



Memorandum

To: Erin Aleman
From: CMAP staff
Date: October 2, 2023
Subject: PART Steering Committee membership and meetings

Summary

At the direction of the Illinois General Assembly, CMAP convened a public Steering Committee with broad and deep expertise and across private, public, and civic sectors that met five times between January and September 2023 to guide the development of Plan of Action for Regional Transit report.

Steering Committee creation and membership

To recruit and launch the Steering Committee, CMAP relied on support from Civic Consulting Alliance (CCA) and funding from the Chicago Community Trust. CCA provided support to CMAP to help structure the committee, outline its process and timeline, and develop committee membership criteria (independence, expertise, diversity, key sector representation). CCA and its *pro bono* partners also supported the development of briefing materials for the Steering Committee members.

The 27 members of the Steering Committee fulfilled the legislative mandate:

The development of the report shall include meaningful public engagement led by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning and its MPO Policy Committee and should be

developed with the support of a steering committee composed of representatives of business, community, environmental, labor, and civic organizations.

Regional Transportation Act, 70 ILCS 3615/5.10(a).

While Steering Committee members offered diverse professional backgrounds, CMAP also looked to racial and geographic demographics for the Steering Committee's membership so that the committee reflected the region's diversity.

Members included:

MarySue Barrett, MSB Policy Consulting/Brookings Institution

Randy Blankenhorn, former Secretary, Illinois Department of Transportation (Co-chair)

Carole Brown, PNC (Co-chair)

Deborah Carroll, University of Illinois Chicago, Government Finance Research Center

Kevin Considine, Lake County Partners

Dan Cronin, Former Chair, DuPage County Board (Co-chair)

Mark Denzler, Illinois Manufacturers' Association

Derek Douglas, Civic Committee and Commercial Club of Chicago (Co-chair)

Jacky Grimshaw, Center for Neighborhood Technology (Co-chair)

Julie Hamos, Office of Medicaid Innovation

Darlene Hightower, Metropolitan Planning Council

Rob Karr, Illinois Retail Merchants Association

Jack Lavin, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

David Leopold, Microsoft

Juan Carlos Linares, Association House of Chicago

Tom Livingston, CSX

Justin Marlowe, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy

David Narefsky, Mayer Brown

Jorge Perez, Lake Effect Community Development

Doug Pryor, Will County Center for Economic Development

Bob Reiter, Chicago Federation of Labor

Roberto Requejo, Elevated Chicago

Amy Rynell, Active Transportation Alliance (Co-chair)

Stephen Schlickman, University of Illinois Chicago, College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

Karen Tamley, Access Living

Jen Walling, Illinois Environmental Council

Sarah Wetmore, The Civic Federation

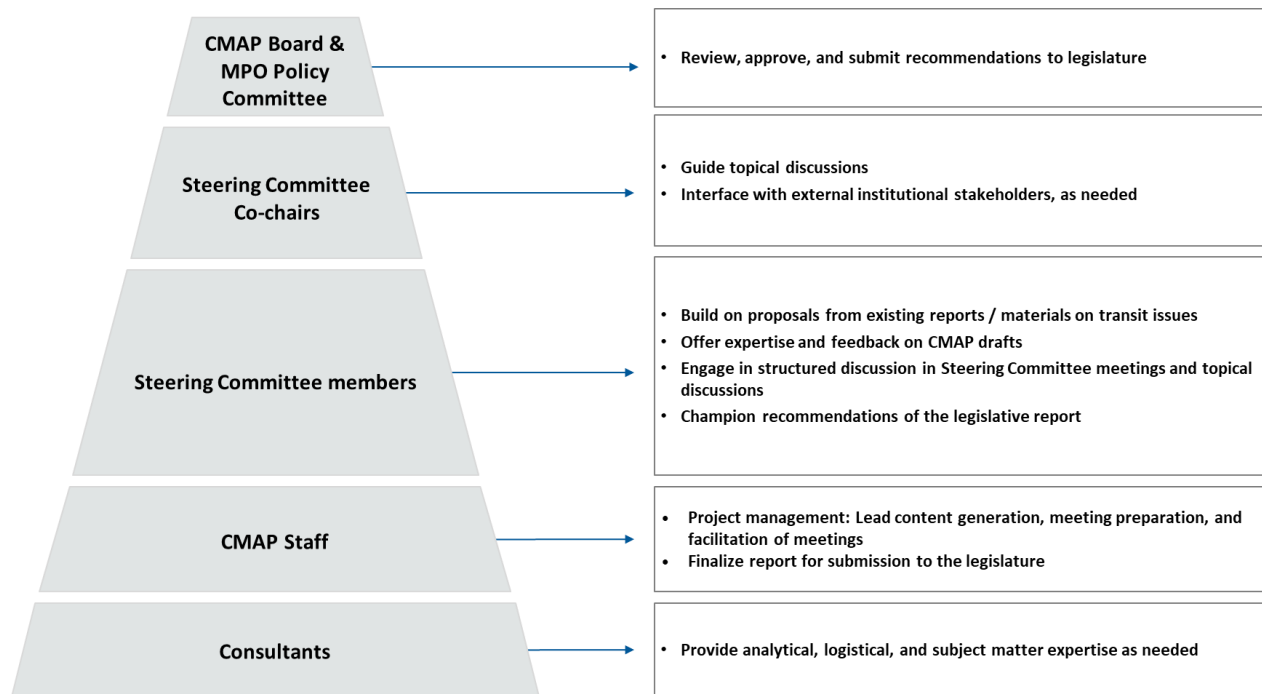
CMAP executive director Erin Aleman served as the non-voting chair of the PART Steering Committee. The six co-chairs of the committee led discussions within the committee on one of

