



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Transportation Committee Minutes** September 28, 2007

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

### **Transportation Committee Members Present:**

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra  
Bill Brown, NIRPC  
Matthew Cuddy, Northwestern University  
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, Metro Office  
Neil Ferrari, IDOT-DPIT  
Rupert Graham, Jr., Cook County  
Chris Heibert, SEWRPC  
Don Kopec, CMAP  
Clarita Lao, IDOT-District One  
John Loper, DuPage County  
Jamy Lyne, Will County  
Mike McLaughlin, BLT  
Jan Metzger, CTAQC  
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  
Paula Trigg, Lake County  
Dave Seglin, CDOT  
Holly Smith, Kendall County  
David Simmons, CTA  
Erin Willrett, Kane County  
Rocco Zuccherro, Illinois Tollway

### **Transportation Members Absent:**

Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office  
Tom Zapler, Class One Railroads

## Others Present

Leonard Cannata  
Lynette Ciavarella  
Kama Dobbs  
Bud Fleming  
Theodore Georgas  
Pam Heimsness  
Chalen Hunter  
Leigh Ann Laureau

Mark Pitstick  
Chad Riddle  
Kyle Shinnick  
Jeffrey Sriver  
Mike Walczak  
Mary Wells  
Tammy Wierciak

## CMAP Staff

Lindsay Banks  
Randy Blankenhorn  
Claire Bozic  
Janet Bright  
Annie Byrne  
Bob Dean  
George Johnson

Jill Leary  
Matt Maloney  
Tom Murtha  
Holly Ostdick  
Ross Patronskey  
Jose Rodriguez  
Joy Schaad

### **1.0 Call to Order and Introductions**

Mr. Jack Groner, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:03 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**

Mr. Nunes requested that section four of the draft minutes reflect that Senate Bill 1201 authorizes \$5 Million for planning statewide and 70% of that or \$3.5 Million is for CMAP. Mayor Mulder made a motion to approve the minutes as revised. Ms. Lao seconded. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### **4.0 Regional Comprehensive Plan Development**

#### 4.1 Update on Visioning Process

Mr. Dean stated that CMAP held a visioning event on September 12, 2007 at IIT. Staff is very pleased with the event and the information that came out of the event. He stated that currently staff is organizing the information and a paper and online survey will be available online shortly.

#### 4.2 Snapshot Report on Infill

Ms. Banks gave a presentation regarding the CMAP Regional Snapshot report on Infill. The presentation is available online at [www.chicagoareaplanning.org](http://www.chicagoareaplanning.org). Ms. Banks stated that currently they only have accurate data from Cook County. She requested the Counties present at the meeting supply accurate data from their respective counties. Discussion followed the presentation including the definition of infill, the improvement to land-value ratio, and brownfields. Some counties committed to provide the accurate information. The overall direction of the snapshot is that it may provide incentives for developing infill. The committee requested that the presentation and follow-up questions be distributed via e-mail after the committee meeting. These questions include:

- How should we determine which land is suitable for infill
  1. Transportation access
  2. Municipal services (water, sewer, electricity, etc.)
  3. Other?
- Suggestions for further research
- Potential flaws with our methodology
- Data availability from other counties
- Density issues – how to measure, how much to “fill in,” etc

#### 5.0 FY 09 Unified Work Program

Mr. Nunes stated that there will likely be around \$18.5 Million in UWP funds for Fiscal Year 2009 and is requesting direction from the Transportation Committee. Mr. Nunes asked the Transportation Committee whether:

- The program be result driven by projects or by products
- The discretionary program be driven by regional needs or other
- The MPO partner agencies support the core mission for the MPO

Mr. Nunes continued to state that the committee was assuming approximately \$13 Million would be core and \$5 Million discretionary. Concerns were raised regarding the UWP committee continually asking for direction from the Transportation Committee and Policy Committee. Mr. Groner stated he would like to follow what is federally required and the recommendations that were made during the self-certification of the MPO that occurred a few years ago. Discussion continued that the last self-certification recommended that the UWP program be driven by products rather than projects, and has more accountability. Mr. Maloney stated that CMAP is implementing a quarterly reporting requirement for UWP

participants. Mr. Osborn stated that he would like to see projects that produce useful data be considered for multi-year programming. Ms. Metzger stated that the committees should look at what was developed during the 2030 update.

## **6.0 Crash Data**

Mr. Parry Frank made a presentation regarding highway traffic crash data, including reports and maps. The reports demonstrate the extent of the problem and highlight positive trends; the maps are intended to identify high crash locations for further investigation. His presentation is available on the CMAP website. The maps of geocoded crashes and the overview of data are posted to <http://www.catsmpo.com/prog-cms.htm#crash>.

Mr. Neufeld stated that the economic impacts for Northeast Illinois are different than the rest of the state. He suggested the CMAP initiate the conversation regarding what to do with this data. Mr. Kopec stated AAA has a program where they do a safety audit at intersections with high accident rates. Mr. Neufeld volunteered to work with CMAP staff to frame the conversation. Ms. Wells stated that they would appreciate the information in real time, where as this data is from 2005.

## **7.0 Metra New Starts, Locally Preferred Alternatives**

Ms. Ciavarella made a presentation regarding two of Metra's New Starts projects and their locally preferred alternatives. The first New Start that was discussed was improvements to the UP Northwest line. The locally preferred alternative was commuter rail with relocation of rail yards in Barrington and Crystal Lake, add crossovers and signal upgrades. Additionally there will be three new stations in McHenry County.

