified at the CMAP Visioning event on September 12th, 2007 and asked to dot vote them as good, average or bad. Next, the committee split into three small groups and discussed what changes they felt should be made to each of the statements. Comments and suggestions will be incorporated into the final vision statements. If members have additional suggestions they are welcome to email bdean@cmap.illinois.gov.

7.0 Academic and Research Role in the Transportation Committee.

Professor Schofer from Northwestern University made a presentation on the role of the academic community and CMAP. The presentation is available on the web at:

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/transportation/minutes.aspx>.

8.0 Strategic Initiative Update

Tom Murtha updated committee members regarding Strategic Initiatives activities, including the update of the trails element of the greenways and trails plan, strategy reports, a summary of the congestion management process, an update of the intermodal connectors identified in the National Highway System, and congestion pricing. Murtha pointed out that the

U.S. Department of Transportation has issued a solicitation for funding of congestion-reduction demonstrations, and added that the solicitation stipulates that, among other criteria, the USDOT expects to award funding only for those proposals that include direct highway pricing in congested periods. The new solicitation is much simpler than the previous "Urban Partnership" application, insofar as separate grant applications are not required for individual programs. However, the deadline for submittals is set for December 31, 2007. Murtha said any regional proposal would need to include road pricing, but would need to address community concerns regarding social equity and the effects of congestion pricing on arterial congestion. He invited regional agencies interested in participating to contact him.

9.0 Transit Funding Crisis

Ms. Redden stated that the Governor approved a last-minute bail-out for the November doomsday scenario and that the service providers are currently developing the list of fare increases and service cuts that will occur if a permanent funding solution is not reached by January. She asked that people contact their legislatures. Mayor Mulder requested that a summary sheet of service cuts and fare increases for all service providers be made available.

10.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment. However, Mr. Groner announced that this was likely his last meeting as Chairman of the Transportation Committee. He stated it was great to participate in the transition from CATS/NIPC to CMAP and thanked all the participants.

Ms. Wells gave thanks to the committee for their support in the I-355 extension opening over Veterans Day weekend. Mr. Neufeld added that the opening of the extension was a great event.

Mr. Nunes stated that IDOT is seeking public comment on the updated Long Range Plan. He stated that there is a public hearing from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on November 16, 2007 at the IDOT offices in Chicago at 300 W. Adams Street, Chicago, IL 60606.

11.0 Next Meeting

The committee decided to cancel the December meeting. The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2008 at 9:3 a.m.

12.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Hamilton and seconded Mr. Christensen to adjourn the meeting. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carries.

Transportation Committee Members

___ Vanessa Adams ***	___ Paul Losos	___ Jeffrey Sriver
___ Chris DiPalma ***	___ Mike McLaughlin	___ Steve Strains
___ Rocky Donahue	___ Jan Metzger	___ Vonu Thakuriah
___ Neil Ferrari	___ Arlene Mulder	___ Chuck Tokarski
___ Bruce Gould	___ Randy Neufeld	___ Paula Trigg
___ Rupert Graham Jr	___ Jason Osborn	___ Mary Wells
___ Jack Groner *	___ Leanne Redden	___ Ken Yunker
___ Luann Hamilton**	___ Thomas Rickert	___ Tom Zapler
___ Fran Klaas	___ Mike Rogers	
___ Don Kopec	___ Joe Schofer	
___ Clarita Lao	___ Dick Smith	
*Chair	**Vice-Chair	***Non-voting