



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Transportation Committee Minutes MINUTES November 19, 2010

**Cook County Conference Room
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Willis Tower
Chicago, Illinois**

Members Present: Chair Chris Snyder-DuPage County, Leanne Redden-RTA, Chuck Abraham- IDOT DPIT, Reginald Arkell-FTA, John Beissel-Cook County, Patricia Berry-CMAP, Brian Carlson-District One, Bruce Christensen-Lake County, Michael Connelly-CTA, Chalen Daigle-McHenry County, John Donovan-FHWA, Jack Groner-Metra, , Luann Hamilton-CDOT, Wes Lujan-Class 1 Railroads, Jamy Lyne-Will County, Arlene Mulder-COM, Randy Neufeld-Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Steve Schlickman - UIC/UTC, Keith Sherman-IDOT, Mike Sullivan-Kendall County, Matt Sussman- CNT, Jan Ward-Kane County

Members Absent: Mike Rogers-IEPA, Joe Schofer-Northwestern University, Peter Skoskey-MPC, Steve Strains -NIRPC, Ken Yunker-SEWRPC

Others Present: Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong, Kristen Bennett, Glen Campbell, Kama Dobbs, Bud Fleming, Valbona Kokoshi, Christine Kupowski, Adam Rod, Chris Staron, David Seglin, Mike Walczak, Tammy Wierciak

Staff Present: Bob Dean, Teri Dixon, Leroy Kos, Drew Williams Clark, Russell Pietrowiak, Holly Ostidick

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Committee Chair Chris Snyder called the meeting to order at 9:30.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the Minutes September 17, 2010

On a motion by Mr. Groner and a second by Ms. Berry, the minutes were approved as presented.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports.

It was reported that the Planning Coordinating Committee recommended the CMAP Board's adoption of GO TO 2040 at their last meeting. The Programming Committee had not met since the previous Transportation Committee meeting.

5.0 Transportation Improvement Program - FFY 2010-15 TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications

5.1 FY 10-15 TIP Amendments and Administrative Modifications

Mr. Kos reported that the TIP changes for all FFY10 unawarded projects and line items that had no action were moved into FFY14 programmatically. In that process some previously awarded line items that were in FFY10 were moved incorrectly. Mr. Kos assured the Committee that the previously awarded line item information will be corrected shortly. On a motion by Mr. Connelly and a second by Mr. Groner, the TIP revisions were approved.

5.2 Preliminary Meeting Dates for 2011

On a motion by Ms. Hamilton and a second by Mr. Groner that meeting dates were approved for calendar year 2011 (January 21, March 4, April 29, June 17, August 5, September 30, and November 18).

6.0 CMAQ

The Chairman asked staff to discuss the October status update first, so item 6.2 was moved before 6.1.

6.2 CMAQ – October Status Updates

Holly Ostdick from CMAP stated that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee (PSC) met on November 18 and discussed the October status updates. Updates were required for each project with a work phase scheduled for obligation in fiscal year 2010. She provided the following highlights:

- Sponsor response was much better in this status update cycle than in May and she expects continued improvement as we do more updates.
- CMAP staff relied on the Council of Mayors planning liaisons as the primary communication links to the sponsors for any follow up needed after the on-line status updates were submitted.
- Staff applied the program management criteria strictly in recommendations to the CMAQ Committee for removal of projects from the program.
- Regarding the projects originally recommended by staff for removal, in some cases the sponsors submitted additional information that staff and the CMAQ Committee believe justifies retention of the projects in the program.
- The philosophy adopted was that all CMAQ projects are good projects; that is why they were included in the program. However if any projects are languishing or the sponsor is no longer interested, they should be removed from the program.

She continued by explaining that the CMAQ Committee reviewed all staff recommendations and any new information from sponsors. The Committee recommends removing three projects from the program for lack of progress and deferred their decision on one project until more information is received. She said that the sponsors are well aware of the decisions and had an opportunity to address the Committee. The three projects recommended for removal are:

- 01-99-0019 - Barrier-Free Cycling Chicago Construction (\$11,306)
- 04-09-0004 – IDOT’s US 12/45/Mannheim Rd at Lawrence Ave. Construction in Melrose Park. (\$120,000)
- 04-99-0004 – Melrose Park’s 25th Ave. from IL 64/North Ave to Lake St. - Eng-1, Eng-2 and ROW (\$2,136,623)

The fourth project considered for removal was 13-09-0001 - Cook Co DOEC - Cook County Fleet Diesel Retrofit Implementation (\$541,611), but action was deferred because of extenuating circumstances.

