

CMAP

Public Participation Plan

Comments & Response

May, 2007

CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY

2125 West North Avenue
Chicago, IL, 60647-5415
(773) 278-4800
fax (773) 278-3840

www.cnt.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George A. Vinyard
CHAIR

Robert Weissbourd
VICE CHAIR

John Cleveland
SECRETARY

Ellen Seidman
TREASURER

Scott Bernstein
Lee Bey

Jonathan Boyer

Joseph Gross
Anne Hallett

Nancy Juda

Steven McCullough

Susan Mudd

Mary Nelson

Mary O'Connell

Julia Parzen

Elce Redmond

Kathryn Tholin

♦♦♦

Kathryn Tholin
CEO

Scott Bernstein
PRESIDENT

Stephen A. Perkins, Ph.D.
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

Jacquelyne D. Grimshaw
VICE PRESIDENT

April 6, 2007

Mr. Gordon Smith, Deputy Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

RE: Draft Public Involvement Plan

Dear Gordon:

It is a real pleasure to submit comments on the Draft Public Involvement Plan. After CNT's many years of close observation of regional public involvement processes, it is obvious that there is a new commitment in the region to the taxpaying public. Thanks to you and the other leadership at CMAP who are working to institutionalize this new openness.

The tone of the draft is one of enthusiasm for interacting with the public. The reciprocal nature of dialogue between the agency and the public is explicit; the difference between public *information* and public *involvement* seems to be well understood by the authors. This alone is a major step forward.

The opening pages of the Public Involvement Plan are non-technical, relatively inviting and do a better job than in the past of framing institutional imperatives within the context of regional priorities. It would still be better to put the regional priorities front and center (however the bullets and photos enable the reader to move through the institutional explanations fairly painlessly).

We have only one important substantive comment, and that is that there is too little emphasis on environmental justice and limited-English proficient publics. We would like to see a proactive approach to traditionally underserved groups and to potentially underserved groups – for instance, the rapidly growing populations for whom English is not a first language. We believe CMAP should proudly and proactively commit to reach out to underserved communities, rather than *consider* whether to provide information in languages other than English, for example.

The remainder of our comments have to do with form rather than substance and are intended not as criticisms but to strengthen readability and interest in the document.

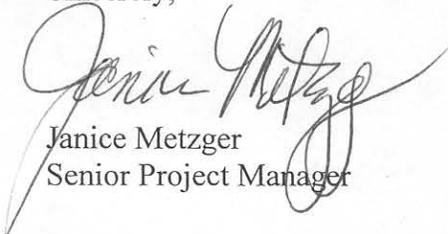


STRATEGIES FOR LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

- Font size: Although it is the practice currently among graphic designers to use a small font and an excess of blank space, this doesn't serve the purposes of many potential readers and may actually exclude some readers.
- Background: The blue and white pages are very attractive on a computer screen, but when printed on a black and white printer (which is how they are most likely to be printed by the public) the blue becomes grey, making the small, white font even more difficult to decipher.
- Section 2.4 contains important information. This concise summary of the region may be the information that the general public is most interested in, but the dense text is a disincentive to wading through it. The MPO circle in Section 2.6 could easily be reduced in size to allow spillover of text from Section 2.4 (the Planning Area Map could then be switched from page 8 to page 9). It would also be helpful to bold a keyword within key paragraphs of Section 2.4 to indicate a topical section such as: **transportation** (first 3 paragraphs); **economy** (4th paragraph); **diversity** (5th paragraph) and so on.
- Finally, the cover photo is visually interesting, and that's a plus, compared to many past covers, but I wonder what it represents. Are all sectors of the region focused in on CMAP? Or is CMAP in the center, broadcasting outward in separate lines to separate audiences? Maybe this isn't the time to develop a graphic that will represent a reciprocal engagement process. If you need to go with this graphic now for reasons of time, I hope in the future you will be able to commission a graphic that represents dialogue, back-and-forth, reciprocity.

Again, congratulations to you and your team for taking a long and strong step to improve public engagement in our region. Once you remedy the environmental justice/limited-English proficient omissions, this will truly be a document our region can be proud to stand behind.

Sincerely,



Janice Metzger
Senior Project Manager

4/23/07

Proposed FY 2007-12 TIP Comment Form

Name: Dr. Ayo Maat
 Organization: IMPRUVE (Independent Movement of Paratransit Riders for Unity, Vehicles, Equality)
 Address: 6951 N. Sheridan Rd
 City: CHICAGO State: IL Zip Code: 60626-3527
 E-Mail Address: impruve2@yahoo.com

Comments: It is good that public participation is sought. However, the plan does not make it clear how often nor where (specifically) public surveys will occur as with the former public participation plan.

