



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Regional Coordinating Committee
From: CMAP Land Use Committee, Ed Paesel, Chair and David Galowich, Vice-Chair
Date: October 2, 2013
Re: Illiana Expressway – Land Use Committee Report

The CMAP Land Use Committee met on August 20, 2013 and again on September 18, 2013 to hear presentations from CMAP staff on the proposed inclusion of the Illiana Expressway in the fiscally constrained portion of the CMAP 2040 Plan. In addition, IDOT was available to respond to questions from Committee members.

At the September 18th meeting, each Land Use Committee member was given the opportunity to express the views of their organization or themselves personally if their organization did not have a position on the matter.

Following lengthy deliberations and discussions, the Land Use Committee was unable to reach consensus on the issue and thus will have no recommendation to the Regional Coordinating Committee. The Committee did feel that it was important for us to communicate the major opinions both for and against the inclusion of the Illiana.

Reasons for Opposing

- Doesn't seem to fit main principles/priorities of Go To 2040
- Cost for construction/financing and ongoing maintenance not clearly defined
- Money is needed for other priorities
- Potential benefits are overestimated
- Potential negative environmental impacts

Reasons for Supporting

- Existing congestion on Interstate 80 and other regional highways due to large truck volumes which are expected to continue to increase and needed to support existing and proposed intermodal/distribution facilities
- Claims of new "sprawl" caused by Illiana ignore the distance of the facility from the center of the region/downtown Chicago is comparable to existing suburban development to the north and west
- Must be included in the plan to allow the public/private partnership effort to continue to move forward. It is through that process that many unanswered questions and concerns will be able to be addressed.
- Freight movement and logistics are an essential and major component of the regional economy and the south suburban/Will County economy and the facility is needed to support this economy.