three topical groupings: the system we want (system improvements), how to pay for it (funding), and how to implement it (governance). Co-chairs also provided updates to CMAP’s Board and MPO Policy Committee on the committee’s discussions and perspectives.

Steering Committee members provided extensive input and perspectives on the many topics and recommendations considered by the PART process. However, they were neither asked nor required to vote on the recommendations of the report.

CMAP provided Steering Committee members with an extensive [briefing book](#)¹ with context and background about the PART project, as well as additional resources and information on CMAP’s [website](#)² and in regular communications from staff. Working groups were held to address related issues.

Figure 1. The PART process leveraged input from steering committee members, staff, and consultants



The Steering Committee met in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act

Because the PART Steering Committee was created by the Illinois General Assembly, CMAP convened the committee as a public body in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120). The Steering Committee met every two months from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. on the following dates:

- January 18
- March 15
- May 24
- July 19
- September 6

The Steering Committee members could participate in meetings both in person and remotely on Zoom, and most members attended in person. The committee continued to establish an in-person quorum for its meetings after the Governor’s emergency declaration permitting remote attendance was lifted in early May 2023.

CMAP published the Steering Committee’s meeting agendas the week before on its [webpage](#)³ for PART, on the agency’s in-office meeting board, and on its [Legistar site](#)⁴ for public meeting materials. Minutes approved by the committee were also published on the webpage and in Legistar. The Steering Committee’s published meeting agendas and approved minutes are attached.

The Steering Committee welcomed the public

PART Steering Committee meeting agendas included public comment. Public comment was limited to two minutes per individual and ten minutes cumulative time and the time was extended at the discretion of the chair.

The Steering Committee met in CMAP’s ADA-accessible fourth floor offices at 433 West Van Buren. The public was invited to attend the meetings both in person and on Zoom. The agency offered reasonable accommodations and language interpretation upon request.

Meeting agendas and minutes

The agendas and meeting minutes for the five PART steering committee meetings are included on the following pages. The minutes for the September meeting are included in draft form because the PART Steering Committee dissolved upon the adjournment of the September meeting.



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

AGENDA - FINAL

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

9:00 AM

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87025880636>

9:00 Call To Order

New Business

9:30 The System We Want

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

[23-060](#)

9:55 How to Pay for It

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

[23-062](#)

10:20 How to Implement It

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

[23-064](#)

10:50 Public Comment

The total cumulative time of all public comment shall be limited to 10 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the chair. If members of the public are not able to speak within the time allotted for public comment, the Chair may extend the public comment time at their discretion. Public comment is limited to two minutes per individual, unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period.

Thank you.

11:00 Adjournment

PART STEERING COMMITTEE**MEETING MINUTES - FINAL**

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

9:00 AM

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87025880636>

1.0 Call To Order

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Staff present: Sema Abulhab, Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, John Carpenter, Daniel Comeaux, Gilton Cross, Stephen DiBenedetto, Kasia Hart, Tricia Hyland, Aimee Lee, Amy McEwan, Martin Menninger, Nikolas Mertin, Julie Reschke, Elizabeth Scott, Leo Torres, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison, and Alonzo Zamarron

Others present (in person/online): Zachary Braun, Anthony Cefali, Lara Cuomo, Bob Dean, Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, Jesse Elam, Minerva Garcia, James Garner, Donovan Griffith, Veton Hasku, Tom Kotarac, David Kralik, Jeremy LaMarche, Jill Leary, Erik Llewellyn, Rohan Mascarenhas, Marco Mendez, John Noak, Philip Plotch, Robert Puentes, Stephanie Sarabia, Rebekah Scheinfeld, Garret Schrode, David Tomzik, Senator Ram Villivalam, Audrey Wennink, and Kyle Whitehead

2.0 New Business

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, offered a welcome and gave a brief presentation discussing the importance of investing in transit to promote mobility, economic development, and climate goals, and provided a brief overview of the existing conditions of the transit fiscal picture.