- 2) It would be good if CMAP could recruit help ^{to get paratransit input} from
- a) RIC Life Center 345 E. Superior 60611 (Kris Cichowski) 312-238-5111
 - b) RIC Health & Fitness Center 710 N. Lakeshore Dr. 3rd floor 60611 312-238-5111
 - c) Access Living 115 W. Chicago 312-640-2100 500
 - d) IMPRUVE ~~to~~ Dr. Maat 6951 N. Sheridan Chicago 60626-3527 773-730-416
 - e) Stroger Hospital 1900 W. Polk ?
 - f) Assisted Living Centers
 - g) Central Advisory Council of CHA 243 E. 32nd Chicago 60616
 - h) Chicago Housing Authority MAP/ADA 504 Dept. 600 E. Van Buren Chgo Deb
 - i) Schwab Rehab Center
 - j) Committee for A Better Chicago 41 W. Polk Suite 100-255 Chicago 312-735-0297 60605
 - k) Southside Community Fed'l Credit Union 54?? S. Wentworth 2nd floor
 - l) Northside Community Fed'l Credit Union 1011 W. Lawrence Chicago 60640 773-769-5800
 - m) BIG (Blacks In Green)
 - n) Northwestern Hospital Physician's Group 201 E. Huron Chicago 60611
 - o) City Colleges of Chicago Chicago

2) How can IMPRUVE use the data from TIP to determine if it is better to lease a bus from PACE or continue with the paratransit in order to have efficient, safe, improved service for those who are disabled that require door-to-door service.

Thank You!
 Note: I had planned to email but had some system issues assessing certain websites incl. YAHOO. I hope I missed the public comment period, I would still like for you to consider my comments during planning stages.

From: Solomon, Harry (GE Healthcare) [<mailto:Harry.Solomon@med.ge.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 1:58 PM

To: Info; Gordon Smith; John Allen

Subject: Initial comments on Public Participation Plan

Comments on Public Participation Plan - Draft 2007

Submitted by Harry Solomon, member CMAP Citizens' Advisory Committee

I intend to submit further comments on Section 3.3, but I thought you would appreciate this early feedback.

Major issues

1. The primary deficiency of the document is that while it lays out the principles for public participation, it does not address how those principles will be applied to major planning projects of CMAP – the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the Regional Transportation Plan and its updates, and the Transportation Improvement Plan and its updates. While this may be inferred from the general principles, it is important for the Public Participation Plan to identify the specific projects for which the public will be expected to participate. The CATS Public Involvement Plan had a chart (pp. 8-9) that laid out the RTP/TIP process; something similar is need in this Plan. I suggest adding a new chapter following the current Chapter 3.
2. The document is not clear on the relationship of the CMAP public participation process to the public participation processes of other agencies, in particular the transportation agencies that are the focus of the principal functions of the MPO and CMAP. Does the CMAP PPP replace those other agency activities, or does it complement them? Does the CMAP Board, the MPO, and/or the Citizens' Advisory Committee, have an oversight function with regard to the effectiveness of those PPPs? How do the principles percolate down to the planning process at the subregional or agency level?
3. Section 3.4A Outreach describes the methods to be used by staff to develop lists of interested participants in various projects. It is important that these methods specifically describe policies for the respect of the privacy of public participants. That includes use of the contact lists only for the purposes of CMAP-related planning activity public participation; participant option for disclosure of contact information to other agencies for public participation in their planning activities; non-disclosure of the lists for any commercial or other governmental activity. (I don't want our outreach efforts to underserved communities being hijacked by, e.g., the Immigration Service.)

Editorial issues

4. Lose the white print on blue background! It is extremely difficult to read for the visually impaired public – hence working against inclusive public participation.
5. Consistently spell Citizens' Advisory Committee (with the apostrophe).
6. Chapter I has a big heading "Chapter I: Introduction". The Chapters II and III do not, but IV does. And why should Roman numerals be used for chapter numbers – just stick with digits.
7. Typo in Section 1.3, "... planning ha_ been expanded."
8. Last paragraph of Section 1.3 is incorrect. The appendix (by hyperlink) is a discussion of "Participation by Interested Parties". Change the sentence to read: "A description of the federal regulations regarding participation by interested parties can be found in Appendix

A.” In the Table of Contents rename the Appendix to “Federal Regulations on Participation by Interested Parties.

