



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

DRAFT

Economic Development Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

Hosted virtually via GoToMeeting

Members Present: Jason Keller (chair, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), 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), Bryan Gay (Invest Aurora), Terrence Hall (World Business Chicago), Michael Horsting (Regional Transportation Authority), Gretchen Kleinert (Chicago TREND), Kevin Kramer (Village of Hoffman Estates), Marisa Lewis (Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership), Tony Lucenko (Elgin Development Group), Henry Pierce (ComEd), Lance Pressl (Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship), Doug Pryor (Will County Center for Economic Development), Irene Sherr (Cook County Bureau for Economic Development), Jennifer Tammen (Ernst & Young)

Staff Present: Laurent Ahiablame, Erin Aleman, Michael Brown, Sarah Buchhorn, David Clark, Brian Daly, Teri Dixon, Austen Edwards, Caitlin Goodspeed, Craig Heither, Jaemi Jackson, Timi Koyejo, Amy McEwan, Tony Manno, David Morck, Jason Navota, Noel Peterson, Kelsey Pudlock, Matt Stern

Others Present: Adam Blair (EBP), Elaine Bottomley (Will County Government League), Sarah Crane (Moody's), Derek Cutler (EBP), Stephen Fitzroy (EBP)

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. by chair Jason Keller.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

3.0 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, from October 26, 2020, were approved as presented.

4.0 CMAP Board Updates

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, provide updates from recent CMAP Board meetings and other agency activities. The seven county board chairs of northeastern Illinois and the City of Chicago have asked CMAP to facilitate a Regional Economic Recovery Task Force with three working groups focused on Economic Development, Workforce, and Tourism. CMAP is also developing a mobility recovery plan in partnership with AECOM. Both efforts will help to map a path forward for the region's post-pandemic future. The Local Technical Assistance program's Call for Assistance is open with a focus on taking projects from higher-need Cohort 3 and 4 communities. Calls for projects are also open under the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program, Surface Transportation Program (STP), and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). CMAP has also formed a working group to guide the agency's ongoing efforts to improve road safety in the region.

5.0 Presentation: EBP and Moody's Analytics

Federally recognized metropolitan planning organizations, such as CMAP, are required to adopt regional plans every four years. As a part of the planning process, CMAP will develop a new [socioeconomic forecast](#). Staff are working with EBP and Moody's Analytics to project regional employment over the next 30 years. Noel Peterson provided a brief summary of the project and its role in CMAP's travel modeling activities. The previous socioeconomic forecast released in October 2018 has become significantly out of step with actual demographic outcomes, given the stagnation in the region's population growth. Baseline, optimistic, and pessimistic scenario forecasts will be created for the 21-county modeling area which covers parts of Indiana and Wisconsin, before CMAP's land use model is used to allocate estimates to local areas.

Sarah Crane from Moody's Analytics provided an overview of the metropolitan Chicago's economic outlook. The region benefits from the most diversified large U.S. metropolitan economy with growing strengths in transportation and utilities as well as education and healthcare services. These deep assets belie demographic challenges as the region loses working age adults at an accelerating rate. The region has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic downturn about as well as the U.S. overall and some peer regions, with leisure and hospitality deeply underperforming the national average. The U.S. outlook has improved with aggressive fiscal stimulus and federal support. The Chicago region is expected to underperform the Midwest and U.S. overall in private services, government, and total jobs growth through the end of 2025.

Adam Blair from EBP discussed the contract team's work to provide better estimates of the region's contingent workers and those with alternative work arrangements. These categories include temp workers, contract workers, independent contractors, and on-call workers. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has also spurred significant shifts in work patterns as more people opt for working from home. Understanding the industries and work locations for these people can help to improve policy recommendations and travel

modeling under the ON TO 2050 plan. The project team will be addressing definitional issues and develop a long-term employment forecast for different categories of workers.

Committee members discussed the need for further racial, ethnic, and gender breakdowns in long-range planning, as well as potential forecasts by educational levels. Partners in workforce education and training report a growing competition with temp agencies to place workers in permanent positions, as well as an emerging need for local organizing to protect temp workers' rights. This is closely related to whether "gig workers" are properly categorized as independent contractors or direct employees.

6.0 Climate multi-year implementation plan

CMAP has identified climate initiatives as a core focus area and is developing a work plan to implement ON TO 2050 recommendations regarding [climate mitigation](#) and [resilience](#) over the next 3-5 years. Jason Navota presented on the projects included in the current work plan, as well as progress on identifying priority program elements for future years. CMAP regularly provides a regional greenhouse gas inventory, which shows that the transportation sector made up 29 percent of regional emissions in 2015 while stationary energy made up a larger but declining share. On-road emissions make up the vast majority of those in the transportation sector. Current trends are unlikely to meet the levels needed to stabilize projected climate change. CMAP's work focuses on transportation mitigation strategies, technical assistance for local mitigation and adaptation, refining climate data, and monitoring the region's performance on greenhouse gas emissions. A peer review highlighted the role that other metropolitan planning organizations take in vulnerability assessments, decarbonization strategies, and resource sharing to enable action at multiple levels. Moving forward, CMAP will continue its existing projects and develop new projects related to a regional transportation vulnerability assessment and electric vehicle infrastructure strategies.

Committee members inquired about the need for stronger "climate champions" among transportation implementers and elected officials in the region. Members also discussed best practices for incentives that spur private investment in electric vehicle infrastructure, electrical grid modernization, and green infrastructure.

7.0 Fox River Corridor Plan LTA project

CMAP is working with McHenry County and the City of McHenry to develop a [corridor plan](#) that improves river-related commerce, natural resources, recreation, and public access to/on the river. The planning area spans four municipalities (McHenry, Johnsburg, Holiday Hills, and Prairie Grove) over a distance of eight miles from Burtons Bridge at Route 176 to Johnsburg at North Chapel Hill Road. Kelsey Pudlock provided an overview of the project and highlighted the relationship between economic development and recreational use of the river. The planning area creates a destination for accommodation and food services as well as local retail trade but is at serious risk of flooding. It also has major redevelopment opportunities via the McHenry Riverwalk, Miller Point, and a wastewater treatment plant on Waukegan Road. The project team has completed an existing conditions report and held public engagement workshops, ahead developing the final corridor plan in 2021. Key considerations include future land use changes, promoting local and regional tourism, design guidance for riverfront development, and building on existing reinvestment efforts to improve connections and pedestrian safety.

Committee members noted similar efforts are underway in several south suburban communities to develop the area as a “green playground.” The Southland Development Authority is leading the initiative. This project also speaks to broader discussions on restarting post-pandemic regional tourism by leveraging outdoor recreation assets. Finally, members discussed potential funding opportunities to cover decommissioning and remediation costs for the wastewater treatment plan, if it can be removed from the Fox River’s floodplain.

8.0 Other Business

No other business was presented.

9.0 Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

10.0 Next Meeting

The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, March 22, 2021 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

11.0 Adjournment

At 11:31 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made and seconded. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austen Edwards". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Austen Edwards, Staff Liaison