Senator Ram Villivalam and Representative Eva-Dina Delgado provided a welcome to steering committee members, encouraging bold action to advance a more equitable, people-centered transit system.

Laura Wilkison, Senior Director and Policy Advisor, CMAP, provided a background of the legislative mandate, previous strategic transit work, and the roles and responsibilities of CMAP and the steering committee. She also discussed the structure of the report content and principles to guide the recommendations.

2.1 The System We Want

[23-060](#)

Jacky Grimshaw, Vice President of Government Affairs at the Center for Neighborhood Technology and Amy Rynell, Active Transportation Alliance Executive Director, offered welcoming remarks as steering committee members consider the system we want topic.

Daniel Comeaux, Senior Analyst, CMAP, introduced the scope of the *system we want* topic and themes to be addressed. This included an overview of the COVID-related changes in travel patterns and response from transit service providers.

Upon reflecting on the proposed scope, steering committee members discussed the nature of the resurgence of vehicular congestion to pre-pandemic levels, the relationships between telework and housing typologies, and how the group will consider macro-economic trends in envisioning the system we want.

2.2 How to Pay for It

[23-062](#)

Derek Douglas, President of the Civic Committee and the Commercial Club of Chicago and Dan Cronin, former DuPage County Board Chair, offered some remarks for steering committee members to consider with respect to how to pay for the system we want and how to achieve a high quality, efficient, affordable transit system.

Bill Barnes, Interim Regional Policy and Implementation Deputy, CMAP, provided an overview of the scope of the *how to pay for it* elements of the work. This included an overview of the current financial landscape, the limited nature of federal funds, and the scope of revenue reforms to be considered.

Steering committee members discussed how to apply an equity lens to these recommendations, opportunities to explore national and international case studies, and offered considerations for local revenues.

2.3 How to Implement It

[23-064](#)

Randy Blankenhorn, former IDOT Secretary, and Carole Brown, chief executive of the Asset Management Group for PNC Financial Services Group, discussed some considerations on to how to implement changes.

Aimee Lee, Deputy of Transportation, CMAP, provided an overview of the existing transit governance structure and previous action that has been taken on this topic.

Rob Puentes, President and CEO of the Eno Center for Transportation, explained Eno's role in assessing the transit system's current governance structure and potentials for reform.

Steering committee members discussed how to coordinate recommendations, geographic considerations for the recommendations, and how to think about transit's intersections with economic development, public health, and climate.

3.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

4.0 Adjournment

A motion was made by Dan Cronin to adjourn, seconded by Derek Douglas. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

AGENDA - FINAL

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:00 AM

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89254738182>

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

1.0 Call To Order

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of the minutes from January 18, 2023

[23-147](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [PART 1.18.23 Minutes](#)

3.0 New Business

3.01 Outreach, Analysis, and Input update

[23-150](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

3.02 The System We Want

[23-152](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.03 Financial Sustainability

[23-155](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.04 How to Implement It

[23-157](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.05 Next steps

[23-159](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

4.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

5.0 Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2023

6.0 Adjournment

PART STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

9:00 AM

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89254738182>

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, March 14, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

1.0 Call To Order

Erin Aleman welcomed the committee members and conducted roll call.

Present: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, Laurence Msall, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, and Jen Walling

Absent: Darlene Hightower, and Karen Tamley

CMAP Staff: Sema Abulhab, Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, John Carpenter, Daniel Comeaux, Gilton Cross, Stephen DiBenedetto, Kasia Hart, Tricia Hyland, Almee Lee, Amy McEwan, Martin Menninger, Nikolas Merten, Julie Reschke, Elizabeth Scott, Leo Torres, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison, and Alonzo Zamarron

Others present (in person/online): Steven Brown, Bob Dean, Jeremy Fine, Donovan Griffith, Tom Kotarac, Phillip Plotch, Chauncey Rice, Dany Robles, Nora Ryan, Audrey Wennink

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of the minutes from January 18, 2023

[23-147](#)

Attachments: [PART 1.18.23 Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Doug Pryor, seconded by Carole Brown, that the January 18, 2023 minutes be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, Laurence Msall, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, and Jen Walling

Absent: Darlene Hightower, and Karen Tamley

3.0 New Business

3.01 Outreach, Analysis, and Input update

[23-150](#)

Erin Aleman gave a brief presentation reiterating the value that transit has in the region and the cost that inaction would have on mobility, economic development, and the climate. Aleman highlighted the wide array of stakeholders CMAP is engaging with as part of this process and reminded the committee members of the principles that will guide the report's recommendations.

