



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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

September 24, 2020

Via GoToMeeting

Committee Members Present: Jesse Elam, Chairman – CMAP, John Donovan – FHWA, Tom Kelso – IDOT, Heather Mullins – RTA, Kevin O’Malley - CDOT, Jeffery Schielke – Council of Mayors, Chris Snyder - Counties, Jeffrey Sriver – CDOT, Eugene Williams – Council of Mayors

Others Present: Elaine Bottomley, Lenny Cannata, Emily Daucher, Grant Davis, Jackie Forbes, Michael Fricano, Jeremy Glover, Scott Hennings, Kendra Johnson, Noah Jones, Mike Klemens, Daniel Knickelbein, Matthew Pasquini, Kelsey Passi, Leslie Phemister, Tom Rickert, Troy Simpson, Joe Surdam, Holly Waters, Audrey Wennink

Staff Present: Erin Aleman, Daniel Comeaux, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Doug Ferguson, Craig Heither, Victoria Jacobsen, Elliott Lewis, Stephanie Levine, Jessica Matthews, Tim McMahon, Jason Navota, Timothy McMahon, Russell Pietrowiak, Mary Weber

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Chairman Elam. Ms. Dixon took a roll call of the committee members on the call.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chairman Elam reminded members and other attendees of best practices for participating in a virtual format. He stated that as permitted in the Governor’s Disaster Declaration from August 21, 2020, the determination has been made that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent for this committee. To ensure as transparent and open a meeting as possible, staff posted the meeting materials one week in advance, will provide a recording of this meeting linked on the CMAP website, and will take all votes by roll call.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 3, 2020

A motion was made by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Jeff Sriver, to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2020 meeting as presented. A roll call vote was conducted:

Aye Kevin O'Malley, CDOT
Aye Jeff Sriver, CDOT
Aye Mayor Williams, Council of Mayors
Aye Mayor Schielke, Council of Mayors
Aye Jesse Elam, CMAP

With all in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Evaluating the Lessons Learned

Ms. Dobbs noted that at the September 3rd meeting there was significant discussion regarding staff's proposal for eliminating council bonus points and replacing them with subregional priority points. She reminded the committee that under the proposal, each council and CDOT will be given 15 points to allocate to their five highest priority projects either inside or outside of their boundaries. The top priority project will receive five points, the next highest will receive four points and so on with the 5th highest priority project receiving one point. Points will be summed, up to a maximum of five points per project, regardless of whether multiple councils allocate points to that project which total more than five.

Ms. Dobbs then reviewed the concerns from the committee that neither CDOT or the councils are likely to prioritize each other's projects and that equal weighting of bonus points does not reflect the relative need evident in the difference in project numbers between the city and councils. Mr. Dobbs stated that staff discussed the feedback and believes that equal allocation of points by subregion ensures that one council's priorities are no more or less important than another's and that relative need is already addressed in the need scoring for the Shared Fund as well as in the local STP program allotments.

Ms. Mullins supported the CMAP staff recommendation. As a regional program, she stated, subregional priority should not be viewed as city vs. suburbs but rather a more formal way for applicants to prioritize their own projects. Mr. Sriver stated that the city maintains its previous position. Mr. O'Malley expressed disappointment that CMAP staff did not come back with alternate options as had been requested at the last meeting. He also suggested that if points are to be shared across the region, providing justification for doing so should be a requirement documented in the application booklet. Mr. O'Malley pointed out that mathematically, this proposal does benefit the suburbs more than the city. However, since five points is a small amount, this proposal is unlikely to drastically change a project's position. Mr. Sriver agreed. Mr. Knickelbein reiterated that DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference agrees with the proposal and appreciates staff

listening to feedback. Mr. Elam reiterated that the scoring methodology allows us to capture priorities through data analysis and this proposal will serve to tweak scoring without having too much influence. Ms. Dobbs added that under the previous council bonus points, the effect was to raise project ranks by ten to twenty positions, but if the current proposal is applied, that effect is more like two or three positions in the ranking, which better aligns with how a sub-regional priority should elevate a project.

Ms. Dobbs then revisited the program development procedures. During the last meeting, staff had not proposed any changes but had suggested adding clarifying language regarding the process and fiscal constraint limitations to the application booklet. Due to feedback from the committee, staff has developed a proposal to allow applicants to list the minimum amount of funding they can accept per project phase on their application. Staff will refer to this minimum acceptable amount if all requested phases of a project cannot be fully funded. When accepting less than full funding, applicants will need to identify the source of funds they will use to make up the gap and noted that if that source is local STP funds, those funds must be allocated according to the Active Program Management policies. Projects funded at a minimum acceptable level will not automatically be made whole, and in the event of cost changes, will be held to the match ratio of the awarded funding, but sponsors may also apply for additional funding in subsequent funding cycles.

Mr. Sriver stated this an improvement and he appreciates CMAP's effort to accommodate committee suggestions. He suggested that the effectiveness of these changes should be evaluated after the next call for projects and adjustments made if needed.

5.0 Draft Application Booklet

Ms. Dobbs then discussed the draft application booklet, which was provided as part of the meeting materials. This draft reflects all methodology updates that have been proposed by staff and discussed by the committee over the last nine months. Ms. Dobbs briefly reviewed the updates and new topics. Staff is asking the committee to review the booklet prior to their October meeting, during which they will vote to approve the booklet. Following approval, staff will put the booklet into final print format, but no changes to the methodology will be made. Ms. Dobbs mentioned that staff will also develop supplemental materials such as application and training materials.

Mayor Schielke asked if the bicycle safety record in the area of projects is considered in scoring and shared a recent experience in his community. He noted that there has been growing concern regarding safe and proper use of bike lanes and trails. Ms. Dobbs stated that the degree to which bike safety is considered depends on the project type. For example, crash experience and countermeasures being proposed in the project are evaluated in small area/corridor safety projects. Safety educational programs are not

addressed in this regional funding program, but as projects are implemented, IDOT engineering staff do consider all safety measures.

Mr. Snyder asked if there was a particular focus for the next call for projects. Chairman Elam stated that there is no rolling focus, and any project that fits within the list of eligible project categories may apply.

6.0 Draft Call for Projects and Selection Process Timeline

Ms. Dobbs reviewed the selection timeline, which staff is still developing. The tentative schedule includes a call for projects in January, with applications due in March. A summary of the applications would then be available to the committee and public in early April with evaluation results and preliminary scores ready in early summer. Pending public comment and committee approval, the CMAP Transportation Committee will consider TIP changes incorporating the approved program in late September. Finally, in October, the MPO Policy Committee and CMAP board will consider final approval of TIP changes for the program. Staff will bring a finalized schedule to the October meeting.

7.0 Shared Fund Status Update

There was no status update.

8.0 Other Business

Mr. Snyder inquired whether status updates for contingency projects were necessary. Ms. Dobbs said yes, all projects in both the active and contingency programs must provide status updates and reminders are sent to sponsors through their planning liaisons.

9.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

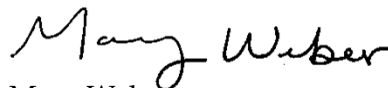
10.0 Next Meeting

Chairman Elam announced that the next meeting will be held virtually on Thursday, October 29th at 9:30am.

11.0 Adjournment

There being no other business, Chairman Elam adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Weber