



Freight Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 21, 2020

10:00 a.m.

Via GoToMeeting:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/463147133>

Via phone: (312) 757-3121; Access Code: 463-147-133

Members Present: Joe Alonzo (CDOT), Elaine Bottomley (Council of Mayors), Mike Burton (C&K Trucking), Clayton Harris (IIPD), Clark Kaericher (Illinois Chamber), Michael Kowalczyk (FHWA), John Loper (DuPage DOT), Libby Ogard (Consultant), Herbert Smith (Class I Railroad), Sam Wright (Cook County), Erik Varela (Class I Railroad)

Staff Present: Michelle Agunloye, Erin Aleman, Dustin Calliari, Jesse Elam, Austen Edwards, Patty Mangano, Tim McMahon, Tom Murtha, Jason Navota, Gordon Smith, Tina Fassett Smith, Ryan Thompto, Simone Weil, Laura Wilkison

Others Present: Garland Armstrong (Access Living), Heather Armstrong (Access Living), Alexander Beata (CDM Smith), Chrissy Breit (Metro Strategies), Dustin Clark (Metra), Jacque Henrikson (Civiltech Engineering), Noah Jones (Kane County), Jacquelyn Murdock (CDM Smith), Robert Sullivan (MARAD, US DOT), Rebecca Wingate (Cambridge Systematics)

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Mr. Herbert Smith, co-chair of the Freight Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and those present introduced themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – February 24, 2020

A motion by Mike Burton to approve the minutes of the February 24 meeting carried with all in favor.

4.0 Introduction to New Committee Liaison

Co-chair Smith introduced Ryan Thompto, CMAP Senior Policy Analyst and new Committee Liaison. Ryan discussed his educational background and experience as a transportation planner and analyst.

5.0 Illinois International Port District Master Plan Update

CMAP staff presented progress on the Illinois International Port District (IIPD) Strategic Master Plan. The presentation provided an overview of findings from Phase I of the project, freight and industrial challenges, and potential future uses identified. The project will move into the second phase which includes the development of three alternative scenarios and then narrowing it down to a preferred alternative that will serve as a guide for the Master Plan. Committee members were invited to attend the virtual State of the Port Address that will take place on Thursday, September 24.

- Marine Network Challenges. A committee member raised the issue of marine network challenges that occur due to shifts in water levels on the Great Lakes and the inland waterway locks and dams and suggested the list of challenges for the IIPD Strategic Master Plan be expanded to include these marine network challenges that impact users of the port facilities.
- Clayton Harris III emphasized that the Master Plan will be a living document.
- In response to a question about how a market analysis was conducted, CMAP staff explained the analysis included elements such as an examination of existing conditions and industry trends as well as a review of peer ports. Clayton Harris III explained how the work has also explored improving multimodal connections to rail and trucks and has reviewed other port related studies that have been conducted by Chicago universities.
- In response to a question about if the study considered utilizing space at the IIPD for a cruise ship terminal, Clayton Harris III explained that cruise ships have in the past docked at the port when Navy Pier was temporarily unavailable however the IIPD lacks proximity and access to tourist amenities typically desired by cruise line operators to be considered as a site for a cruise ship terminal.
- A committee member asked if the port was identified as a potential destination for a Hyperloop freight terminal and if that idea was considered in the plan. Clayton Harris III said the idea hadn't been raised before but it would be considered.

6.0 Western Will County Truck Routing and Communities Study Update

CMAP is working with Will County on the Moving Will County project, including a joint Truck Routing Study and Land Use Strategy, with a goal to achieve a balance between freight traffic, freight generating land uses, new development, agriculture, natural and cultural resources, residential areas and other issues of community livability. Representatives from the consultant team, including Jacque Henrikson from Civiltech Engineering and Alexander Beata and Jacquelyn Murdock from CDM Smith, provided the preliminary proposed designated truck routes, discussed next steps, and solicited feedback from committee members.

