



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force Draft Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 2, 2020

**Members Present:** Maggie Czerwinski, John Donovan, Carlos Feliciano, Jessica Hyink, Sidney Kenyon, Patrick Knapp, Aaron Maertins, Allan Mellis, Jessica Ortega, Ryan Peterson, Lee Ann Prather, Keith Privett, Tom Rickert, Karen Shinnars, Pamela Sielski, Troy Simpson

**Staff Present:** Kama Dobbs, Caitlin Goodspeed, Jaemi Jackson, Victoria Jacobsen, Jen Maddux

**Others Present:** Dave Simmons, Kendra Johnson, Matt Pasquini, Mike Klemens, Jon Sung

### 1.0 Call to Order 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Rickert reviewed the Task Force's digital communications protocol. Attendees were asked to remain muted unless speaking or use the chat function for questions and comments.

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes – September 16, 2020

Motioned by Keith Privett, seconded by Sidney Kenyon, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented, with no comments.

### 3.0 Agenda Changes & Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 4.0 Staying Active in the Winter

The Task Force had a discussion about the ways that people can continue biking, walking, and staying active during the winter months. They talked about various winter activities including sledding, ice fishing, and snowshoe rentals and the importance of making sure that the activities are advertised and accessible to all people interested in participating. Ms. Jackson talked about the idea of a temporary warming hut that people can use as refuge from the cold.

### 5.0 Winter Events + ITEP Application Assistance – Active Transportation Alliance

Maggie Czerwinski, Advocacy Manager at Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) told the committee about the Fall Walking Challenge that ATA held from October 30 – November 15. They had over 350 participants and walked over 10,000 miles. ATA will be holding a Winter Bike

Challenge from January 25 – February 7, 2021 in addition to a Virtual Suburban Advocacy Week and Bicycle Film Festival. Maggie also discussed the organization’s role in helping to build the capacity of communities to apply for Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) funds. ATA partnered with Illinois Public Health Institute to help communities develop successful ITEP grant applications. They offered a free webinar series and provide technical assistance and peer-learning for 15 communities. Through the process they learned that many communities don’t have the proper resources or a good understanding of what’s involved with the grant application process to apply. They created a resource page where people can go to learn more about ITEP, see the frequently asked questions that they received during the process, and watch the webinars that they produced.

## **6.0 CMAP Call for Projects – CMAQ, TAP, STP-Shared**

Kama Dobbs, CMAP Senior Analyst, provided an overview of the upcoming regional call for projects for the federal CMAQ, TAP and STP-Shared fund programs and reviewed the updated active transportation components of the STP-Shared program. She emphasized that all of the program are guided by the ON TO 2050 principles including inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment. She provided the following summary of each grant:

### **Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ)**

- Transit, traffic flow, bicycle facilities, direct emissions reduction projects to reduce transportation-related emissions
- Evaluation criteria vary and include: safety, reliability, connectivity, health benefits, and inclusive growth
- Approximately \$115 million annually for projects to reduce transportation-related emissions

### **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L)**

- Bicycle projects that complete the Regional Greenways & Trails Plan
- Evaluation criteria include: market for facility, safety and attractiveness, inclusive growth, and project readiness
- Approximately \$9 million annually for bicycle projects

### **Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STP)**

- Regional (Shared Fund) and Local (Councils of Mayors/CDOT)
- Intended to accomplish projects that can make large and lasting regional contributions
- Approximately \$25 million annually to accomplish projects that can make large and lasting regional contributions
- For the shared-fund, projects must meet the following requirements:
  - Total cost of project > \$5 million or project has multiple partners
  - Preliminary engineering must be complete
  - Project is included in a local or regional plan

Eligible Bike/Ped projects for these grants will include those that focus on barrier elimination and connections to transit station projects. Other project types will include sidewalks, bike paths, bike lanes, and multi-use trails. The call for projects will open January 8, 2021 and close March 5, 2021. Ms. Maddux encouraged people to apply to these programs.

#### **7.0 CMAP Safety Action Agenda Development**

Victoria Jacobsen, CMAP Safety Planner, presented on CMAP's upcoming Safety Action Agenda (kickoff in early 2021), which will address growing concerns about traffic safety in our region and lack of progress towards our performance measure safety targets. She talked about the rising rate of traffic fatalities (even during COVID) and a new dimension of safety which includes an equity lens. The safety action agenda will provide tools and resources to address these concerns. She emphasized that the agenda will be guided by the ON TO 2050 principles including inclusive growth, resilience, and prioritized investment.

#### **8.0 Project Updates**

Aaron Maertins, Metra, announced that Metra rolled out their first-ever bike car on the Milwaukee North Line. They've received limited but positive feedback, and Metra is planning to expand the program in the spring. As part of this, they have relaxed their bike policy on the trains. Bikes are now allowed to be brought on all trains.

Keith Privett, City of Chicago, told the group that they opened the bridge at Lincoln Village, north of Lincoln Avenue which helps connect the Northshore Channel Trail to the North Branch Riverwalk. They are working with private sector partners and the City Department of Public Health to try to find a safe way to reopen the pedway segment between the red and blue lines over to Metra Electric Millenium Station but they are still working on the details.

Maggie Czerwinski, Active Transportation Alliance, told the group about a Transit Justice Forum that ATA is holding next week. U.S. Representative Chuy Garcia will be there to discuss how we can bring federal funding to Illinois for walking, biking, and transit.

#### **9.0 2021 Meetings**

Mr. Rickert presented the proposed meeting dates for 2021. Motioned by Ryan Peterson, seconded by Allan Mellis, the dates were approved as presented, with no comments. The approved 2021 meeting dates are: February 17, April 14, June 16, September 15, and December 1.

#### **10.0 Other Business**

#### **11.0 Public Comment**

There were no comments or questions received prior to the meeting.

#### **12.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

**13.0 Adjournment**

At 2:42pm, a motion to adjourn was made by Allan Mellis and seconded by Sidney Kenyon. All in favor, the motion carried.

**Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force Members:**

- |                         |                       |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| _____ Ed Barsotti       | _____ David Longo     | _____ Lee Ann Prather |
| _____ Maggie Czerwinski | _____ Aaron Maertins  | _____ Keith Privett   |
| _____ John Donovan      | _____ Allan Mellis    | _____ Tom Rickert*    |
| _____ Carlos Feliciano  | _____ Jason Meter     | _____ Karen Shinnors  |
| _____ Jessica Hyink     | _____ Randy Neufeld   | _____ Pamela Sielski  |
| _____ Sidney Kenyon     | _____ Jessica Ortega+ | _____ Troy Simpson    |
| _____ Patrick Knapp     | _____ Ryan Peterson   | _____ Kevin Staniel   |

\*Chair

+Transportation Committee representative