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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Draft Minutes January 16, 2009

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

Members Present: Chair - Luann Hamilton - CDOT, Chuck Abraham - IDOT- DPIT,

Maria Choco-Urban – CNT, Bruce Christensen - Lake County, Steve Coffinbarger - Kane/Kendall County, John Donovan – FHWA, John Fortmann - IDOT District One, Rupert Graham – Cook County, Don Kopec - CMAP, Christina Kupkowski - Will County, David Kralik - Metra, Randy Neufeld - Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Les Nunes – IDOT OPP, Jason Osborn - McHenry County, David Simmons - CTA, Peter Skosey –

Metropolitan Planning Council, Steve Strains – NIPRC, Sidney Weseman - RTA, Tom Zapler – Class 1 Railroad Companies, Rocco

Zucchero – Illinois Tollway

Members Absent: Michael Bolton – Pace, Thomas Cuculich – DuPage County, Robert

Hann – Private Providers, Arlene J. Mulder – Council of Mayors, Mike Rogers - IEPA, Joe Schofer - Northwestern University, Dick Smith – IDOT OP&P, Vonu Thakuriah - UIC-UTC, David Werner – FTA - USDOT Chicago Metro Office, Ken Yunker - SEWRPC

Others Present: Kristen Bennett, Chalen Daigle, Kama Dobbs, Chad Riddle, David

Seglin, Holly Smith , Vicky Smith, Chris Staron, Mike Sullivan, Emily Tapia-Lopez, Dan Thomas, Mike Walczak, Tammy Wierciak

Staff Present: Patricia Berry, Bob Dean, Teri Dixon, Doug Ferguson, Tom Murtha,

Roseann O'Laughlin, Holly Ostdick, Russell Pietrowiak, Joy Schaad

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Luann Hamilton, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes to the agenda.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Mr. Weseman, the December 12, 2008 minutes were approved. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports

The Coordinating Committee representatives requested CMAP staff to provide updates. Mr. Kopec stated that at the Planning Coordinating Committee, the city of Chicago and their consultant presented the central area plan. Additionally presented at the meeting was a status update of the *GO TO 2040 Plan* and various snapshots. Ms. Berry stated the Programming Coordinating Committee discussed comments on the draft DRI process and ULI proposed process. The Programming Committee directed staff to take aspects of the ULI proposed process along with revisions to the draft process that was released for public comment and create a new CMAP DRI recommendation for consideration at the February Programming Coordinating Committee meeting.

5.0 RTA Update

Mr. Weseman informed the committee that RTA has meet twice since the last Transportation Committee meeting. RTA has approved its budget for the 2009. Mr. Weseman stated that the primary budget sources are suffering along with everyone else at this time. In January, the RTA board authorized short term borrowing and agreed to keep the current budget intact.

6.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

6.1 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Ostdick requested committee approval of amendments to not exempt and exempt TIP projects that exceed amendment thresholds. The four reports with amendments and revisions were posted on the web site for seven day public comment period and no comments were received. Ms. Ostdick also made the committee aware that three new Metra projects were not shown on the report but have been administratively modified into the TIP. She stated the projects are 18-09-1040, purchase up to 10 diesel locomotives, 18-09-1410 purchase bi-level cars, and 18-09-2400 CREATE right of way acquisition.

On a motion by Mr. Wesemen seconded by Mr. Kralik, the not exempt and exempt project amendments were amended into the TIP. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

6.2 Biannual TIP/RTP Conformity Analysis and TIP Amendments

Ms. Ostdick requested that the committee release the Biannual TIP/RTP Conformity Analysis and TIP Amendments for a 30 day public comment period from January 16 to February 15, 2009. Ms. Berry also asked for committee input and comments on the readability of the reports. The Chair and several members commented that the summary was much more readable than prior versions.

On a motion by Ms. Choco-Urban, seconded by Mr. Christensen, the Biannual TIP/RTP Conformity Analysis and TIP amendment was released for public comment. Vote: All Ayes. Motion Carried.

