



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Transportation Committee Minutes May 23, 2008

Cook County Conference Room
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, Illinois

- Members Present:** Chair Luann Hamilton-CDOT, Chuck Abraham-IDOT- DPIT, Bruce Christensen-Lake County, Matt Cuddy-Northwestern University, Heidi Files-Kane County, John Fortmann-IDOT District One, Rupert Graham-Cook County, Henry Guerriero-Illinois Tollway, Robert Hann-Private Transportation Providers, Chalen Hunter-McHenry County, Catherine Kannenberg-Metra, Don Kopec-CMAP, Christina Kupkowski-Will County, Mike McLaughlin-BLT, Jan Metzger-CNT, Mayor Arlene Mulder-Council of Mayors, Randy Neufeld- Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Les Nunes-IDOT, David Simmons-CTA, Holly Smith-Kendall County, Chris Snyder-DuPage County, Vonu Thakuriah-UIC-UTC, Tom Weaver-Metra, Sid Wesman-RTA.
- Members Absent:** Vanessa Adams-FTA USDOT Chicago Metro Office, Bill Brown-NIRPC, Chris DiPalma-FHWA USDOT Chicago Metro Office, Rocky Donahue-Pace, Mike Rogers-IEPA, Ken Yunker-SEWRPC, Tom Zapler-Railroad Companies
- Others Present:** Leonard Cannata, Brian Carlson, Bud Fleming, Emily Tapia Lopez, Hugh O'Hara, Chad Riddle, Adam Rod, David Seglin, Vicky Smith, Chris Staron, Tammy Wierciak
- Staff Present:** Shana Alford, Randy Blankenhorn, Patricia Berry, Bob Dean, Teri Dixon, George Johnson, Leroy Kos, Matt Maloney, Roseann O'Laughlin, Holly Ostdick, Russell Pietrowiak, Ylda Pineyro

1.0 Call to Order

Luann Hamilton, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.

2.0 Agenda Change/Announcements

There was an announcement that CMAP and the Delta Institute are sponsoring a free luncheon workshop on a new Transportation & Environmental collaboration initiative on Wednesday, July 2, 2008 from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

With corrections to the minutes a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 25, 2008 meeting. On a motion by Mr. McLaughlin, seconded by Mr. Cuddy, the minutes were approved. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports

Ms. Berry stated that the programming coordinating committee devoted most of their meeting to discussing the draft Developments of Regional Importance document. The Committee made a motion requesting that CMAP staff develop a recommendation on:

1. How a DRI is identified and referred to CMAP. This will include the criteria and thresholds for identifying DRIs.
2. The review process for a DRI.
3. A public comment process (to include working committees and stakeholder groups) and timeline for input on the document.

Ms. Hamilton discussed the May Planning Coordinating Committee meeting. A number of items related to the *GO TO 2040* Plan were discussed.

A draft of the Regional Vision was presented and discussed. This document was developed through input from CMAP committees, stakeholders, and the general public, and describes how we would like our region to look in 2040. With some minor edits, the Planning Coordinating Committee recommended the endorsement of the Regional Vision document to the Board and the MPO Policy Committee, who will be asked to consider this in June.

During vision development, CMAP worked with several community-based organizations to assist with public engagement. Staff gave a presentation describing this program, which was successful in reaching low-income and minority groups who are often underrepresented in planning processes.

Staff presented the initial findings of a report on aging and how this will affect planning for land use, transportation, and other issues. One important concept covered by the report is "aging in place," which involves designing communities to accommodate people's changing needs as they age.

5.0 RTA Update

Mr. Wesemen stated that the legislation required changes to the strategic plan. The RTA is continuing to work on the strategic plan which is the cornerstone of the agencies activities. The RTA is working on implementing the changes and at the June RTA Board meeting their will be a minor update to the plan in regards to changing the contract development and budget process. RTA acknowledges that getting everything in place will take some time. A full update will be completed and presented next year.

6.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

6.1 Active Program Management

Ms. Ostdick gave an update of active program management initiative. Staff distributed a quarterly report that shows federal expenditures for local programs through the third quarter of state fiscal year 2008. There are large unobligated balances in the local STP and CMAQ programs. It will be hard for the region to argue for increased funding when the federal bill is reauthorized if we have not spent the money we have already received.

6.2 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Revisions

Ms. Ostdick requested Committee approval of amendments to not exempt and exempt TIP projects that exceed amendment thresholds. The Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) projects funded under the Chicago Congestion Reduction Initiative project were discussed after it was stated that the BRT projects were removed from the TIP revisions awaiting RTA action and conformity. There was concern by CTA that these projects were not being allowed to move forward in a timely manner. Mr. Simmons pointed out that the reason why the \$153 million was available for these projects were that other cities could not move forward and the funding was then reallocated to Chicago. Mr. Weseman responded that the RTA was aware of this and wanted to make sure that this funding was not lost. He assured the committee that RTA was taking the steps necessary to move these projects forward and not delay their progress. On a motion by Mayor Mulder, seconded by Mr. Weseman the not exempt and exempt project amendments were approved. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

7.0 Regional Transportation Plan Update, FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments, and Air Quality Conformity Analysis

Ms. Ostdick stated that there have been no comments on the released conformity analysis, RTP update, and TIP amendments for public comment. The public comment period will end tomorrow, May 24th, if any comments are received they will be forwarded to the Policy Committee. On a motion by Mr. Nunes and seconded by Mr. McLaughlin, the committee recommended that the Programming Coordination Committee and the MPO Policy Committee approve the Conformity Analysis, TIP Amendments, and RTP Update. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

8.0 JARC and New Freedom Programs

Mr. Ciavarella gave an overview of the JARC and New Freedom program and stated that the projects chosen must line up with the Human Services Transportation Plan. The good news according to Mr. Ciavarella is that all 9 projects that were submitted were chosen and the projects receive multi-year allocations. On May 12 the programs were endorsed by the Human Services committee and on June 19th the program will be presented to the RTA board.

Mr. Nunes asked how was the I-GO project included different from the I-GO program that currently exists. Ms. Metzger responded that this is a different program, a five day a week commute which is different from the day to day operation of the existing I-GO service.

On a motion by Mr. Abraham, seconded by Mr. Cuddy, the committee endorsed and recommended that the Programming Coordinating Committee and MPO Policy Committee delegate approval of the proposed 2007 JARC and New Freedom programs to the Transportation Committee on June 20th for approval after the RTA board has acted on June 19th. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9.0 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Mr. Maloney reported that the FY 2009 UWP comment period had expired and no comments were received. On a motion by Mr. Snyder, seconded by Mr. Fortmann, the committee voted unanimously to recommended approval of the FY 2009 UWP to the MPO Policy Committee Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

10.0 Regional Vision

Mr. Dean described the draft Regional Vision and the accompanying vision development description. He provided a brief overview of the vision development process, which included the involvement of CMAP committees, other stakeholders, and the general public. He stated that staff was requesting that a recommendation from the committee for endorsement by the MPO Policy Committee, and asked for discussion.

Mayor Mulder noted that the transportation section should include the word "seamless" to describe the future transportation system, as this was an important feature of an effective transportation system. Jan Metzger asked for more content to be added to the innovation section of the vision, and also noted that Lake Michigan, which is mentioned in the section on the natural environment, is also a resource for biodiversity as well as the other concepts already listed. Staff stated that these comments would be reflected in the final Regional Vision. On a motion by Mayor Mulder, second by Mr. Cuddy, the committee recommended endorsement of the document to the MPO Policy Committee. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

11.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

12.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. in the Cook County Room.

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Teri Dux". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.