



**Join Economic Development and
Environment and Natural Resources Committees**

Minutes

Monday, March 22, 2021

9:30 a.m.

Via GoToMeeting:

ENR

Members Present: Lindsay Birt – Xylem, Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Aaron Durnbaugh – Loyola University Chicago, Elena Grossman – BRACE-Illinois at UIC, Andrew Hawkins – Forest Preserve District of Will County, Paul May – Northwest Suburban JAWA, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Ted Penesis – IDNR, Tom Rickert – Kane County, Vanessa Ruiz – IDOT District 1 Environmental Studies Unit, Deborah Stone – Cook County Department of Environment and Sustainability, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation

ENR

Members Absent: None

ED

Members Present: Dionne Baux – National Main Street Center, Mari Castaldi – Chicago Jobs Council, Lisa Castillo Richmond – Partnership for College Completion, Kevin Considine – Lake County Partners, Peter Creticos – Institute for Work and the Economy, Kristi DeLaurentiis – South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Xochitl Flores – Cook County Bureau of Economic Development, Jonathan Furr – Education Systems Center at Northern Illinois University, Bryan Gay – Invest Aurora, Michael Horsting – Regional Transportation Authority, Jason Keller – Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Kevin Kramer – Village of Hoffman Estates, Marisa Lewis – Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, Tony Lucenko – Elgin Development Group, Henry Pierce – ComEd, Doug Pryor – Will County Center for Economic Development

ED

Members Absent: Terrance Hall – World Business Chicago, Emily Harris – Harris Strategies, Gretchen Kleinert – Chicago TREND, Jonathan McGee – Illinois

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Kathleen Nelson – Cushman & Wakefield, Lance Pressl – IIT Kaplan Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship, Jennifer Tammen – Ernst & Young

Staff Present: Claire Bozic, Sarah Buchhorn, Anthony Cefali, Brian Daly, Teri Dixon, Austen Edwards, Jaemi Jackson, Timi Koyejo, Stephanie Levine, Tony Manno, Tim McMahon, Jason Navota, Jared Patton, Kelsey Pudlock, Elizabeth Scott, Matthew Stern, Ryan Thompto, Simone Weil, Laura Wilkison

Others Present: Randal Bernthal, Elaine Bottomley, Sean Connelly, Nicholas Crite, John Donovan, Margaret FitzPatrick, Adam Flickinger, Megan Lewis, Kelly McGourty, Irene Sherr, Dr. Janet Smith

1.0 Call to Order / Introductions

Economic Development Committee Chair Joe Keller called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chair Keller stated that as permitted in the Governor’s Disaster Declaration from November 13, 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. Austen Edwards stated there were no other announcements or schedule changes.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – November 5, 2020

A motion by Martha Dooley to approve the minutes of the January 7 ENR Committee meeting, seconded by Sean Wiedel, carried with one abstention and the remainder in favor. A motion by Brian Gay to approve the minutes of the January 25 ED Committee meeting, second by Kevin Considine, carried with all present in favor.

4.0 CMAP Board Meeting Updates

Brian Daly provided key updates from the CMAP Board meeting. He announced that the Board approved CMAP’s equitable engagement program and proposal to advance work on equity. He also stated that CMAP recently held a joint “call for projects” in partnership with RTA for 2021 plan assistance that had a focus on high need communities. Of 27 applications from “high need” and “very high need” communities, CMAP will be providing support to 22 communities. Brian also mentioned that CMAP recently updated its regional transportation analysis with data from January shows that traffic is still lower since the start of the pandemic but there has been

significant a rebound. Lastly, Brian noted that CMAP's Fees, Fines, and Fares project is developing a report, which is expected to be completed in mid-April, on how fees, fines, and fares for the transportation system adversely affect people.

5.0 CMAP's Legislative Agenda

Anthony Cefali and Tim McMahon updated the committees of relevant legislative activities and bill actions at the state and federal level.

