



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## Agenda Item 4.0

233 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 800  
Chicago, Illinois 60606

312 454 0400  
www.cmap.illinois.gov

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** STP Project Selection Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** August 29, 2019

**Re:** Summary of comments on proposed FFY 2020–2024 STP- Shared Fund program

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On July 18, 2019 the Surface Transportation Program (STP) Project Selection Committee (PSC) released the draft Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020-2024 STP-Shared Fund recommended programs for a public comment period that closed on August 16, 2019. More than 500 comments were received regarding the STP-Shared Fund recommended program and the process used to develop the recommendation. The majority of comments (485) were in support of specific projects recommended for funding. A summary of comments and the staff recommendations with regard to those comments, grouped by general topic, follows. Copies of the individual comments are available on the call for projects web page at <https://cmap.is/2019callforprojects>.

### **Project-specific support**

Numerous comments were received in support of specific projects that were included in the recommended active program:

- **Barrington's US 14 Grade Separation (CFP 03-19-0009)** is supported by U.S. Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL).
- **Plainfield's 143<sup>rd</sup> St. Extension (CFP12-19-0017)** is supported by Sen. Duckworth, the Plainfield Area Chamber of Commerce, Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties (CAWGC), Western Will County Communications Center (WESCOM), Plainfield Village President Michael P. Collins, Plainfield Fire Protection District, Plainfield Township Park District, and Will County Center for Economic Development.
- The **Homewood Metra Station Improvements project (CFP18-19-0007)** is supported by more than 450 commenters, including Sen. Duckworth, Homewood Village Trustee Lawrence C. Burnson (retired Chief of Police), and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA).
- The **Burnham Avenue Grade Separation project (CFP07-19-0011)** is supported by Sen. Duckworth, Village of Burnham Mayor Robert Polk, SSMMA, and two Burnham residents.

- The **Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) Austin Green Line Station Accessibility Improvements project (CFP16-19-0003)** is supported by Sen. Duckworth, Commissioner of the City of Chicago Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities Karen Tamley, Chairman of the CTA Americans with Disabilities Advisory Committee Angela Davis as well as several members of the committee, Chairman of the Regional Transportation Authority Transit Access Citizens Advisory Board Greg Polman, Disability Resource Center (Joliet) Executive Director Missy Martin and Independent Living Advocate Tabitha Boshears, Vice President for Civil Rights and Systemic Litigation for Equip for Equality Barry C. Taylor, Advocacy Coordinator for the Progress Center for Independent Living (Forest Park) Larry Biondi, and several members of the public.
- **Naperville's North Aurora Rd. project (CFP08-19-0010)** is supported by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference.
- The **Joe Orr Road Extension (CFP07-19-0007)** and the **University Park Metra Station (CFP07-19-0017)** projects are supported by SSMMA.
- **Dolton's Cottage Grove Ave. Grade Separation (CFP07-19-0009)** is supported by Sen. Duckworth and SSMMA.

Three comments were received in support of projects not recommended for funding:

- Matthew Gilboy and Sen. Duckworth support the **606 Trail Extension + Clybourn Station Relocation (CFP01-19-0018)**.
- Sen. Duckworth supports the **Randall Rd. expansion project (CFP11-19-0010)**.

Two comments were received suggesting projects which were not submitted for funding consideration:

- Beverly Thomas suggested consideration of a project similar to the Homewood Metra Station project for the Village of Olympia Fields.
- Debra Gleason would like to see more projects like the CTA Austin Green Line Station project on the CTA Blue Line, especially at Daley Center and City Hall.

*Staff is recommending no changes to the recommended program of projects. Suggestions for projects which were not submitted for funding consideration were forwarded to Metra, CTA, the South Council, and Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) for their information.*

#### **Support for draft recommended program**

Eight commenters specifically expressed support for the staff recommended program, including the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Lake County Council of Mayors, Will County Governmental League, North Central Council of Mayors, Lake County Department of Transportation (DOT), Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, SSMMA, and Kane County DOT.

*Staff is recommending no changes to the recommended program of projects.*

### **Support for consideration for partial funding of projects**

CDOT expressed concern that the recommended program passes up high scoring projects and requested development of an alternate program using a methodology that would, instead of skipping projects that could not be fully funded, offer partial funding with any remaining funds before considering the next highest ranked project.

*Staff is recommending no changes to the methodology used to develop the recommended program of projects.*

### **Opposition to consideration for partial funding of projects**

The majority of commenters in support of the Homewood Metra Station improvements included comments opposing partial funding of projects. Additionally, several commenters including the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Lake County Council of Mayors, North Central Council of Mayors, Will County Governmental League, Lake County DOT, Barrington Village President Karen Darch, Kane County DOT, SSMMA, and the SSMMA Transportation Committee opposed changes to the methodology applied by staff but supported consideration and discussion of potential methodology changes prior to the next scheduled call for projects.

*Staff is recommending no changes to the methodology used to develop the recommended program of projects.*

### **Scoring methodology**

Several comments were received regarding the scoring methodology, eligible project types, and individual project scores:

- The Village of Northfield noted that in a situation like their Happ Rd. Reconstruction project (CFP02-19-0005), with phase 1 nearing completion, providing funding for phase 2 would allow the project to continue while seeking funding for construction through future programs' calls for projects. The Village also asked questions about the scoring of their project.
- The SSMMA Transportation Committee suggested a need to address the scoring methodologies for inclusive growth, transportation impacts, and project readiness.
- The Active Transportation Alliance provided suggestions for equity, transit, complete streets, and road reconstruction and expansion in the scoring.
- Kane County DOT suggested examining the methodology for awarding council bonus points.
- SSMMA is concerned about project readiness, inclusive growth, and transportation impact scoring.
- The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) recommended making bicycle/pedestrian projects eligible and is concerned about financial commitment, job/housing benefit, freight movement, inclusive growth, complete streets, and council bonus points scoring. MPC also suggested increased use of planning factors, increased points for projects that

benefit disadvantaged populations, and negative points for projects that create a burden for disadvantaged populations.

*Staff recommends discussion and consideration of these comments over the next several months, along with comments received from individual project sponsors during the review of preliminary scores. Staff will provide answers to the project-specific scoring questions directly to the Village of Northfield.*

**Staff recommendation and next steps**

Based on the comments received, staff recommends approval of the FFY 2020-24 STP-Shared Fund [active program](#) of projects, as presented for public comment. Staff also recommends that all projects submitted for consideration that met both the total cost or multiple partner participation and phase 1 engineering eligibility requirements be included in the [contingency program](#), upon confirmation from project sponsors of their intent to continue implementation work on these projects.

Upon approval by the STP Project Selection Committee, staff will prepare a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment encompassing the recommended program for consideration by the CMAP Transportation Committee on Friday, September 20, 2019, and the MPO Policy Committee on Thursday, October 10, 2019.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

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