An audience member asked if during the May 2011 status update cycle, CMAP staff will be making recommendations for projects to be removed from the program or if that is only done during the end of year updates. Ms. Ostdick stated that staff would recommend removal of delinquent projects in May. Chairman Snyder asked what the main reasons are that sponsors give as to why their projects are not moving forward. He asked if staff could look into this and said that he thought that this information could be helpful in strengthening communication. Ms. Ostdick stated the reasons for delay are submitted in the status updates so the information is available and staff can do that analysis. He pointed out that a lot of projects have had delays caused by the length of time it takes for IDOT to process agreements and asked how big of a concern this was. Ms. Ostdick stated that this is definitely a factor; the IDOT process can be time consuming and project sponsors need to be realistic about the timeframes for their projects. Chad Riddle from IDOT added that with

ARRA program winding down more IDOT staff resources should be available to process agreements, which may help expedite things.

Chairman Synder asked if the IDOT related delays could be quantified to show how these delays may affect things such as one-time move schedule adjustments. He also asked if this could be reported back to the committee at the January meeting. Ms. Ostdick stated that this could be done and offered to report it at the January meeting. Another question posed was, "When the next call for projects is undertaken will the B List be continued or deleted?" Ms. Ostdick stated that a new B List will be created when the new CMAQ program is approved. She reminded the attendees that all projects on the B List can be re-submitted for funding in the next call for projects. A comment was then made by Chris Synder that it may be useful for CMAP to conduct a workshop during the call for projects on how to submit a funding application and suggested staff include samples of various types of projects so that sponsors can have a better understanding of what is required in their application and how long a project is likely to take to accomplish.

Ms. Hamilton asked if the Transportation Committee had been briefed on the new approach to programming CMAQ funds that is currently being discussed at the CMAQ Committee level as there may not be a call for projects in the traditional sense. Ms. Berry stated that the Committee had not yet been briefed and that there was still time for more discussion with the Transportation Committee prior to issuing a call for projects. She said that part of the reason for the delay is that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee is still discussing programming approaches, including whether a traditional call should happen, if so when it should be issued, etc. She said that the CMAQ PSC will be meeting on November 30th to discuss these issues further. After that meeting CMAP staff should have more information that can be shared with the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Osborn commented that the CMAQ status update process, even with its hiccups is a good process as it forces project sponsors to report on their projects and creates incentive for moving their projects forward. Mayor Mulder then commented that it might be useful to provided typical minimum/maximum project completion time frames as guidance to potential applicants. Ms. Ostdick stated that at each of the project kickoff meetings a flow chart providing typical timeframes for each step, most of the steps have a range of likely timing themselves. Timing varies widely on a project by project basis because the complexity varies so much with the specifics of the scope of work and the conditions for each project.

Ms. Ostdick informed the committee that the CMAQ PSC request that Bensenville Project 08-10-0002 be reinstated.

On a motion by Mayor Mulder and a second by Ms. Berry, the Transportation Committee voted to recommend that MPO Policy Committee remove the three projects from the CMAQ program.

6.1 Revised Programming Policies

Ms. Ostdick highlighted some Committee recommended changes to the CMAQ programming policies that were initially adopted in March of 2009. The changes include clarifying that one-time moves will be tracked by phases. The policies also add that projects will be considered for removal from the program if a May and October status update is not received.

On a motion by Ms. Hamilton and a second by Mr. Groner, the revised programming policies were recommended for approval by the MPO Policy Committee.

7 GO TO 2040 Implementation: Technical Assistance

Mr. Dean stated with the completion of GO TO 2040, the focus has moved to implementation. Using HUD grant funds, CMAP will be hiring planners to complement current staff in providing local technical assistance (LTA) to communities for planning projects that help to implement GO TO 2040. Eligible projects include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinance revisions, specific studies on important local issues, and many others. Eligible applicants include municipalities and counties. The applications will be very simple and easy to complete. The grant process will be similar in nature to the RTA planning grants process and will be done in conjunction with the RTA grant programs. It was requested that Mr. Dean's information be made available to municipalities and counties and presented to the council of mayors groups. It was also encouraged that CMAP consider how this process can be funded after the expiration of the HUD grant.

Drew Williams-Clark then gave a brief presentation on CMAP's new data website, METROPULSE.

8 Public Comment

Mr. Snyder announced that Mr. Groner was retiring at the end of the year and this would be Mr. Groner's last Transportation Committee meeting. Many committee members thanked Mr. Groner for his many years of service and wished him well in his retirement.

9 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2011.

10 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.