



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 3.0

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Economic Development Committees

DRAFT Minutes

October 28, 2019

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

Members present: Peter Creticos (Institute for Work and the Economy), Jonathan Furr (NIU Education Systems Center), Bryan Gay (Invest Aurora), Joanna Greene (Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership), Terrence Hall (World Business Chicago), Michael Horsting (Regional Transportation Authority), Jason Keller (interim chair, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), Gretchen Kleinert (Chicago TREND), Joey Mak (Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce), Henry Pierce (ComEd), Lance Pressl (Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship), Doug Pryor (Will County Center for Economic Development), John Reinert (McHenry County Board)

Others present: Brent Adams (Woodstock Institute)

CMAP staff: Austen Edwards, Cindy Cambray, Jesse Elam, Avery Goods, Stephanie Levine, Amy McEwan, Elizabeth Scott, Matt Stern, Gordon Smith, Aseal Tineh, Simone Weil

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions

Jason Keller called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Austen Edwards thanked committee members Kevin Kramer and Dionne Baux for participating as panelist for CMAP's *Small Plans, Big Ideas* forum in Elgin on October 8, 2019, as well as those who joined the committee's site visit to the UPS Chicago Area Consolidation Hub in Hodgkins, IL on September 5, 2019. Austen also announced that the 2019 call for projects of CMAP's Local Technical Assistance and RTA's Community Planning programs closed on October 18. Staff received 81 applications from 70 different applicants. CMAP staff will be following up by email to seek feedback from members on this year's applications.

3.0 Approval meeting minutes

A motion to adopt the minutes for June 24, 2019 was made and seconded. With no opposition, the motion carried.

4.0 Presentation: Patterns of Disparity: Small Business Lending in Illinois

Brent Adams, Senior Vice President of Policy and Communications at the Woodstock Institute, provided an overview of a recent research project to assess small businesses' credit needs and bank loans in Illinois. The state's low- and moderate-income census tracts – as well as those with a high proportion of non-white residents – consistently receive a smaller share of total business loans and dollar amounts than their share of all businesses. These patterns are consistent with national trends. They also reflect other research findings on disparities in the credit rating system and the treatment of black and Hispanic business loan applicants, even if they have slightly better income, assets, and credit scores. With the emergence of non-bank, online financial technology companies, additional work is needed to investigate instances of discrimination and require all small business lenders to report data on applicants' race, gender, and other demographic markers.

The committee discussed the need for similar research on gender disparities in small business lending. The Woodstock Institute has provided the report's data as well as extensive mapping on its data portal for further evaluation.

5.0 Avenues for Growth Plan (Belmont Cragin Corridors Plan)

Cindy Cambray provided an overview of CMAP's recently completed LTA project in Belmont Cragin, on behalf of the Northwest Side Community Development Corporation. The plan focuses on improvements along three primary corridors: Diversey Avenue, Grand Avenue, and Fullerton Avenue. Recommendations address four primary concerns voiced by the community, including more affordable housing, multimodal transportation, enhanced public places, and economic development. The project team sought input from Belmont Cragin residents via two-day corridor workshops focused on small business owners' experiences and visions for the neighborhood. Ultimately, the plan offers a number of strategies for enhancing the area's economic growth and development. It emphasizes support for existing local Latino- and woman-owned businesses, while attracting new business activity through Tax-Increment Financing and Neighborhood Opportunity Funds. The plan also presents strategies to connect residents to local and regional jobs by first enhancing access to workforce training and developing new partnerships. The plan will also activate vacant storefronts and spaces by arranging pop-up or temporary uses that demonstrate potential, spur risk-taking, and match potential business tenets and landlords.

The committee discussed potential connections to Mayor Lori Lightfoot's recent proposals to reinvest in the City of Chicago's neighborhood and commercial corridors. Members also inquired about efforts to preserve the community's character while attracting new businesses. The LTA project is now shifting into providing implementation support.

6.0 Master plan for the Illinois International Port District

Elizabeth Scott discussed ongoing efforts to develop a master plan for the Illinois International Port District, an independent municipal corporation that operates all land surrounding Lake Calumet as well as Iroquois Landing on Lake Michigan. CMAP staff have completed a significant amount of pre-planning work to understand its challenges and related political position. Staff completed a Planning Priorities Report to better identify the focal points and stakeholders before embarking on a full master plan. The port remains the only maritime connection between the Mississippi River system and the St. Lawrence Seaway. It has significant potential to increase the volume of break bulk and intermodal cargo passing through the port. The master plan will evaluate development alternatives, determine what capital investments are needed and how they should be sequenced, develop future land and water use plans, and make the business case for greater investment. The master plan is being produced by a team including Cambridge Systematics, Jacobs Engineering, Metro Strategies, and the Goodman Williams Group.

Discussion focused on existing plans and analyses for the IIPD, including those developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, OECD, and Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. The current project will look at the port's unique market position and potential offerings. The committee also discussed opportunities to leverage the recently designated Pullman National Monument as an anchor for developing additional recreational and community amenities, as well as multimodal connections to transit facilities.

7.0 Capital bill tool overview

Stephanie Levine reviewed recent analysis on a package of legislation enacted by the State of Illinois in June 2019 to fund transportation, water infrastructure, natural resources, school construction, affordable housing, and other projects. This was the state's first major capital program since 2009, the first to provide ongoing spending on transit infrastructure, and the first increase to the state's motor fuel tax in 29 years. The program aligns well with CMAP's recommendations in ON TO 2050. Altogether, 38 percent of spending will go to roads and bridges, 21 percent will go to transit, 7 percent will go to economic development, and the remainder will go to various vertical infrastructure and building improvements. However, current projections show a remaining \$34.2 billion shortfall in transit spending to achieve a state good repair. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will program just over \$2 billion in funding. CMAP staff have developed a searchable database of the bill's line items to enable users to develop summary-level findings.

The committee raised questions about how the discretionary spending provided to DCEO will reflect the department's recently published five-year state plan. Members also discussed whether any analysis has been completed on which programs or projects have been fully funded.

8.0 Policy Update series on workforce trends and career pathways

Matt Stern sought feedback on the initial topics and research questions of an upcoming project on emerging trends in the labor market and regional applications of a career pathways model. With the adoption of ON TO 2050, CMAP is exploring new ways to engage in this field, while building on its longstanding work on demographic patterns, industry skills demand, and structural trends in the labor market. The current scope

includes five broad questions: What does 'job quality' mean in metropolitan Chicago? What are regionally significant occupations that offer better economic opportunity? What are the future projections of occupations that can support the career pathway model? How is the geography of middle-skill work and training changing over time? How can the region address non-training barriers to work?

The committee emphasized the value of workforce planning on a regional scale, as well as the value of analysis that can help workforce partners to back-plan from high-priority occupations to necessary skills and credentials to target populations. Members also discussed the need for more attention on first- and last-mile connections and upcoming opportunities to link this work into state and local WIOA planning. The committee encouraged CMAP staff to incorporate disaggregated data by gender and highlight private sector interventions already underway.

9.0 Other business

There was no other business.

10.0 Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

11.0 Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, January 27, 2020 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austen Edwards", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Austen Edwards, Staff Liaison