Ms. Ciavarella continued with the second New Start for improvements to the UP West line. The locally preferred alternative was commuter rail with upgraded signals, adding crossovers and installing third track.

Discussion continued regarding the extension of the UPNW line to Johnsburg which has been perceived as a small town. Mr. Osborn stated that Johnsburg is developing and McHenry County lacks tollway access for connections to the loop.

Mayor Mulder made a motion recommending the Locally Preferred Alternatives to the CMAP Programming Committee and the MPO Policy Committee, Ms. Lyne seconded. Vote: All ayes. Motion Carried.

## **8.0 Interchange Projects**

Ms. Hermanson stated the FHWA philosophy on new or expanded interchanges. They consider the expressway system to be the premier transportation system in the region, meant to serve longer distance trips at higher speeds. Interchange changes that decrease the speed or safety of the system are generally undesirable.

Ms. Bozic went on to say that the decision of where to locate additional expressway access is more than a simple question of traffic engineering and cost. Expressway access may promote local development or may mitigate the impacts of other local economic development, for example diverting truck traffic to different locations. Given CMAP's mission of joining land use decisions with transportation system investment decisions, this subject seems to be relevant to the CMAP mission. Up until now, CMAP (CATS) has provided technical assistance in the form of traffic projections to support interchange project studies. The question to the committee is whether, in addition to the technical assistance normally provided, CMAP has a more policy oriented interest in the general subject of interchanges and where they are located throughout the region. As development spreads westward, the current interchange spacing may not be appropriate and are there larger policy considerations that should be addressed by the new agency.

Discussion continued regarding CMAP's role in interchange requests. Ms. Lao stated that she does not see the reason to justify CMAP's role in determining where interchanges should go, but rather continue providing data for implementing agencies to make that justification. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that CMAP would not necessarily state where exact interchanges would occur, more of analyzing a corridor and determining the spacing of interchanges and the effects it would have on development within that corridor. The committee request CMAP staff draft a proposal.

## **9.0 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program**

Mr. Patrosky stated that the public comment period for FFY 08 Multi-Year CMAQ Proposed Program closed on August 28, 2007. The CMAQ Project Selection Committee has approved the staff responses to the

comments and has recommended approval of a revised proposed program to the Transportation Committee. Mr. Nunes made a motion to concur in responses to the comments and recommend approval of the revised proposed FY 2008 Multi-Year CMAQ Program to the Policy Committee. Mr. Loper seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

## **10.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

### **10.1 TIP Changes**

Ms. Ostdick stated that the TIP change report is in a new format that lists changes by change type rather than requesting agency. Mr. Seglin made a motion to approve the TIP changes. Ms. Lao seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### **10.2 TIP Amendment**

Mr. Patronsky stated the public comment period for the TIP amendment for the I-355 extension change in scope from four lanes to six lanes is closed. No public comments were received. Mayor Mulder made a motion recommending the approval of the TIP amendment to the Programming Coordinating Committee and MPO Policy Committee. Ms. Lyne seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### **10.3 TIP Database Update and Snapshot**

Mr. Patronsky stated that CMAP staff is working with Topiary Consulting to update the TIP database interface.

Ms. Bozic presented the draft Obligation Report snapshot. This is a visual way of presenting the information we are required to produce about annual project obligations. The snapshot that was distributed, presented a comparison of funding appropriated for State Fiscal Year 2007 for northeastern Illinois by project category and how much of this funding was obligated by the end of the year. Because of new Federal Requirements written in SAFETEA-LU, CMAP is switching the obligation report to the State Fiscal Year instead of the Federal Fiscal Year. This tracking of projects is an important element of our attempt to implement more active program management. To support this effort further, we intend to produce the obligation report in quarterly installments so we have more timely information about our progress. Of course, we will need the cooperation of the agencies that provide us with the project implementation. Without information sharing regarding obligations it

would be difficult for us to develop the quarterly obligation report snapshots.

#### **11.0 Website/Data**

Ms. Ostdick stated that staff would like to link members websites to the CMAP website. Ms. Ostdick stated she would distribute a list of possible websites for each agency and they can choose which one they would like linked.

#### **12.0 Compiled 2030 Regional Transportation Plan**

Ms. Schaad informed the committee that the October 2006 update of the 2030 RTP's capital element and strategic systems sections and the June 2007 update to the executive summary, policies, objectives, and strategies sections, along with the relevant sections of the October 2003 edition of the Plan have been compiled into a single (250 page) document which is available online at <http://www.sp2030.com>. She explained that CDs of the document and the key maps will be produced and made available with the fold up color RTP poster/summary in the coming weeks. She encouraged members to hold onto their copies of the previous fold up poster/summary, as update kits will be provided to them in order to save resources on reproduction of that fold up color RTP poster/summary.

#### **13.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

#### **14.0 Next Meeting/Schedule for 2008**

The committee determined that meetings should begin at 9:30 a.m. rather than 10 a.m. The meeting schedule for 2008 was discussed. It was determined that staff would provided a proposed schedule for 2008 at the next meeting.

#### **15.0 Adjournment**

Mr. Rogers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:30 p.m. Ms. Willrett seconded the motion. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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