9. As Chapter II is identified as Overview of the Chicago Metropolitan Region in the Table of Contents, it should be led off by the current Sections 2.4 and 2.5, followed by discussion of the planning organization.
10. In Section 2.6, I find the “ring” presentation of MPO members not effective. I don’t understand its intended message, and the fact that the textual section heading is visually lost on the otherwise totally graphical page means that it is not clear what the listing of entities is about. In fact, since the same list appears in Section 2.2, it is not clear why 2.6 is here at all. [Maybe delete the list from 2.2 to tighten up that section.]
11. In Sections 2.2 and 2.3, a lot of effort goes into distinguishing CMAP and the MPO. However, especially for the purposes of this document, it is critical to identify that there is only a single public participation process that applies to all regional planning. I would suggest that this point should be made in a new opening/overview paragraph for Chapter 3 (prior to 3.1).
12. In Section 2.2, what is the purpose of the last two paragraphs about the Council of Mayors in the context of this section of the PPP? In particular, “...plays a key role in ensuring that the long-range plan and multi-year program reflect the needs and concerns of citizens throughout the region.” Would this aspect of the COM be better spelled out in Section 3.2?
13. Is there a distinction being made between “Public Participation” and “Public Involvement”? (I think not.) Let’s consistently use Public Participation throughout Chapter 3.
14. In Section 3.3, number the goals consecutively across all subsections (Goal 1 – Goal 7), rather than resetting to 1 on each subsection.
15. In Sections 3.3 and 3.4, consistently use either “engagement” or “engaging”, and either “sustainability” or “sustaining” (although I don’t particularly like either “sustainability” or “sustaining” as the third category name).

Matrix of review/accommodation of Public Comments on Public Participation Plan – 5-18-07

Com-menter	Summary of point	Recommendations/Suggestions	Suggested Disposition
CNT	Supports the plan and its direction.	Commenter was supportive.	None needed
CNT - 2	Too little emphasis on environmental justice and outreach to non-English speakers. (Section 3.3B)	Commenter said we should take a proactive approach to underserved groups.	Agreed. We will rewrite this section before final plan approval.
CNT - 3	Editorial/formatting issues.	Font size is too small. White type on colored background doesn't work. MPO chart and regional map are too large. Cover graphic is confusing.	Attempt to enlarge font without losing the cohesiveness of the document. We will eliminate colored backgrounds. We will shrink the size of the graphics. We will attempt to design a cover that more clearly conveys what the plan is about.
IMPRUVE - 1	The plan doesn't clearly state how, when and where surveys will be conducted.		We cannot answer this question at this time because we don't know when surveys will be conducted or what data they will seek.
IMPRUVE - 2	CMAP should recruit other groups to help gather input.	Several groups were listed in the comment.	This topic is specifically addressed in Section 3.4A, which states that CMAP will partner with other groups. The list of partners provided by commenter will be added to CMAP's databank.
Harry Solomon - 1	The plan doesn't specify which projects will require public participation.	A flow chart similar to "From 'Good Idea' To Construction" on Page 8 of the 2004 CATS PIP is needed.	It is important that participants know what the process is. When processes are defined for each project, we will make that information available as quickly as possible.
Harry Solomon - 2	The plan doesn't clearly spell out the relationship between CMAP public participation efforts and those of other agencies.		The plan was written to guide the policies of CMAP and the MPO. We encourage other participating agencies to utilize it when creating their public participation programs.
Harry Solomon - 3	The plan doesn't address the privacy of participants in outreach.	A privacy statement/information disclosure option should be included.	Fixed.
Harry Solomon - 4	Editorial/formatting issues.	No white print on colored background. Consistently spell Citizens' Advisory Committee. Chapter headings are inconsistent.	Agreed. Agreed. Fixed.

Com- menter	Summary of point	Recommendations/Suggestions	Suggested Disposition
		<p>Don't use Roman numerals for chapters. Typo in Section 1.3. Reference to Appendix A in Section 1.3 is incorrect.</p> <p>Change the order of sections in Chapter 2. Section 2.6 (MPO chart) is ineffective.</p> <p>There is only one public participation process. Council of Mayors description should be moved.</p> <p>Consistently use Public Participation, not Public Involvement. Number goals consecutively in Section 3.3.</p> <p>Consistently name sections 3.3 and 3.4.</p>	<p>Fixed. Fixed. Appendix and reference to it changed to "Excerpts from SAFETEA-LU Planning Regulations." Fixed. MPO chart size reduced and placed after description of MPO. Fixed. The Council of Mayors is at the CMAP advisory level. Its chairman also serves on the Policy Committee. As such, it belongs with the description of the relationship between the two boards.</p> <p>Fixed</p> <p>Goals in each section relate to that section; consecutive numbering implies that one goal is more important than another. Fixed.</p>