- Tax policy. Kristi DeLaurentiis asked what CMAP is advocating for with regards to tax policy changes and how state revenues are shared with municipalities. Anthony Cefali responded that CMAP's legislative team is looking to have a conversation around those criteria; in general, it would be important to provide support, but conversations with the state would need to be backed by hearing from municipalities about what they need. Kristi remarked that SSMMA would like to be involved in having this conversation and providing input that would be helpful for moving the agenda forward.
- Transportation revenues. Kristi DeLaurentiis asked if CMAP was proposing a state-wide pilot for a road usage charge. She said that it sounds like the CMAP is looking for an implementation plan and asked whether a pilot corridor had been identified. Anthony Cefali clarified that there is no specific legislation or pilot area; rather, CMAP wishes to start having a conversation around a road usage charge in Illinois, particularly to reach emissions goals by 2050. He noted that CMAP thinks a pilot project makes sense and can work up a more detailed plan, but the first step is to get everyone on the same page to move things forward.
- Water-related legislation. Lindsay Birt announced that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) gave U.S. infrastructure a C- in their newly released report on the state of U.S. infrastructure. Tim McMahon responded that CMAP has been reviewing and providing recommendations on water and wastewater legislation that could be included in the Surface Transportation reauthorization bill. He also noted that water infrastructure is one of Tammy Duckworth's leading priorities and that she now sits as a chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works that would craft the bill. Birt went on to ask if CMAP is looking at any specific programs. Tim McMahon replied that CMAP is looking more broadly and assessing Clean Water State Revolving funding, WIFIA funding, as well as looking for new potential funding to address issues, such as lead in our pipes, stormwater, and wastewater among others. He further clarified that CMAP is not looking at any specific bills due the nature of the federal process, but will monitor what goes through Subcommittee. He noted that

- members could follow up with him directly for more detailed information.
- Reauthorization of funds. Irene Sherr remarked that County Board chairs of northeastern Illinois have previously supported the Defense Manufacturing Community Support program, which will be coming up for reauthorization of funds. She mentioned that the State applied last year, but it was not successful. There will be another opportunity to apply this year, and Cook County is participating in efforts with the American Manufacturing Community Collaborative to secure additional funding for the program.
 - Bill tracking. Stacy Meyers, Openlands, asked if there is a bill tracker that CMAP has that others can look at to see what bills are being tracked. Anthony Cefali responded that CMAP does not have a unique tool; CMAP uses the IL General Assembly website to track bills.
 - Federal priorities. Stacy Meyers commented that there is a sense that related priorities—such as climate change, 30x30 (i.e., biodiversity), and water infrastructure—at the state and national level are being viewed separately, which has caused Illinois and built-out areas to lose out on combined funding. She noted that she would like to see CMAP illuminate the interrelatedness of these pillars. She further stated that biodiversity, resiliency, carbon sequestration, and sustainable agriculture are all important in our state and should not be parsed apart. Stacy Meyers asked if CMAP was getting the same reaction. Anthony Cefali replied that what CMAP is working on does not have the focus Stacy presented. Stacy remarked that CMAP should talk about the built environment in a way that illustrates that the collar counties can contribute resources to address the issues that are overlooked.

6.0 UIC EDA University Center: Calumet Regional Mapping Tool

Dr. Janet Smith, Co-Director, and Sean Connelly, Research Specialist, from UIC's EDA University Center discussed the Calumet Regional Mapping Tool. The tool was developed in collaboration with the Calumet Collaborative's Brownfield Working Group to create a baseline of the area's brownfield and underutilized sites as well as to help plan for their best future use. They also discussed efforts to provide information on the skills and education needed for green jobs, along with salaries and projected growth. This work is intended to help local talent consider and plan for careers in the green economy.

- Mapping resources. Stacy Meyers recommended that the team include the Prairie State Conservation Coalition' iView, which shows public and privately protected natural resources, as well as data layers from a source like the Calumet Open Space Reserve Plan, which show what parcels are planned for certain

land use management areas. Janet Smith replied that the team would connect with Stacy on how to access it. She stated that the team's priority is information that is reliable and regularly updated. Elizabeth Scott recommended using the USGS Calumet fills survey from the 1990s, which CMAP could provide. Sean Connelly replied that it is not currently in the tool, but that they would be interested.

- Partnerships. Deb Stone stated that the Cook County Department of the Environment would like to take part in more detailed discussions. Jon Furr said that his organization is in the process of mapping career pathways in Architecture, Construction, and Energy on behalf of the Illinois Community College Board and are also happy to connect. Mari Castaldi said the Chicago Jobs Council also recently wrote a brief report about clean energy workforce recommendations and would love to connect with this team all to connect the dots with their important research.

7.0 Puget Sound Regional Council presentation

The Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Seattle region. Kelly McGourty, PSRC's Director of Transportation Planning, presented on PSRC's work on climate change, including their Four-Part Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

- No questions or comments were made.

8.0 Summary of COVID-19's economic impacts in northeastern Illinois

The COVID-19 pandemic created public health and economic crises for communities across northeastern Illinois and highlighted the critical drivers of long-term vitality. Austen Edward reviewed key [economic indicators](#) and signs of initial recovery, as the region approaches the anniversary of widespread layoffs and closures.

- No questions or comments were made.

9.0 Other Business

- None

10.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the exact time for the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

- None

11.0 Next Meeting

The next ENR Committee meeting will be May 6, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

The next ED Committee meeting will be on June 28, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Daly and Kelsey Pudlock
March 22, 2021