



## Draft Meeting Minutes of the MPO Policy Committee

October 9, 2008

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Cook County Conference Room  
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

### **MPO Policy Committee Members:**

Ken Koehler-Acting Chair, McHenry County, Frank Beal-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (Representing Rita Athas), Lynette Ciavarella-Metra (Representing Philip A. Pagano), Tom Cuculich-DuPage County, Luann Hamilton-Chicago Department of Transportation (Representing Thomas G. Byrne), Jamy Lyne-Will County (Representing Larry Walsh), John McCarthy-Private Providers, Arlene Mulder-Council of Mayors (Representing Jeff Schielke), Mike Payette-Class 1 Railroads, Mark Pitstick-RTA (Representing Steve Schlickman), Tom Rickert-Kane County (Representing Karen McConnaughay), T.J. Ross-Pace (Representing R. Kwasneski), Dick Smith-IDOT (Representing Milton R. Sees), Norm Stoner-Federal Highway Administration, Paula Trigg-Lake County (Representing Marty Buehler), Rocco Zucchero-Illinois Tollway.

### **Absent:**

Bob Davidson-Kendall County, Ron Huberman-Chicago Transit Authority, Elliott Hartstein-Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Marisol Simon-Federal Transit Administration

**Staff Present:** Randy Blankenhorn, Dolores Dowdle, Gordon Smith, Patricia Berry, Bob Dean, Teri Dixon, Doug Ferguson, Kristin Heery, Tom Murtha, John O'Neal, Holly Ostdick, Ross Patronskey

**Others Present:** Kristen Andersen-Metra, Abhijit Banerjee-NEIU, Aristide Biciunas-Public, George Catalano-WCHD, Jay Ciavarella-RTA, Chalen Daigle-McHenry County, Chris Demeroukas-IEPA, Dominick DePasquale-NEIU, Chris DiPalma-FHWA, Kama Dobbs-DMMC, John Donovan-FHWA, Jon Farr-Holland and Knight, Jeff Frantz-CH2M Hill, Jennifer Howard-NEIU, Jon-Paul Kohler-FHWA, Emily Tapia Lopez-MPC, Nicholas I. Magrisso-NEIU, Les Nunes-IDOT, Marta Perales-IL MPO Advisory Council, Mike Rogers-IEPA, Mark Ruckayf-NEIU, David Seglin-CDOT, David Simmons-CTA, Peter Skosey-MPC, Samantha Smith-NEIU, Atgreta Sreenivasan-CH2M Hill, Chris Staron-NWMC, Mike Walczak-NWMC, David Werner-FTA, Tammy Wierciak-WCMC, Emily Wymore-NEIU.

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

Acting Chair Ken Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

## 2.0 Old Business

### 2.A Approval of Minutes – June 12, 2008

A motion to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting, as presented, was made by Ms. Hamilton and seconded by Mr. Smith. With all in favor, the motion carried.

### 2.B Council of Mayors Report

Mayor Mulder reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on October 7 where accomplishments for state fiscal year 2008 and to date for state fiscal year 2009 STP were discussed. The reports show that the suburban Councils spent \$13 million over the appropriation in 2008 and that no projects were held up due to lack of state appropriation. While the Councils spent more than they have in the past few years in 2008, they spent only 50% of the dollars they had programmed for that year. There was a discussion regarding the reasons why some of the projects were not accomplished, the need to avoid project delays, and the need for more accurate programming by some of the councils.

In state fiscal year 2009, the Councils are continuing to do better in spending their STP appropriation. The Councils have already spent 41% of their appropriation in the first two lettings of state fiscal year 2009 and there are six remaining lettings. There are opportunities to use other appropriations if the Councils continue to be successful. The Committee discussed ways to be more aggressive in minimizing project delays so that funds can be spent. SAFETEA-LU ends in 2009 so it is the goal to enter into the next reauthorization period with a zero balance. This will show that northeastern Illinois can spend appropriation and could use additional federal funds. The Committee then voted to go on record to support a capital bill for Illinois by sending a resolution to the Governor stating the need for funds for infrastructure and transportation projects.

