



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Draft Minutes

Thursday, September 3, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Via GoToMeeting:

Members Present: Lindsay Birt – Xylem, Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Elena Grossman – BRACE-Illinois at UIC, Andrew Hawkins – Forest Preserve District of Will County, Paul May – Northwest Suburban JAWA, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Michael Prusila (for Mike Warner) – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Tom Rickert – Kane County, Vanessa Ruiz – IDOT District 1 Environmental Studies Unit, Deborah Stone – Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation

Members Absent: Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Aaron Durnbaugh – Loyola University Chicago, Ted Penesis – IDNR

Staff Present: Michelle Agunloye, Courtney Barnes, Nora Beck, Anna Botsford, Sarah Buchhorn, Anthony Cefali, Brian Daly, Kate Evasic, Jane Grover, Craig Heither, Kathleen Lane, Jason Navota, Jared Patton, Greta Ritzenthaler, Tina Fassett Smith, Laura Wilkison

Others Present: Ryan Peterson

1.0 Call to Order / Introductions

Chair Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- CMAP staff announced that the Agency has officially moved to the Old Post Office. The new address is 433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450, Chicago, IL 60607.

3.0 Approval of Minutes—July 9, 2020

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 9 meeting was made by Andrew Hawkins, seconded by Stacy Meyers. The motion carried.

4.0 New Member Introduction

The committee welcomed Vanessa Ruiz as a new member and heard about her background and role as the Environmental Studies Unit Head at IDOT District 1.

5.0 My Daily Travel Survey

CMAP conducted the My Daily Travel survey between August 2018 and April 2019, collecting information from more than 12,000 households in northeastern Illinois about trips people made for work, school, shopping, errands, and socializing with family and friends. Staff provided an overview of the data collection process and a brief review of findings from the survey data.

- Bicycle trips. Following a question about the change in bicycle trips since the last survey, Craig Heither responded that these trips increased from 0.9%, in 2009, to 1.8%, in 2019.
- Data use. Following a question about the scale at which the data could be used, Craig Heither explained that it is best used at the scale of a county or the City of Chicago. He cautioned against using it at below the scale of a census tract or a neighborhood, since there may have been few households sampled in such a small area. Responding to a question about what is included in the data, Craig Heither explained that it will be provided in a set of different CSV data files that will allow users to filter the data. The data includes information on trip purpose, so a user could look at trips made for shopping, visiting friends/family, volunteering, or other purposes. The user could also group trip purposes together. Tom Rickert stated the importance of this data, especially for determining impact fees in places like Kane County and DuPage County.
- Timeline. Responding to a question about when the survey results would be posted, Craig Heither said the data would be available for download on the [CMAP Data Hub](#) within two or three weeks.
- Potential for updates. Responding to a question about the ability of the survey to reflect recent travel patterns as a result of the pandemic, Craig Heither explained that while the survey closed in 2019, there are proprietary datasets that CMAP is using to provide more recent [travel pattern updates](#). However, CMAP could conduct a smaller survey to add more data to the My Daily Travel survey. Following a question about using the survey to capture travel decisions for future transit options, Craig Heither responded that it is possible to create a stated preference survey, which allows participants to choose between scenarios to understand what travel options people would choose if they were available. CMAP may consider doing this in the future to supplement the 10-year My Daily Travel survey and possibly target more specific groups. Craig Heither said that CMAP worked with a consultant to examine the pros and cons of

conducting smaller, more frequent surveys and it is something that needs to be discussed among CMAP staff.

6.0 Climate Initiatives

Staff engaged committee members in a discussion about our multi-year implementation planning effort for the Climate Focus Area. Staff voiced interest in building a network of the major climate stakeholders in the region and state, asked for suggestions, and said they will engage with these parties over the next few weeks to build a foundation of understanding about who is doing what, and where CMAP fits within that network. Staff also asked for suggestions of peer agencies and organizations making good progress on climate topics. to research.

