



CMAQ Project Selection Committee
Minutes – October 31, 2019

Committee Members: Doug Ferguson, Chair (CMAP), Darwin Burkhardt (IEPA) (via phone), John Donovan (FHWA), Mark Pitstick (RTA), Chris Snyder (Counties), Chris Schmidt (IDOT) (via phone), Jeffrey Sriver (CDOT)

Staff Present: Jen Maddux

Others Present: Len Cannata, Akram Chaudhry, Jack Cruikshank, Emily Daucher, Laura Fedak, Jackie Forbes, Mike Fricano, MeLena Hessel, Kendra Johnson, Emily Karry, Mike Klemens, Daniel Knickelbein, Ryan Peterson, Leslie Phemister, Keith Privett, Tom Rickert, Troy Simpson, Brian Stepp, Jeff Strzalka, Dave Tomzik (via phone)

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:06 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes—September 5, 2019

On a motion by Mr. Snyder and seconded by Mr. Pitstick, the minutes of the September 5, 2019 meeting were approved.

4.0 Program Monitoring

4.1 Project Programming Status Sheets

Ms. Maddux presented the program status sheets for active and deferred CMAQ and TAP-L funded projects.

Mr. Pitstick asked for clarification on the project listings, and Ms. Maddux stated that the programming status sheets contain all CMAQ and TAP-L funded projects with funding in the current program years, in addition to the list of all CMAQ projects in deferral status.

4.2 Programming Summary and Obligation Goal

Ms. Maddux reported that the CMAQ programming summary and obligation goal for 2019 and 2020 were included in the Committee packets. The region obligated \$262 million in 2019, leaving a near zero unobligated CMAQ balance, which will

make programming cost changes in 2020 a challenge. Ms. Maddux reported that the staff recommended obligation goal for FFY 2020 be the remaining CMAQ unobligated balance at the end of FFY 2019 (\$23,947) plus the annual allotment (\$115,700,468).

The Committee discussed the complexities of balancing the current year program to maintain fiscal constraint, while considering projects in Advanced Construction and trying to reach the obligation goal.

On a motion made by Mr. Pitstick, and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the FFY 2020 CMAQ obligation goal of \$115,724,415 was approved.

5.0 Project Changes

5.1 Chicago DOT – Stony Island Ave from Midway Plaisance to 95th St (01-03-0002)

Ms. Maddux reported that the sponsor requested to reinstate \$4,032,000 CMAQ (\$5,040,000 total) for construction in FFY 2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Sriver, and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the requested reinstatement was approved.

5.2 Bellwood – St. Charles Rd Access to Transit (04-16-0003)

Ms. Maddux reported that the sponsor requested an increase of \$24,160 CMAQ (\$31,200 total) for phase II engineering in FFY 2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder, and seconded by Mr. Pitstick, the requested increase was approved.

5.3 Mundelein – Mundelein Metra Station at McKinley Ave (10-16-0006)

Ms. Maddux reported that the sponsor requested a scope change to redesign the pedestrian bridge from covered with elevators to open with ramps. Due to the additional design work, the sponsor requested to transfer \$201,000 CMAQ (\$231,000 total) from construction to phase II engineering in FFY 2020.

Mr. Pitstick noted that the sponsor had been before the committee with requested changes on this project last year and requested a recap.

Mr. Strzalka and Mr. Chaudhry, representing the Village of Mundelein, explained that the project was previously approved for a cost increase for construction of the covered bridge with elevators. During design, the sponsor realized the high operating and maintenance costs the bridge would require in perpetuity. Therefore, the sponsor's request to change the design will require additional engineering but the sponsor ultimately expects construction costs to be lower. Finally, Mr. Strzalka reported that the project will be targeting a June 2020 letting and acknowledged it was an aggressive schedule.

Mr. Ferguson stated that the anticipated schedule may not be met due to factors outside the Village's control and asked that if the project was not going to be ready

for construction in FFY 2020 to let staff know as soon as possible. Mr. Chaudhry agreed.

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder, and seconded by Mr. Pitstick, the requested scope change and transfer were approved.

5.4 Romeoville – ComEd ROW Bike Path from Weber Rd to Airport Rd (12-11-0015)

Ms. Maddux reported that the sponsor requested to reinstate \$1,229,000 TAP-L (\$1,536,000 total) for construction in FFY 2020.

On a motion made by Mr. Pitstick, and seconded by Mr. Snyder, the requested reinstatement was approved.

6.0 Program Development

6.1 FFY 2020-2024 CMAQ and FFY 2020-2022 TAP-L

Mr. Ferguson reported that the programs were approved by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee and have received an eligibility determination from FHWA/FTA. Mr. Ferguson noted that some elements of the Chicago Pedway project were found ineligible and the CMAQ programmed amount will be reduced. Mr. Donovan confirmed that some portions of the project are considered maintenance and are ineligible for CMAQ funding.

Finally, Mr. Ferguson announced that award letters will be sent to sponsors in the coming weeks. A mandatory initiation meeting for suburban local projects in the new program will be held at CMAP on December 10, 2019 and will be accessible via webinar.

6.2 Next Call for Projects

In preparation for the next call for CMAQ and TAP-L projects, Mr. Ferguson requested committee discussion on ideas for improvements to the project analysis or criteria used in the evaluation. He noted that staff will again be looking to improve the bicycle model and other data but are not planning a major overhaul of the evaluation process.

The committee first discussed that phase I engineering completion component of project eligibility. Mr. Snyder noted that there is a point in IDOT's review where the project scope and cost are known, although unrelated issues may cause a delay in receiving design approval. The committee discussed whether IDOT could provide a sign-off on these to indicate to CMAP staff that phase I engineering is substantially complete. Mr. Ferguson asked whether the deadline for substantial completeness should be moved from the current June 1 deadline to the application deadline. Mr. Snyder preferred to keep the June 1 deadline and expressed concern over IDOT's workload. Mr. Peterson suggested that whatever is decided should be consistent with the STP-Shared Fund program, to maintain predictably for municipalities. Mr. Rickert stated that while he understands the benefits of the earlier deadline, it is too

late to change from June to March for the next call since applicants have already started planning, and perhaps there should be a transition period.

Mr. Snyder requested that the evaluation methods used for roundabout projects be further explained to county engineers.

Mr. Privett suggested that staff take a close look at the way the cost effectiveness of emissions benefits is translated to a point value, and that staff provide those translations to project sponsors in the spirit of transparency.

Finally, the committee discussed one challenge of the application in eTIP being the lack of a print friendly version of application for distribution. Mr. Ferguson reported that staff will be working with the consultant on further development of eTIP and this will be addressed.

7.0 2020 Meeting Schedule

On a motion made by Mr. Snyder, and seconded by Mr. Sriver, the 2020 meeting schedule was approved.

8.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

9.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2020 at 11:00 a.m.

11.0 Adjournment

On a motion made by Mr. Schmidt, and seconded by Mr. Sriver, the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 a.m.