



## Human and Community Development Committee

### Draft Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

Via GoToMeeting

**Members Present:** Sheri Cohen (Chicago Department of Public Health), Jackie Forbes (Kane County Division of Transportation), Jacky Grimshaw (Center for Neighborhood Technology), Tiffany McDowell (Chicagoland Equity Network), Enrique Salgado, Jr. (WellCare Health Plans, Inc. / Harmony), Kendra Freeman (Metropolitan Planning Council), Olatunji Oboi Reed (Equiticity)

**Others Present:** Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong, Alicia Bunton, Julius Christian

**CMAP Staff:** Michelle Agunloye, Courtney Barnes, Lindsay Bayley, Enrique Castillo, Daniel Comeaux, Jenna Gonzales, Jane Grover, Quinn Kasal, Catherine Kemp, Timi Koyejo, Stephanie Levine, Tom Murtha, Jason Navota, Lily Neppl, Tina Smith, Matthew Stern, Ryan Thompto, Simon Weil, Beatrix Yan

### 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Sheri Cohen, the committee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Sheri Cohen welcomed participants, and CMAP staff reviewed the protocol for the virtual meeting. A recording of the meeting will be made available online.

Staff announced that agenda item 4.0 (Selected Committee Member Updates) would be pushed to after item 7.0 (Grade Crossings Project Update).

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes—[February 4, 2020](#), and [June 9, 2020](#)

A motion to approve the minutes of both the February 4, 2020 and June 9, 2020 meetings was carried with all in favor.

### 4.0 Selected Committee Member Updates (presented after 7.0)

Members Jackie Forbes and Oboi Reed provided updates on how COVID-19 and the increased focus on racial justice and police violence are impacting their work and their partners.

Jackie Forbes shared information on Kane County's COVID-19 response. Contract tracers have embraced Salesforce to manage case information, and there is a need for more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in the fall. Efforts to increase the supply of PPE are focusing on long-term care facilities, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, first responders, and oral surgeons. The Division of Transportation is looking at different vaccine distribution methods, including a drive-up vaccination clinic for more rural areas. Some sites have already been identified. Kane County case growth by age: 20 to 29-year-olds are seeing the highest growth, followed by 40 to 49-year-olds and 30 to 39-year-olds. Jackie highlighted Aurora for their detailed online dashboard of COVID-19 data. Aurora is also working hard to support businesses that have been impacted by the recent civil unrest. Kane County has not yet distributed its CARES Act funds, but a task force is meeting regularly to determine distribution. Final determinations on distributions seem to be close to completion, which will provide some much-needed relief for communities.

Oboi Reed presented on Equiticity's recent activities and how they relate to current events. In reference to police violence, Equiticity recently completed Mobility is Justice research in partnership with MPC, UIC/Kate Lowe, Jesus Barajas, community-based organizations, and workforce centers. Qualitative focus groups were completed with CBOs and workforce centers and researched equity performance measures used by MPOs around the country. The research found focus group participants—mostly from Black, Brown, low-to-moderate income neighborhoods, primarily on the South and Southwest sides of Chicago—did not think about violence narrowly as it relates to mobility. Across the board, Equiticity found that people are deeply concerned about violence: interpersonal and gun violence, police violence, vehicular violence. Concerns are so heightened, participants are not choosing walking or biking—partly due to lack of infrastructure, partly due to fear of interpersonal/gun violence, or fear of police violence and racial profiling.

Three Equiticity research partners presented findings of racialized enforcement inequities at a March 9<sup>th</sup> event: Jesus Barajas of UIUC on pedestrian and cyclist stops, Karen Shelley of ACLU of Illinois using CPD transit stops and vehicular stops data, Stacey Sutton of UIC on automated enforcement. Oboi Reed said due to egregious racial inequities in traffic enforcement, including automated enforcement, we must ensure that policy is not shifting from one inequitable system to another as potential reforms to enforcement are considered. The next steps for the research include: publicizing the results in the media, another event, engaging with

polycymakers, and developing policy recommendations and a policy brief addressing racialized enforcement. Equiticity is also partnering with Boxing Out Negativity in North Lawndale for a community bike ride on Sat. August 15, and is working with health systems in and around North Lawndale to coordinate the COVID response for that event.

Enrique Salgado applauded Oboi Reed's report out and asked about the role of trauma and PTSD within communities of color and transportation policy. Oboi Reed responded there is trauma related to proximity to police violence and other violence, which influences mobility decisions and mentioned it is important to socialize mobility options like walking or biking, and that mobility can help address the trauma. Sheri Cohen asked if there could be ways to connect with the CMAP Transportation Committee in the future on these topics.

## **5.0 CMAP Update on Agency-wide Internal Equity Initiatives**

Tina Fasset Smith, CMAP's Director of Innovation and Strategic Alignment, is leading agency-wide internal equity initiatives and presented an update on those efforts. CMAP has been working on diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts over the past number of years. The agency is engaged in a multiyear planning process with a renewed focus on equity and implementation of the Inclusive Growth principle in three specific areas: transportation, climate, and regional economic competitiveness.

