



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Human and Community Development Committee

Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Committee Members Present: Sheri Cohen (Chicago Department of Public Health), Fluturi Demirovski (Regional Transportation Authority, Jackie Forbes (Kane County Division of Transportation), Joan Fox* (DuPage County), Kendra Freeman (Metropolitan Planning Council), Hanna Kite (Cook County Department of Public Health), Greg Polman* (Chicago Lighthouse), Olatunji Oboi Reed* (Equiticity), Enrique Salgado Jr. (WellCare Health Plans Inc./Harmony), Raj Shah (Rush Medical Center / Center for Community Healthy Center), Janna Simon* (Illinois Public Health Institute)

(*indicates via phone)

Others Present: Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong, Mikael David, Alex Devlin, Katanya Raby

Staff Present: Laurent Ahiablame, Cindy Cambray, Terri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Jesse Elam, Tina Fasset-Smith, James Gross, Jane Grover, Timi Koyejo, Ben Krochmal, Stephanie Levine, Tony Manno, Tim McMahan, Jeff Schnobrich, Elizabeth Schuh, Matthew Stern, Simone Weil, Laura Wilkison

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Sheri Cohen, committee co-chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

CMAP staff, Austen Edwards, announced a new CMAP staff liaison will be identified after the recent departure of HCD staff liaison Aseal Tineh from CMAP.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the [December 10, 2019](#) meeting was made, seconded, and carried.

4.0 LTA/Community Planning Call for Projects

CMAP staff, Tony Manno, presented the 28 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) project proposals with the highest potential out of the 82 applications that were received from the 2019 joint CMAP and RTA call for projects conducted from September 17 to October 18, 2019. Tony overviewed the range of project types covered, how they were assessed, and the timeline of both resource allocation and finalizing the project list. CMAP is currently revisiting the methodology used to assess community need when selecting projects. Tony reported that 18 of the 28 high potential applicants were in medium- and high-need communities. Committee members asked if staff considered requiring communities that receive funding to share out learnings to other communities, about the outreach process for soliciting applications, how the Embedded Staff Planner program interacts with the LTA program, and whether community-based organizations are able to apply for LTA. CMAP has increasingly sought projects that are replicable and include an end product such as a guidebook that can be used by others, such as the Elevated Chicago project. Additionally, CMAP pursued a number of outreach activities during the call for projects and looks for opportunities to build community capacity to apply for LTA and other funding opportunities. Community-based organizations can apply to the LTA program. CMAP will release the staff recommended list of LTA projects by the March 11, 2020— with approval pending the April 8, 2020 CMAP Board Meeting.

5.0 Regional Transportation Programming

CMAP staff, Kama Dobbs, provided a broad overview of CMAP's transportation funding programming responsibilities, the types of projects that are funded, and the process by which projects are selected. CMAP directly programs projects under three federal source funds: the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) provides \$115M annually for projects reducing transportation-related emissions, the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) allocates \$9M annually for bicycle projects, and the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP) allocates roughly \$140M annually for a broad range of projects. The region is shifting from a formula-based allocation of funds to performance-based programming, which emphasizes the use of performance and condition data in project selection but still retains local-decision making. A major development in this shift was the creation of the STP Shared Fund, a \$40 million annual set aside to accomplish projects that can make large and lasting contributions to regional planning goals. Drawn from ON TO 2050, these goals include improving asset management, improving transit access, reducing congestion, promoting economic growth, and improving safety. Discussion focused on the process by which projects are selected, including the project selection committee structure, programming goals, methodology, and timeline. Committee members encouraged the rotation of Project Selection Committee members to allow for a diversity of viewpoints and to introduce fresh ways of thinking when making these complex transitions. CMAP continues to advocate for a strong points-based methodology in part to mitigate personal opinions or approaches.

6.0 Evaluating Inclusive Growth in Transportation Programming

CMAP staff, Jesse Elam, presented on the impacts of using inclusive growth criteria on project selection outcomes for the STP Shared Fund, which was done for the first time in the past funding cycle. Projects were evaluated based on the percent of travelers using a transportation facility that are disadvantaged—defined as people of color under the poverty line. To determine the impact of the inclusive growth scoring on project selection, staff estimated what the outcomes would have been without the points, finding about \$19M worth of projects would have shifted out of the funding program, which would mean a 21% reduction in the number of disadvantaged users who would benefit from selected projects. Other changes to the STP Shared Fund also included dropping local match requirements and making preliminary engineering eligible for funding for certain lower-capacity communities. Committee members sought further detail on how the transportation demand modeling was used to estimate projects' potential for supporting inclusive growth and clarified that the model uses current demand. Members also encouraged staff to actively solicit applications from low capacity communities, develop internal numerical metrics for targeting resources equitably, and keep in mind the need to use transportation investments to attract economic opportunities to disadvantaged areas.

7.0 Member Updates

Hanna Kite plugged the Cook County Department of Public Health that has a lead abatement program in homes of for low-income households in the South Suburbs. Sheri Cohen shared that Laurie Dittman will be serving as the acting commissioner of the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities. Janna Simon previewed the launch in April of the Illinois Bike/Walk Virtual Learning Collaborative, an effort that provides technical assistance to small and medium-sized communities to help them apply to the state funds made available for biking and walking projects in the 2019 state capital bill. Oboi Reed shared Equiticity is hosting an policy-focused event March 9th from 11:30am – 1:30 at the Illini Center exploring how to end racialized enforcement inequities in Chicago.

8.0 Public Comment

Heather Armstrong expressed concern over monthly Medicaid spend down requirements. In response, Hanna Kite shared the Cook County Department of Public Health is hosting forums in March related to Medicaid reimbursement. Garland Armstrong raised the issue of plastics pollution and urged more recycling efforts to ensure the environment is clean.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting date is April 7, 2020 at 10:00a.m.

10.0 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Timi Koyejo, CMAP Staff