The City of Chicago presented their Jackson Boulevard Bridge project as the regional project for STP funding. The Committee voted to accept this project as part of the new city/suburban split agreed upon earlier in the year.

An overview was given on the draft process for Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). The Committee discussed the process and gave input and was told the public comment period continues through December 1, 2008 and will include the Councils of Mayors and the Councils of Governments.

There was an update given on the Regional Comprehensive Plan, the *GO TO 2040* Partnership Campaign and the Future Leaders in Planning program.

Mayor Mulder concluded her report, noting that the next Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting is "On Call".

## **2.C CMAP Report**

Ms. Berry reported that CMAP is completing stakeholder outreach on the Developments of Regional Importance draft process. There is a beta version of a new interactive transportation improvement program (TIP) map on the CMAP website and we are eager to hear comments and suggestions on it. Post cards with the web address and a contact e-mail address are available in members' packets and on the back table. Ms. Berry also noted that the CMAP annual report has been developed and is included in members' packets and is available on the CMAP website.

## **3.0 New Business**

### **3.A State Implementation Plan**

Mr. Rogers explained to the committee that the USEPA issued a notice of "Failure to Submit" with respect to Illinois' 8-hour ozone SIP. This SIP submission was due on June 15, 2007, but has been delayed in order to update the baseline data used to demonstrate that air quality standards will be met.

The Failure to Submit notice started a "sanctions clock" in which federal transportation approvals will be held up beginning in March, 2010 if the state does not submit a complete SIP for ozone. The state is releasing the required ozone SIP for public comment this month, and will submit it to USEPA in January. The USEPA is then expected to make a finding of completeness, which will terminate the sanctions clock.

### **3.B 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Update, FY2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Air Quality Conformity Determinations**

Ms. Dixon stated that the Transportation Committee and Programming Coordinating committee request approval of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Update, FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and the associated Air Quality Conformity Determination. She stated the Update, Amendments and Determination were subject to a 30 day public comment ending on September 21, 2008. Three comments were received and responded to – a summary is available in members' packets. A motion was made by Mr. Cuculich to approve the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Update, FY2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments and Air Quality Conformity Determinations and seconded by Mr. Beal. With all in favor, the motion carried.

### **3.C National and State Legislative/Funding Outlook**

Mr. Stoner stated that when SAFETEA-LU was authorized it was anticipated that the Highway Trust Fund would go bust at the end of the bill. Due to declining revenues the trust fund ran out before the end of SAFETEA-LU. To address this problem, Congress transferred \$8 billion from the general fund into the highway trust fund. It is anticipated that this will last through the end of SAFETEA-LU,

however those assumptions are based on the original assumptions that the highway trust fund would be solvent through the end of SAFETA-LU. A question was raised about whether the Transit Trust Fund is in a similar situation. Mr. Stoner responded that the transit trust fund also receive its funding from the motor fuel tax but has a bigger balance. Therefore, it will be a problem but is not one yet. Another question was whether the infusion of funds will allow all projects in FFY 09 to be obligated. Mr. Stoner stated that that is the plan however, another infusion of funding may be necessary. He stated that FHWA had changed the way they reimburse the states, they now occur less frequently. Mr. Smith stated that IDOT has not had any issues with this change yet. He added that at the current time the state highway trust fund does have a balance but in the future it may not.