7.0 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)

Mr. Neufeld discussed the background of ITEP. Currently, large unobligated balances exist for ITEP. There are many challenges for this program, including an irregular call for projects. In light of IDOT's challenges with programming transparency, project implementation challenges, program irregularity, and to facilitate regional plan implementation, the CMAP Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force has requested consideration of a program mark for Enhancements for northeastern Illinois, with programming by the MPO.

The reason for CMAP programming of Enhancements is for better program management and the ability to ensure best practices highlighted in the planning process in use to select projects in other areas.

Mr. Donovan stated that in many states, Enhancements are MPO-programmed, though practices vary. NIPRC stated that Indiana just went to MPO programming of Enhancement funds; NIRPC is programming \$1.9 million.

Mr. Nunes stated that he would take this discussion back to Springfield, but felt that IDOT was in compliance regarding ITEP funds. Mr. Neufeld stated that Illinois may be in compliance but is in the bottom seven for spending Enhancement funds. CMAP can do better. Ms. Hamilton reminded the committee that while the region represents 2/3 of the state's population, this region receives only about 45% of the Enhancement dollars. If there is a regional

mark for ITEP funds, we should remain mindful and try to get a fair share. Mr. Skosey asked why the program is irregular and what will change if the program funding is programmed by the MPO. Mr. Neufeld responded that a regular, multi-year program with an improved selection process including project readiness as selection criteria should move the Enhancement Program forward. Ms. Choco-Urban asked IDOT representatives what the process is for fixing the current ITEP programming process or can there be a process to fix this problem. Mr. Nunes said that IDOT staff member, Mr. Sherman, who could better answer questions about the Enhancement program, was scheduled but unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Kopec stated the he is concerned that MPO program mark be high enough and that whatever process is in place select the best projects. He reminded everyone even with good programming, there may be challenges in getting timely project completion.

Mr. Neufeld stated project readiness should be critical in project programming and that open and transparent criteria should help. Having too many good projects is not a problem in this region. So, Mr. Neufeld requested that the TC ask that IDOT examine ITEP and come to discuss options and/or IDOT position on ITEP programming and strategies to move ITEP forward. Mr. Nunes agreed.

Mr. Skosey would like the TC to be cautious about moving forward with new programming procedures when TEA-4 is being discussed. He also asked if the committee needs to have a discussion about TEA-4.

Mr. Neufeld stated that the region should not let existing programming funds languish while TEA-4 is up for discussion. It was then discussed that the MPO Policy Committee's SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee should meet to discuss TEA-4 and its implications for the region. Mr. Kopec said that something would be scheduled in the next couple of weeks.

8.0 Economic Recovery Package

Mr. Kopec stated that CMAP has released two documents regarding their involvement in the Economic Recovery Package. The first being <u>infrastructure</u> <u>principals</u> for investments funded by the Economic Recovery Package. The second being <u>CMAP's potential role</u> in the development of projects of the Economic Recovery Package. He stated that the infrastructure principals highlight the need for coordination, investment, real reform and having a 90 day timeframe to prepare projects for construction. For now, it is our understanding that all the existing rules and legislation regarding TIP, STIP and conformity analysis are enforced for this package. The hope is that if the program is expended

in an efficient, timely, and beneficial way the region might be regarded favorably in the future and able to use other states' funding.

Mr. Kopec highlighted CMAP's possible role in the programming of the Economic Recovery Funds. He distributed the statement regarding CMAP's role. Ms. Hamilton asked if CMAP's role for the region's package is followed, will CMAP be ready to fulfill it. Mr. Kopec replied that CMAP will not be interested in implementing criteria for small projects and as always, CMAP is not an implementer of projects. Mr. Kopec also stated that CMAP doe not have all the recovery projects in a comprehensive list at this point. Mr. Skosey asked why not. Mr. Kopec responded that the lists have not been shared. He also stated that the majority of lists include infrastructure for water, sewer, and educational facilities which is something CMAP does not in general participate in so some outside expertise will be needed.

