



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) STP Project Selection Committee Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019

Committee Members Present: John Donovan – FHWA, Jesse Elam – CMAP, Kevin O’Malley – CDOT, Chad Riddle – IDOT, Chris Snyder – Counties, Jeffrey Sriver – CDOT, Eugene Williams – Council of Mayors

Others Present: Katie Bell, Elaine Bottomley, Jack Cruikshank, Emily Daucher, Grant Davis, Jackie Forbes, Kendra Johnson, Emily Karry (via phone), Tom Kelso, Daniel Knickelbein, Ryan Peterson, Leslie Phemister, David Seglin, Troy Simpson

Staff Present: Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Doug Ferguson, Nicholas Ferguson, Jen Maddux, Russell Pietrowiak, Jeff Schnobrich

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by Chairman Elam.

2.0 Agenda Changes

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion by Mayor Williams, seconded by Mr. O’Malley, to approve the minutes of the October 31, 2019 meeting as presented, carried.

4.0 Local Distribution Formula

Ms. Dobbs provided examples of options for incorporating improvement into the local distribution formula for the first formula re-calibration scheduled for FFY 2025, as called for in the agreement between the Council of Mayors and City of Chicago. Based on the examples, she stated that staff recommends setting aside a percentage of the region’s allotment for improvement that is equal to the percentage that the region improved the percentage of the performance measures in bad condition, to be distributed based on each council’s and the City of Chicago’s proportional share of the improvement. Mr. O’Malley noted that in the examples, it is possible for a council’s total mark to decrease, even though that council had improved. Ms. Dobbs explained that because the needs

portion of the distribution is larger than improvement, and because both portions are relative to all the other councils, it is mathematically possible for the mark with improvement to be less than the mark when only need is considered. Mr. O'Malley asked what the effects might be for a measure like congestion if the region experienced another recession. Mr. Elam noted that could be unpredictable, but that the effect would be felt by all, so the relative proportions would remain the same. Mr. Snyder asked if the \$3 million floor would remain in effect. Ms. Dobbs stated it would. Mr. Peterson asked how that floor affects the examples provided. Ms. Dobbs noted that all of the calculations would be completed without regard to the floor, and if it was necessary to add funding to a council to meet the floor, that would occur at the end, with the necessary funds being deducted from all other councils to make up the difference. Mr. Peterson suggested applying a ceiling to the improvement-based distribution.

The committee discussed the difficulty of making a decision without real data about improvement. Staff noted that most of the data needed is available annually, but that pavement condition data is scheduled to be collected regionwide every five years. The next collection will be in 2023. Mr. O'Malley asked if it was necessary to take final action now. Mr. Riddle suggested that if the data was unexpected or unreasonable the committee could make adjustments to this methodology. Mr. Snyder suggested that some level of prediction may be possible. Ms. Dobbs noted that without actual data, the committee is being asked to make a decision based on the policy, not the amount of funding.

Mayor Williams made a motion, seconded by Mr. O'Malley to approve the staff recommendation, and to cap the amount of funding to be distributed based on improvement to no more than 10% of the overall regional mark. Mr. Riddle noted that it would be okay to re-evaluate the methodology in the future. Mr. Donovan stated that the region wants to address the needs and that considering improvement is complicated. Mr. Riddle noted that if everyone improves at the same rate, then including improvement would have no effect on the distribution of funds. With no further discussion, the motion carried.

5.0 Evaluating the Lessons Learned

5.1 Rolling Focus

Ms. Dobbs stated that based on the committee's conversation in October, staff recommends that rolling focus not be included for the next call for Shared Fund projects in 2021. She added that the committee will discuss eligible project types at a future meeting. It was the consensus of the committee to accept the staff recommendation.

5.2 Completion of Phase 1 Engineering

Ms. Dobbs stated that staff recommends that the deadline for phase 1 engineering to be substantially complete in order for a project to be eligible to apply for Shared Funds be shifted to be the same as the application due date. Mr. Riddle stated that ideally applicants would have phase 1 approvals in hand when applying, as that is easy to define. He suggested that staff work with IDOT to develop a checklist to be included with applications that can guide IDOT's determination of whether or not projects are substantially complete. Ms. Dobbs suggested that if applicants completed the quarterly status update form as part of the application, it could provide what Mr. Riddle is suggesting. Mr. Ferguson noted that since calls for CMAQ and TAP projects occur jointly with the STP-Shared Fund, the CMAQ Project Selection Committee will be asked to consider the same shift to the deadline. In response to a question from Mr. Knickelbein, Ms. Dobbs stated that staff would report on the eligibility determination as soon as practical following the close of the call for projects. In response to a question from Mr. Simpson, Ms. Dobbs clarified that completion of the checklist or status update would be part of the application, but that the actual determination would be made after the close of the call for projects. It was the consensus of the committee to accept the staff recommendation.

6.0 Shared Fund Contingency Program

Ms. Dobbs stated that following program approval in October, sponsors of projects eligible to be included in the contingency program were contacted to confirm their desire to be included. Sponsors of eleven projects indicated that they did not want to be included for a variety of reasons. Ms. Dobbs distributed the final contingency program for information.

7.0 Other Business

Mr. Sriver asked what Lessons Learned topics would be discussed at future meetings and reported that CDOT would provide suggestions to staff. Ms. Dobbs stated that staff intends to compile comments received about the project selection and program development methodologies into a memo for committee discussion and anticipates that memo will include a schedule for in-depth discussions throughout the next year.

8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2020.

10.0 Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Williams, seconded by Mr. Sriver, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.