



## Human and Community Development Committee

### Draft Minutes

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

### Via GoToMeeting

**Members Present:** Alicia Bunton (Illinois Institute of Technology), Jackie Forbes (Kane County Division of Transportation), Melody Geraci (Active Transportation Alliance), Jacky Grimshaw (Center for Neighborhood Technology), Gretchen Knowlton (AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois), Tiffany McDowell (Chicagoland Equity Network), Olatunji Oboi Reed (Equiticity), Greg Polman (Chicago Lighthouse), Enrique Salgado (WellCare Health Plans, Inc. / Harmony), Darnell Shields (Austin Coming Together), Janna Simon (Illinois Public Health Institute)

**CMAP Staff Present:**

Austen Edwards, Enrique Castillo, Elizabeth Scott, Erin Aleman, Jaemi Jackson, Jenna Gonzales, Kristin Ihnchak, Matthew Stern, Quinn Kasal, Simone Weil, Stephanie Levine, Teri Dixon, Timi Koyejo, Victoria Jacobsen

**Others Present:** Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Chair Sheri Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A recording of the meeting will be made available online.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No agenda changes or announcements were made.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes— [October 6, 2020](#)

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2020 meeting was made by Melody Geraci, seconded by Jackie Forbes. All committee members present voted in the affirmative and minutes approved.

#### 4.0 Selected Committee Member Updates

Darnell Shields from Austin Coming Together spoke about the heavy toll COVID-19 has had on African American communities and how his organization is uniting community response efforts. Resource development and deployment were significant challenges early in the pandemic, especially in food security. The Chicago Connected program has allowed them to mobilize partners and increase their collective impact, serving over 13,000 Austin households. This alliance included six organizations and around 40 volunteers working

together. Mr. Shields was commended for the Austin Coming Together website that several committee members have seen and thanked him for the excellent work in unifying this community.

Janna Simon from the Illinois Public Health Institute shared updates from her organization's pandemic response efforts. They continue to focus on housing and homelessness in coordination with the city, such as the ongoing search for temporary housing options. They are also collecting input on equitable transit-oriented development (eTOD) plans in the city, including a newly released city eTOD master plan. The organization's other work includes continued research on community PPE distribution, food distribution, and, more recently, vaccine distribution.

### **5.0 Identifying policy solutions for disinvestment**

CMAP is undertaking a two-year research project to identify intervention points in these cycles and recommend policy solutions. Initial work focuses on the prevalence, distribution, and impacts of vacancy in the region. Staff discussed this early work and larger project goals.

CMAP's Matthew Stern began with an overview of how resilience and economic development fits into the larger ON TO 2050 long-term goals, including maps of regional employment centers and disinvested areas. This project aims to assess the conditions of disinvested areas, understand the causes as a structural problem, and ultimately propose policy for targeted investment and recovery.

Staff explained how disinvestment is one possible result of a dynamic system, which can create growth and the opposite. The legacy of racism in when, where, and how disinvestment occurs must be recognized. Planned upcoming analyses as part of this project include vacancy rates, business, residential lending, transportation spending, and local government fiscal health.

Staff opened the topic for discussion by asking the committee if the project is on the right track and welcomed them to discuss how disinvestment appears in their work.

Staff efforts on the current iteration of the project began about eight to twelve months ago, but these activities built upon prior research efforts at the agency. Darnell Shields and Equiticity's Olatunji Oboi Reed both expressed strong interest in this project and a desire for a further in-depth discussion on it.

### **6.0 Building equity into CMAP's climate initiatives**

Staff presented an overview of CMAP's climate focus area and engaged members in a discussion about initial scoping of work assessing and mitigating climate impacts on socially vulnerable populations and disinvested communities. The discussion aimed to gather feedback on draft goals language and help brainstorm approaches to incorporating equity into CMAP's climate work for the next 3-5 years.

CMAP's Kristin Ihnchak introduced the three-to-five-year action plan for climate initiatives, highlighting those focused on equity, and requested feedback and open discussion. The presentation began with background information and recent trends in emissions and precipitation, which have significant climate impacts. A review of ON TO 2050 priority strategies highlighted planned equitable environmental improvements.

The work area will also look at the overlap across economically disconnected areas (EDAs), disinvested areas, and urban flooding susceptibility. After defining vulnerable populations and climate impacts, staff described plans to engage local leaders and regional responders to collaboratively develop solutions responsive to historic levels of investment and current resources. Planned engagement will inform staff identification of action steps for CMAP. While the timeline covers a few years, staff noted the need for urgent action and welcomed suggestions towards it.

The committee agreed with the need for urgent action and advised that all projects must address climate change more aggressively.

#### **7.0 Human and Community Development Annual Update**

HCD Liaisons reported out feedback from the series of check-ins they had with committee members concerning their experiences as members this year, aspects of the committee that should be retained, and suggestions for improvement.

CMAP's Enrique Castillo thanked all committee members for their participation throughout 2020 and provided a brief year end recap of the HCD Committee's activities. Eleven presentations were given, covering a wide array of topics. Committee Member Updates was added as a new agenda item this year in response to previous member feedback requesting more sharing out of committee members' work, and this new agenda item has been well received. Other 2020 priorities included integrating racial and social equity concerns into discussions, and the committee will continue to highlight these topics.

Committee members suggested that the committee take a more direct role in proactively providing input to enhance the equity of agency policies during opening phases of project work, rather than reacting after significant progress has already been made.

#### **8.0 Agency Announcements**

CMAP's Timi Koyejo reviewed the proposed 2021 meeting schedule, with the first meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021. The schedule takes the same bi-monthly format as the 2020 schedule, with meetings on the second Tuesday of every other month.

In other agency announcements, CMAP has assembled a regional economic recovery task force, which is being chaired by Erin Aleman and Paul Goodrich.

#### **9.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

## 10.0 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

## 11.0 Next Meeting

The committee is scheduled to meet next on **Tuesday, February 9, 2021**, from 10:00 a.m. to 12 p.m.

## 12.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Enrique Salgado, seconded by Darnell Shields.

### **Human and Community Development Committee Members:**

- \_\_\_ Sheri Cohen (Chair), Chicago Department of Public Health
- \_\_\_ Alicia Bunton, Illinois Institute of Technology
- \_\_\_ 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
- \_\_\_ Gretchen Knowlton, AgeGuide Northeastern Illinois
- \_\_\_ 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