Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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DRAFT
Freight Committee Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2009

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

Committee Members:	Tom Zapler, UPRR (Co-Chairman), Joe Alonzo – City of Chicago, David Chandler-CNT, Gregory Dreyer-Illinois Tollway, Reggie Greenwood – SSMMA, Rob Hoffman – IIT, Lee Hutchins – AECOM, Kazuya Kawamura-UIC, Dean Mentjes-FHWA, Laurence Rohter-IIT, Larry Wilson – IDOT
Absent:	George Billows-Illinois Trucking Association, David Grewe – CTCO, Jeff Harris - NS/CTCO, Pat Killinger – Will County Highway Department, Jim LaBelle – Chicago Metropolis 2020, Steve Lazarra – Will County Land Use Dept, Floyd Miras-USDOT-Maritime Admin, Libby Ogard – Prime Focus, Earl Wacker – Consultant, Norm West – USEPA,
Staff Present:	Doug Ferguson, Tom Murtha, Todd Schmidt
Others Present:	Bernardo Bustamante – FHWA, Chris DiPalma – FHWA, Jim Giblin – TranSystems, Alicia Hanlon, Will County CED, Eric Holeman – Wilbur Smith, Catherine Kannenberg – Metra, James Messmore – Hanson Professional Services, DeAnna Smith – IDOT, Jessica Slaton – Jacobs, Barbara Sloan – Cambridge Systematics, Tom Vander Woude – NIRPC, Amy Welk – IDOT, Erika Witzke – Cambridge Systematics

1.0 Call to Order

Co-chair Tom Zapler called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2.0 Introductions

Committee members and other attendees introduced themselves.

3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

4.0 Approval of Minutes – January 6, 2010

A motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting, with no revisions, was made and seconded. With all in favor, the motion carried.

5.0 National Highway System (NHS) Intermodal Connector Update

Staff discussed the current status of the National Highway System Intermodal Connectors. Staff reviewed the issue previously raised, that an intermodal connector seeking funding for improvements was found to be ineligible for federal funding because the roadway was functionally classified as a "local street," not reflecting its National Highway System standing. Local streets are

not eligible for federal funds. Staff reviewed a list of such streets, indicating that several miles of NHS intermodal connector were classified as local streets. Staff said that a request for reclassification of the connector highway, 162nd Street, had been submitted to IDOT within days of the last meeting by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association. A motion was made and seconded recommending, to subregional councils, reclassification of National Highway System Intermodal Freight Connectors to functional classes other than local streets.

6.0 CMAQ-Funded Diesel Emissions Reduction Projects

Staff reviewed the status of the diesel emissions reductions projects. Proceeding with the projects requires that an agreement take place between IDOT and each railroad. One railroad has completed an agreement to proceed with IDOT. Staff and railroad representatives indicated that there were outstanding issues related to provisions for vehicles out of service and for insurance. Staff indicated that, because of federal funding rescissions, the projects were in danger of losing federal funding if implementers did not proceed diligently, so staff encouraged the railroads to work toward project implementation.

7.0 Freight System Planning Recommendations

Staff reviewed new drafts for the Regional Freight System Planning Recommendations project. Committee members focused on the recommendations related to the economy. Committee members requested that additional specificity be provided for some of the economic recommendations. Others were refocused; in particular, committee members noted that, for economic development purposes, the infrastructure and workforce available were critical components for business location decision making, particularly for shippers and freight handlers, so collecting and providing that information was an important regional service for economic development. It emerged that TEU data in the freight system was an important piece of information; Mr. Zapler agreed to help staff collect the information. Committee members were asked to provide additional comments via email.

8.0 Project and Issue Updates

8.1 Regional Transportation Operations Coalition

Mr. Murtha reviewed current efforts to work with IDOT regarding designated truck routes. Rationalizing the truck route system was identified as a key issue in the Freight System Planning Recommendations project. IDOT and CMAP have first identified the need to work with local communities to be sure that current inventory information is correct. Staff also related IDOT's concern regarding the disposition of Class-III truck routes, which are moot under the current laws.

8.2 Chicago Area Waterway System

Staff related the concern of the US Maritime Administration regarding the status of the Chicago Area Waterway System.

9.0. Freight System Snapshot.

Staff reviewed products for the freight system snapshot, including work on truck routes, truck volumes, and crashes. An extensive discussion about crashes and safety followed. Staff was asked to provide more information as part of the snapshot.

10.0 Adjournment

At 12:00 p.m., a motion to adjourn was made and approved by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Murtha