### **3.D CMAQ Program**

Mr. Ferguson presented the proposed Federal Fiscal Year 2009 CMAQ multi-year program, reporting that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC), Transportation Committee, and the Programming Coordinating Committee recommend approval of the proposed program. He stated there were various public comments regarding the proposed program and the comments and responses are available in members' packets. The previously mentioned committees have reviewed and approved the responses to the public comments. Mr. Ross raised concerns regarding the diesel retrofit projects for private locomotive companies. Mr. Ferguson clarified that the CMAQ PSC also raised these concerns and had changed the local match to 50/50 for these projects. When the locomotive companies were made aware of this they disagreed and stated a 65/35 split would be more appropriate. One of the companies revoked their application due to the change of the split. Mr. Cuculich also raised a concern in general of using public money to fund private enterprises. Mr. Payette noted that the railroads use a substantial amount of their own money. The committee determined they would like the CMAQ PSC to develop a policy regarding this item to be brought before other relevant committees, and finally to the Policy Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Smith and seconded by Ms. Hamilton the committee approved the FFY09 CMAQ multi-year program.

Mr. Ferguson continued to state that the CMAQ PSC, Transportation Committee, and Programming Coordinating Committee recommend the withdrawal of CMAQ funds for three projects. Mr. Ferguson stated the projects have not moved forward and the project sponsors are aware and agree that funds will be withdrawn. Ms. Berry asked the committee to consider whether or not the MPO Policy Committee should be involved in these decisions or if the Transportation Committee can approve withdrawal of funds. The committee determined they would like the CMAQ PSC and the committee structure to develop a policy regarding this item

and bring it back to the Policy Committee for review. A motion was made by Mr. Cuculich to withdraw CMAQ funds from the three projects and seconded by Mayor Mulder. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**3.E Will County Plan**

Ms. Lyne stated that the Will County Plan has been several years in the making and has been approved by the Will County Board. She introduced the consultants of CH2MHill who assisted the County on the plan. They gave a presentation that is available at:

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=11624>.

**3.F GO TO 2040 – Indicators Development**

Mr. Williams-Clark stated that a list of indicators that was developed using input from all of the CMAP working committees and the Planning Coordinating Committee was distributed in members' packets. He asked for Committee approval of the indicators. Mr. Ross stated that reduction of Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) should be considered an indicator for transit. A motion made by Mr. Beal to approve the indicators was seconded by Mayor Mulder. With all in favor, the motion carried.

**3.G GO TO 2040- Scenario Development**

Mr. Dean stated that CMAP staff is in the process of collecting data and developing Scenarios for the GO TO 2040 plan. He stated staff will be returning to the next meeting to discuss this further.

**3.H GO TO 2040 – Partnership Program**

Ms. Pineyro gave a brief power point presentation regarding the GO TO 2040 partnership program. The presentation is available at:

<http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=11326>.

**3.I Title VI Plan**

Ms. Dowdle presented CMAP's proposed Title VI Plan. She reported that with the merger of the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), a new plan had to be developed. She stated the Programming Coordinating Committee recommends approval of the plan. On a motion by Mr. Ross to approve the Title VI Plan as presented was seconded by Ms. Trigg and with all in favor, the motion carried.

**3.J Nominating Committee for the office of Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Cuculich stated that the nominating committee for the office of vice-chairman met electronically and nominates Mr. Lawrence Walsh of Will County to serve as the Vice-chairman of the MPO Policy Committee. A motion was made and seconded to open the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman. All in

favor, motion carries. There were no nominations from the floor. Mayor Mulder moved that the nominations be closed, Mr. Smith seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carries. Mayor Mulder moved that Mr. Walsh be named Vice-Chairman, Mr. Cuculich seconded. All in favor, motion carries. Ms. Lyne stated that Mr. Walsh was sorry he could not be present at the meeting and that he is honored to serve as Vice-Chairman for a second term.

### **3.K Preliminary RTA Funding Programs**

Mr. Ciavarella gave an overview of the RTA's funding programs, stating that the proposed program of projects was distributed and is currently available for public comment until October 10, 2008. The RTA board will consider the proposed program of projects at its October 23, 2008 meeting. Mr. Ross stated that given the changes in the economy in the last eight weeks, it makes sense to take another look at these programs.

### **4.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

### **5.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2009.

### **6.0 Adjournments**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Beal, seconded by Mayor Mulder. All in favor, motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Berry  
Principal Planner, Staff Liaison

Date 11/10/2008