- Travel demand management. Sean Weidel raised the importance of a travel demand management system and explained how IDOT, CDOT, and others had funding to study this in the past. While impacts from the pandemic will have to be factored in, essential workers and other people who need to travel would benefit from strategies to keep transit costs down. Jason Navota explained that CMAP evaluated approximately 150 mitigation strategies, including travel demand management, other transportation strategies, and land use changes among others.
- Greenhouse gas (GHG) performance indicators. Jack Darin noted that this was discussed during a previous meeting. Jason Navota responded that CMAP has a project to determine how to develop GHG emissions performance indicators, which will look at how peer agencies are doing it. He added that the model CMAP uses for conformity analysis can also generate GHG outputs.
- Land use and nature-based solutions. Stacy Meyers discussed the potential for carbon sequestration from land preservation and the avoidance of development that will release carbon (e.g. from peat bogs such as those in Hackmatack area). Openlands is interested in working on this topic with us and others. Deborah Stone added that the Forest Preserve District of Cook County analyzed carbon sequestration services of their land holdings, which may provide a model for the region. Nora Beck noted that CMAP also assessed Carbon sequestration for its GIV Ecosystem Services assessment. Sean Weidel mentioned that Chicago Regional Trees Initiative is also working on this topic.
- One Water approach. Paul May explained how increased frequency and intensity of storms increases the need for stormwater management, which is currently underfunded. At the same time, the region faces water supply challenges and inefficient responses indicate larger regional water supply management issues. The region needs to move toward a One Water approach that regionalizes our water management into

something more cohesive. This could entail legislative and oversight processes that work to integrate drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater.

- **Water-energy nexus.** Paul May explained that addressing the water-energy nexus is an important financial step that communities are taking on their own. This includes exploring more solar energy in the water sector, but there is not an organized force behind these measures.
- **Lake Michigan water diversion.** Jason Navota asked if Indiana has the same rights as Illinois to divert Lake Michigan water out of the watershed. Nora Beck responded that if water is taken out of the watershed in Indiana, but used in Illinois, then it counts against Illinois' water allocation.
- **Climate Planning.** Jack Darin stated that CMAP could play a significant role in climate planning, explaining that both the Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) and Governor's plan includes technical assistance to municipalities for climate planning. However, there is not a natural agency or organization to fill that role.
- **Building decarbonization.** Jack Darin noted that CMAP could play a role in building decarbonization, given the Agency's work on development ordinances, adding that there is a new organization starting up to focus across the upper Midwest, the Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition.
- **Climate index.** Stacy Meyers discussed the role CMAP could play in the development of a climate index. While rainfall data has recently been updated to reflect current rainfall patterns, we do not have the data to help us design for future conditions, even though we are designing infrastructure for the next 50-100 years. The Illinois State Water Survey started to develop an index with Openlands for Lake County, but more work needs to be done to make it something tangible for the engineering community to use. Jason Navota added that CMAP is convening county stormwater agencies to talk about the need for future precipitation data. He also added that Lake County SMC is using an equity factor to assess capital projects and MWRD is using CMAP's analysis of economically disconnected areas to assess where to direct planning assistance.
- **State Water Plan.** Paul May stated the important role CMAP can play in providing feedback on the State Water Plan. Jason Navota responded that CMAP is part of a group organized to provide input.

7.0 Burlington Comprehensive Plan

CMAP is working with the Village of Burlington to update to their comprehensive plan, which will include recommendations for land use, agriculture, wastewater management, transportation, and economic development. Staff provided an overview of project work

so far, discuss next steps, and solicit feedback from committee members.

- **Brownfields.** In response to a question about the prevalence of former industrial sites requiring remediation, Jared Patton said there is some plastic manufacturing taking place in the community, but that the team has not identified brownfields yet nor was it raised as an issue.
- **Future growth.** Responding to a question about future growth, Jared Patton explained that many residents and stakeholders want the Village to grow enough to keep it financially sustainable and to avoid annexation. He added that there is more support for new commercial and industrial businesses than residential development since new businesses have the greater potential to increase the Village's tax base. More tax revenue will be crucial for funding a new sewer system as well as road maintenance.
- **Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure.** Responding to a question about whether the higher rate of biking and walking indicated a need for more improvements, Jared stated that the current online survey is initially showing walking infrastructure as a high priority and parking as a lower priority. He added that respondents also noted sidewalk condition and connections to nearby Forest Preserves as priorities.

8.0 Other Business

None

9.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the exact time for the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

- None

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be November 5 at 9:30 a.m.

11.0 Adjournment

The motion to adjourn, moved by Jack Darin and seconded by Stacy Meyers, carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Daly and Kate Evasic
September 3, 2020