



DRAFT
Freight Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 22, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Via GoToMeeting:

Members Present: Joe Alonzo (CDOT), Elaine Bottomley (Council of Mayors), Mike Burton (C&K Trucking), Raymond Drake (UPS), Colin Duesing (Will County), Henry Guerriero (ISTHA), Clark Kaericher (Illinois Chamber), Michael Kowalczyk (FHWA), John Loper (DuPage DOT), Libby Ogard (Consultant), Adam Rod (CDA), DeAnna Smith (IDOT), Herbert Smith (Class I Railroad), Erik Varela (Class I Railroad), Peter Wolff (TTX), Sam Wright (Cook County)

Staff Present: Erin Aleman, Teri Dixon, Victoria Jacobsen, Stephanie Levine, Patty Mangano, Tim McMahon, Thomas Murtha, Elizabeth Scott, Ryan Thompto, Simone Weil, Laura Wilkison

Others Present: Garland Armstrong (Access Living), Heather Armstrong (Access Living), Chrissy Breit (Metro Strategies), Cecilia Diaz (DOTH), Jesse Elam (DOTH), Noah Jones (Kane County), James Messmore, Leslie Phemister, Mike Sullivan (MARAD), Steve Vujic (Acres Truck Parking), William Whitaker

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.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2020

A motion made by Mike Burton and seconded by Elaine Bottomley to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2020 meeting carried with all in favor.

4.0 CMAP Board Meeting Updates

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman recent updates on CMAP's regional recovery work. Aleman discussed the agency's regional economic and mobility recovery planning work, CMAP's state and federal legislative agendas, and information on the recent

notice of funding opportunity for the Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) discretionary grant program.

- The Regional Economic Recovery Taskforce met in November, December, and January to create a regional action agenda on economic development and recovery, workforce and employment, and tourism. More meetings are expected.
- At the February Board Meeting, CMAP's Legislative Agendas were approved. Each legislative session, CMAP develops strategic agendas for state and federal policymakers. The state agenda identifies five priorities and reflects key recommendations from ON TO 2050. They include:
 - Provide dedicated funds for comprehensive regional planning
 - Support transparent, equitable performance-based capital programming
 - Collect and provide the data needed to support decision making and accountability
 - Reform tax policy to strengthen communities
 - Implement user fees and regional revenues to fund the region's transportation system
- The United States Department of Transportation announced it is seeking applicants for the FY 2021 round of the INFRA discretionary grant program to fund transportation projects of national and regional significance that explicitly address climate change and racial equity.

5.0 Federal and State Legislative Updates

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

- A committee member flagged two bills that might be of interest to the committee. House Bill 2524 was introduced by Representative Jay Hoffman on February 17, 2021. The bill provides that no railroad operating within this State on any main line or any other line shall operate, or permit to be operated, any train that exceeds 8,500 feet in length. House Bill 0813 was introduced by Representative Robyn Gabel on February 10, 2021. The bill provides that the funds transferred each month to the Grade Crossing Protection Fund may go to the maintenance of safety treatments to deter trespassing.

6.0 Air Cargo During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Committee member Adam Rod from the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA) presented on air cargo at Chicago O'Hare International Airport during the COVID-19 pandemic. An update was provided on O'Hare's general status, impacts to air cargo due to the surge in e-commerce, and the role aviation is playing in the distribution of vaccines.

- Committee member Joe Alonzo from the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) asked if cargo is handled at Chicago Midway International Airport. Adam Rod explained that the runways at Midway are shorter than the runways at O'Hare which limits the types of aircraft that can land there. Passenger flights at Midway also carry cargo but it represents less than 1% of the overall volume that is handled at O'Hare.

7.0 Safety Action Agenda

Victoria Jacobsen from CMAP introduced the Regional Traffic Safety Action Agenda, a new CMAP initiative to improve traffic safety. She discussed the need for action, including rising traffic fatalities, federal mandates, and concerns about achieving safety systematically, equitably, and from a multimodal perspective. She then reviewed the importance of traffic safety to each of the ON TO 2050 principles: Inclusive Growth; Resilience; and Prioritized Investment.

The Agenda has four components: a traffic safety resource group; compilation of data, research, expertise, and best practices; pilot projects; and implementation tools and resources for agencies. Ms. Jacobsen shared that the Safety Action Agenda is still in development, but reviewed specific areas of work in each of these four categories. These include convening the traffic safety resource group in early 2021, identifying opportunities to leverage existing and new data sources to prioritize safety investments and solutions, pilot projects like the Flossmoor Local Road Safety Plan, and developing implementation tools to support bicycle and pedestrian safety, as well as speed management.

8.0 Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor Strategic Plan

Cecilia Diaz from Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways updated the committee on the implementation of the Lincoln Highway Logistics Corridor Strategic Plan since its completion in August 2018. The plan analyzed and prioritized underutilized industrial development sites in south Cook County suburban communities of Chicago Heights, Ford Heights, and Sauk Village. Ms. Diaz highlighted among many things the following strengths of the corridor such as industrial character, development opportunities, and easy access to rail and highway infrastructure. She also identified the obstacles that the area needed to address to inspire economic growth.

- Committee member Sam Wright informed the committee that the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways has released a call for projects for a fifth round of Invest in Cook, an \$8.5 million program to cover some of the cost of planning and feasibility studies, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and construction associated with transportation improvements sponsored by local and regional governments and private partners. The call for projects opened on January 13, 2021 and will close at 5:00 PM CST on March 12, 2021.

9.0 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Projects Update

Tom Murtha from CMAP provided an update on planning and environmental linkages (PEL) projects. CMAP staff initiated planning studies of highway-rail grade crossings. The studies employ the federal Planning and Environmental Linkages process to prepare a federally coordinated draft "purpose and need," planning-level cost estimates, and screened alternatives to be carried forward to future engineering studies.

10.0 Other Business

Committee member Colin Duesing from Will County raised the question if the region is prepared for the rise of electric vehicle trucks hauling goods within the region and requested an agenda item on this topic be included for discussion at a future meeting.

11.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong raised the issue of communicating safety information to people who have limited English proficiency.

12.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 17, 2021.

13.0 Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 12:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Thompto, Committee liaison