An update was provided.

3.02 The System We Want

[23-152](#)

Daniel Comeaux reviewed the criteria that will be used to assess the tradeoffs of recommendations both with a policy and process lens. Comeaux briefed the committee members on the context and challenges of the *better buses* and *fare integration* topics as examples to test the criteria against.

Reflecting upon the proposed criteria and topics, steering committee members discussed the implementation challenges of improving the system in these two areas, the need to look at prior efforts for lessons learned as report recommendations move forward, and the equity impacts that they have on transit riders in the region.

Committee members also highlighted the importance of community education and engagement for improving bus service, governance structures that enable a nimble system to adapt to challenges, and funding opportunities coming from federal and state sources that could be leveraged.

This agenda item was discussed.

3.03 Financial Sustainability

[23-155](#)

Bill Barnes revisited the scope of the *how to pay for it* elements of the report, presented a historical analysis of transit funding and costs, and provided the committee members a review of the RTA sales tax and a menu of potential reforms of the same.

Steering committee members discussed the challenges with increasing or expanding the sales tax base, opportunities to increase cost savings and efficiencies by the service boards, and leveraging revenue solutions to influence travel behavior and make transit a more attractive choice for regional travelers.

This agenda item was discussed.

3.04 How to Implement It

[23-157](#)

Attachments: [problem statements](#)

Phillip Mark Plotch from the Eno Center for Transportation gave committee members a high-level overview of key takeaways from Eno's interviews with stakeholders.

Aimee Lee gave an overview of the draft governance [problem statements](#) co-created by the *how to implement it* discussion group incorporating feedback from the stakeholder interviews.

Steering committee members discussed the challenges with reforming existing governance structures, provided previous examples of restructuring public entities as precedent for reforms in the region, and commented on the merits of strengthening the authority of existing governing entities. The committee members also highlighted that the fiscal crisis is a unique opportunity to pursue these reforms.

This agenda item was discussed.

3.05 Next steps

[23-159](#)

Erin Aleman provided next steps in the PART project.

4.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5.0 Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2023**6.0 Adjournment**

A motion was made by Bob Reiter, seconded by Juan Carlos Linares, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, Laurence Msall, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, and Jen Walling

Absent: Darlene Hightower, and Karen Tamley

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

AGENDA - FINAL

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

9:00 AM

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83821697894>

Public comment: The total cumulative time of all public comment shall be limited to 10 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. If members of the public are not able to speak within the time allotted for public comment, the Chair may extend the public comment time at their discretion. Public comment is limited to two minutes per individual, unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Thank you.

ADA accommodation and language access: If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least three days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call To Order

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of minutes from March 15, 2023

[23-270](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [PART 3.15.23 Minutes](#)

3.0 New Business

3.01 Outreach update: Focus groups and public survey

[23-272](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

3.02 Financial Sustainability

[23-274](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.03 The System We Want

[23-276](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.04 How to Implement It

[23-278](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.05 Next steps[23-280](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

4.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

5.0 Next Meeting**6.0 Adjournment**

PART STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Wednesday, May 24, 2023

9:00 AM

Members of the public attending the meeting in person should pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmmap.illinois.gov before Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., or plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

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Public comment: The total cumulative time of all public comment shall be limited to 10 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. If members of the public are not able to speak within the time allotted for public comment, the Chair may extend the public comment time at their discretion. Public comment is limited to two minutes per individual, unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Thank you.

ADA accommodation and language access: If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least three days before the meeting by email (info@cmmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call To Order

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Erin Aleman welcomed the committee members and conducted roll call.