- In response to a question asking if the proposed network would result in potential changes to truck routing in adjacent counties, Alexander Beata explained that the work has remained focused within the study area which is entirely within Will County.
- A committee member asked how resiliency has been, or will be, addressed in the study in regards to access to the intermodal yard. Jacquelyn Murdock explained that formal resiliency or hazard mitigation scenario exercises haven't been conducted as part of the study but the Houbolt Bridge project will provide an additional access point to the intermodal yard.

- A committee member asked for clarification on the Draft Truck Routing maps, specifically if the Class II routes extend beyond arterial roads to interior streets to provide last-mile connections. Alexander Beata explained that the intent is to be as comprehensive as possible in part because this information is provided to IDOT and published in the statewide truck route map which is used by navigation providers to give direction to truck drivers.
- In response to a question on if the study will designate truck restrictions that will limit trucks in residential areas, Alexander Beata explained that in the Existing Conditions section of the report they documented existing truck restrictions within the study area but doesn't provide recommendations for additional restrictions.

7.0 RFP for Commercial Services Vehicle Model and Survey

CMAP is requesting proposals to provide assistance with conducting a survey to collect information on commercial services vehicle travel and developing a model capable of generating commercial services vehicle tours for the CMAP region. CMAP staff shared project goals, tasks, and timeline. Responses are due October 1, 2020.

8.0 COVID-19 Transportation System Impacts

Since the start of the COVID-19 response and Illinois' stay-at-home order, transportation use has changed significantly. CMAP staff shared information on the region's transportation systems during the pandemic, including data and analysis of movement on roads and freight rail network.

9.0 Committee Member Updates

COVID-19 and the increased focus on racial justice are impacting the work of regional stakeholders and partners. Committee members had a discussion taking stock of impacts to better understand the emergent needs of member organizations and how CMAP can best aid during this critical time. Discussion was structured around the following questions:

- What are your organization's most immediate needs or highest concerns during this time?
- How is your organization adjusting its strategies and community outreach to better serve the communities in which it operates and serves? What barriers and/or best practices have you come across?
- What general trends and issues will you be monitoring closely in the coming weeks and months?
- How can CMAP and the committee best support your efforts?

Elaine Bottomley – Examining how declining municipal revenues will impact municipal spending. Highlighted challenges such as budgeting to provide committed local match funds for federally funded projects.

Mike Burton – Saw trucking volumes decrease initially but rebounded over the summer and now have high volumes. Many people have had to adjust to working from home. Supportive of CMAP's COVID related data collection and reporting.

Clark Kaericher – Chamber is focused on the upcoming election, in particular the Progressive Income Tax Amendment.

Michael Kowalczyk – Congratulated the City of Joliet for their Build 2020 award. One of the biggest challenges for FHWA, IDOT and the CREATE partners is virtual public engagement. A possible role for CMAP is to provide a best practices guide.

John Loper – MFT and local gas tax revenues have fallen short of projections due to the pandemic. Currently looking at a variety financial scenarios to move forward as part of DuPage County’s long-range transportation plan update.

Libby Ogard – Shared that with declining revenues, project sponsors may opt to reduce the portion of their project’s budgets to the minimum DBE participation requirements. Stressed the importance of utilizing DBE businesses to protect small businesses.

Sam Wright – Cook County President Preckwinkle has been a strong supporter of DBEs and has pushed to ensure the County contracts exceed minimum DBE requirements. Cook County held its second Racial Equity Week to delve deeper into the need to advance racial equity, especially in light of the pandemic. County is focused on addressing shortfall in transit funding.

10.0 Other Business

There was no other business presented.

11.0 Public Comment

Garland and Heather Armstrong announced they will be moving out of the region next month and expressed their gratitude for being able to participate in CMAP’s work. CMAP staff thanked them for their advocacy and dedication to making the region a better place.

12.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 7, 2020.

13.0 Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Thompto, Committee liaison