There was a question about funding and the allocation split within the region. Mr. Kopec responded that he would assume the normal split would occur, which is 55% for downstate and 45% for northeastern Illinois. Mr. Nunes agreed that this is the current understanding of the split within the state. Mr. Osborn stated that public works officials were preparing for their role in this process and asked the eligibility requirements of the recovery package. Mr. Kopec said that project eligibility requirements are unknown at this time. The committee was reminded that there likely will be 100% funding for the project. Additionally that in the proposed package, 50% of the money is to be spent on projects that are to be on the ground in 90 days and the others projects have 2-3 years.

Mr. Wesemen stated the positive thing about CMAP's principles position is that it is consistent and that timeliness to develop and apply criteria is included. Mr. Nunes mentioned that one item under discussion at the MPO Policy Committee was the state's ability to design-build. This change will require a change in state law. Mr Osborn commented that the local STP program is moving forward and village administrators and locals have a great knowledge of what is ready and can be moved forward at this point and that should not be lost. Mr. Fortmann inquired what the threshold for major projects would be. Mr. Kopec responded that regionally significant projects are what CMAP is interested in and that there are no monetary thresholds. Ms. Hamilton asked if CMAP would be involved in project development, would agencies still work with IDOT on issues like NEPA. Mr. Kopec responded affirmatively. The committee requested the SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee meet to further discuss the package, infrastructure principles and CMAP's potential role.

9.0 Revised CMAQ Procedures

Mr. Ferguson presented a draft of the recommended CMAQ programming changes being developed by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee. The changes being discussed are intended to create a more effective programming process to assure that the region gets the congestion reduction and air quality improvements of projects more quickly and does not have a large amount of unobligated funding in danger of being lost to the region. The next scheduled meeting of the CMAQ Project Selection Committee will be Friday, January 30, 2009 at 1:00 pm. The draft recommendations will be considered for final approval at that meeting and brought to the March Transportation Committee meeting for approval and recommendation to the MPO Policy Committee and CMAP Board.

10.0 Congestion Scans

Mr. Schmidt discussed CMAP's 2007 freeway performance measures and the data sources used to create them. The purpose of the analysis was to provide a careful analysis of regional freeway congestion for CMAP as part of the Congestion Management Process, facilitating good infrastructure decisions. In addition, the measures presented will be regularly updated as part of the Regional Indicators Project.

The data and scans help to identify bottlenecks in the system and to represent "average day" traffic as experienced by motorists. Annual five minute data sets from IDOT freeway loop detectors and the Illinois Tollway's microwave radar detectors were obtained from Traffic.com and processed to create the freeway performance measures. The performance measures and graphics created from this data include traffic congestion scans, travel time index, planning time index, and number of congested hours for instrumented freeway segments. Some freeway segments, particularly in the Southland, were missing from the analysis because construction investments temporarily disabled many detectors.

Mr. Schmidt presented sample traffic congestion scans which displays average speed by milepost and time of day for instrumented freeway segments across the region. The travel time index and planning time index were calculated for both AM and PM peak periods. A detailed explanation of each measure along with all data associated with CMAP's 2007 freeway performance measures are posted on the Web at http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/cmp/measurement.aspx

11.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

12.0 Other Business

There was no other business

13.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. in the Cook County Room.

14.0 Adjournment

A motion was made and seconded for adjournment.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teri Dixon Senior Planner Staff Liaison

Transportation Committee Members:

 Charles Abraham	Don Kopec	 Peter Skosey
 Thomas Cuculich**	Paul Losos	 Dick Smith
Rocky Donahue	Jan Metzger	 David Simmons
 John Donovan***	Arlene Mulder	 Steve Strains
John Fortmann	Randy Neufeld	 Vonu Thakuriah
Bruce Gould	Jason Osborn	 Paula Trigg
 Rupert Graham, Jr	Leanne Redden	 David Werner***
 Jack Groner	Thomas Rickert	 Ken Yunker
 Luann Hamilton*	Mike Rogers	 Tom Zapler
 Fran Klaas	Joe Schofer	 Rocco Zucchero
*Chair	**Vice-Chair	***Non-voting