Recent activities CMAP has committed to include:

- Continual and mandatory trainings prioritizing culture, professional growth, management skills
- Review of internal practices, operationalize equity focus in recruitment, hiring, evaluations, pay, promotions
- Engage with local and national government organizations leading on equity

Greg Polman asked if CMAP is incorporating addressing the stigma people with disabilities experience in staff trainings. CMAP staff confirmed that a training curriculum being developed over the next two years includes content related to disability at CMAP, and that this is an important part of equity.

Tiffany McDowell said YMCA Evanston North Shore provides many equity training opportunities, including workshops open to the public that can be viewed on their website. The organization has been working on trainings for eight to nine years, but significantly expanded offerings in the past two years. YMCA Evanston North Shore has joined CNT's Transit Equity network as a partner, where several organizations have come together to look at racial equity in transportation. Additionally, YMCA Evanston North Shore engaged CMAP, CDOT, MPC, and Elevated Chicago in various ways to integrate justice and equity into diversity and inclusion efforts for planners. Tiffany McDowell extended an invitation to all to connect further on this work.

## **6.0 Garfield Green Line South Elevated Chicago LTA Project Update**

CMAP staff, Lindsay Bayley, presented an update on the Garfield Green Line South LTA project. CMAP is working with Elevated Chicago, community groups, and the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to update the Community Work Plan with the specific goal of continuing the progress of turning the station into a community asset. Elevated Chicago is comprised of 17 organizations that have come together to integrate equity into transit-oriented development. The project seeks to understand the impact that decades of disinvestment have had and work to change the narrative around a community with strong, positive amenities.

CMAP staff shared a historical overview of the area surrounding the Garfield Green Line station and Washington Park generally. Topics included redlining, racial tension, public housing projects, and CTA Green Line branches cut. Recent examples of new artist spaces and street improvements were also touched upon. Enrique Salgado highlighted the fact past plan recommendations in the region have frequently failed to be implemented as well as suggested leveraging the City of Chicago's Invest South/West program.

## **7.0 Grade Crossings Project Update**

CMAP staff, Tom Murtha, discussed a project to study and prioritize improvements to grade crossings using the "Planning and Environmental Linkages" process. ONTO 2050 includes targets for reductions in motorist delay at grade crossings. The project conducted a numeric analysis of all 1,646 regional grade crossings, including estimates of crossing delay and crash risk, truck exposure, transit impact, initial analysis of likely impacts, and status of project development.

Research found that the average crossing time for freight trains is two minutes and 24 seconds (and often significantly higher) compared to just one minute for Metra trains. Long gate-blockage events, which are those longer than 10 minutes, are commonplace, and some observed were longer than 60 minutes. In addition to consuming the time of residents, unsafe behaviors are associated with lengthy delays as some pedestrians respond to the substantial inconvenience by crossing through between rail cars. The presentation continued with an overview of Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) studies, including one underway at Laraway Road. The four main solutions proposed to reduce crossing delay were to improve railroad performance, improve highways, create pedestrian separations, or create full grade separations.

## **8.0 Agency Announcements**

No announcements were issued.

## **9.0 Other Business**

No other business was presented.

## **10.0 Public Comment**

Garland Armstrong spoke of the need to ensure that hard-of-hearing and other people from the disability community are targeted so they can be involved in the planning processes, and so that they're informed on what's happening in the community in general.

No public comments were sent in advance of the meeting.

### 11.0 Next Meeting

The committee is scheduled to meet next on **Tuesday, October 6, 2020** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

### 12.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Sheri Cohen at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Enrique Castillo, CMAP Staff

Timi Koyejo, CMAP Staff

### Human and Community Development Committee Members:

- \_\_\_ Sheri Cohen (Chair), Chicago Department of Public Health
- \_\_\_ Fluturi Demirovski, Regional Transportation Authority
- \_\_\_ Laurie Dittman, Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, City of Chicago
- \_\_\_ Jackie Forbes, Kane County Division of Transportation
- \_\_\_ Joan Fox, DuPage County
- \_\_\_ Kendra Freeman, Metropolitan Planning Council
- \_\_\_ Melody Geraci, Active Transportation Alliance
- \_\_\_ Jacky Grimshaw, Center for Neighborhood Technology
- \_\_\_ Hanna Kite, Cook County Department of Public Health
- \_\_\_ Tiffany McDowell, Chicagoland Equity Network
- \_\_\_ Greg Polman, Chicago Lighthouse
- \_\_\_ Olatunji Oboi Reed, Equiticity
- \_\_\_ Enrique Salgado, Jr., WellCare Health Plans, Inc. / Harmony
- \_\_\_ Raj Shah, Rush Medical Center / Center for Community Health Equity
- \_\_\_ Rosalie Shemmer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- \_\_\_ Darnell Shields, Austin Coming Together
- \_\_\_ Janna Simon, Illinois Public Health Institute
- \_\_\_ Dominic Tocci, Cook County Bureau of Economic Development
- \_\_\_ William Towns, Benefit Chicago