(Members Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Darlene Hightower, Rob Karr, Jack Lavin, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, and Karen Tamley attended the meeting virtually)

Present: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

Absent: Carole Brown, Jacky Grimshaw, and David Leopold

CMAP Staff present: Sema Abulhab, Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, John Carpenter, Daniel Comeaux, Gilton Cross, Stephen Di Benedetto, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Kasia Hart, Tricia Hyland, Aimee Lee, Amy McEwan, Martin Menninger, Nikolas Mertin, Julie Reschke, Elizabeth Scott, Leo Torres, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Laura Wilkison, and Alonzo Zammaron

Others present: Steven Brown, Kevin Brubaker, Christopher Canning, M Castle, Lynnette Ciavarella, Jack Cruikshank, Karen Darch, John Donovan, Ashton Drake, Jesse Elam, Brandon Geber, Dimitre Guenov, Neil James, Kendra Johnson, Pam Jones, Tom Kotarac, David Kralik, Jill Leary, Jen McNeil Dhadwal, Nikolas Merten, John Noak, Charlotte Obodzinski, Kevin O'Malley, Philip Plotch, Rob Puentes, Dany Robles, Ryan Ruehle, Stephanie Sarabia, Jeff Schielke, Garrett Shrode, Linda Soto, Doug Sullivan, David Tomzik, Michael Vanderhoof, and Audrey Wennink

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of minutes from March 15, 2023

[23-270](#)

Attachments: [PART 3.15.23 Minutes](#)

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2023 PART Steering Committee meeting was made with all members in favor.

Aye: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

Absent: Carole Brown, Jacky Grimshaw, and David Leopold

3.0 New Business

3.01 Outreach update: Focus groups and public survey

[23-272](#)

Erin Aleman briefed the steering committee of legislative progress at the Illinois General Assembly related to PART, including an extension to the farebox recovery ratio waiver, requiring the service boards to report system performance metrics, a requirement for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to study the feasibility of providing year-round free or reduced fares to different groups for an equitable fare structure, and a requirement for certain employers to provide pre-tax transportation benefits to employees.

Aleman noted the involvement of steering committee member Roberto Requejo as co-chair of Mayor Brandon Johnson's transportation subcommittee, alongside Kirk Dillard, chairman of the RTA Board of Directors, and spoke to the need of providing critical input to the Johnson administration's transportation platform particularly as it relates to transit.

Aleman highlighted the wide array of stakeholders CMAP is engaging with as part of this process, with Jane Grover providing details of recent public engagement opportunities, including results from a public opinion survey and focus groups with a variety of regional stakeholders.

An update was provided.

3.02 Financial Sustainability

[23-274](#)

Elizabeth Scott reviewed the three sales tax options under consideration: raising the sales tax rate, expanding the sales tax base to include services, or a hybrid approach between the two. Scott also provided the committee an overview of the increasing cost of paratransit service and its primary funding sources along with peer approaches to paratransit funding. Lastly, Scott reviewed a set of roadway-generated revenues that CMAP is considering for transit funding in the short-, medium-, and long-term time frame.

Committee members discussed peer approaches to sales tax base expansions, potential cost efficiencies that the region's paratransit service could pursue, including Medicaid reimbursements, and how other agencies are filling in the paratransit funding gap. Members highlighted the political challenges of raising or expanding the sales tax; discussing the need to present sales tax recommendations with peer state approaches as a potential messaging tool to address some of these

challenges.

The committee also discussed land use reforms near transit as a mechanism for new operational revenues, though it is unlikely to raise enough in the short-term, identifying cost efficiencies the system could pursue with the request for new funding, and reviewing the \$730 million budget gap figure.

The steering committee discussed financial sustainability.

3.03 The System We Want

[23-276](#)

Daniel Comeaux provided a high-level overview of the package of recommendations coming out of the System We Want discussion groups, with a deeper dive into the challenges and opportunities within fare integration and affordability, safety, security and cleanliness, and adapting service to post-pandemic travel patterns.

The committee members highlighted that integrating fares is a significant component of the package of recommendations, discussed the effects of investing in better transit service like increased ridership, and requested that CMAP staff explore the costs of a transit ambassador program to increase staff presence and reduce security concerns on the system.

Committee members noted the need to talk to employers, particularly suburban ones, and address reverse commute and suburb-to-suburb travel for which existing transit service is sparse. On fares, the committee highlighted the high cost of paratransit fares for many riders who rely on a fixed income and the need to support fare policy changes that increase equity and access, while continuing to provide transit a stable revenue source.

The committee members also discussed the positive impacts that the package of system improvement recommendations have on the How to Pay For It revenue and budget gap assessments and the need to work on land use incentives, particularly around Metra, by encouraging employers to locate in transit-supportive areas. Committee members noted that transit-supportive land use plays into the success of regional rail.

Committee members also suggested that messaging around climate resiliency and economic growth become a focus of these recommendations given their connection to transit infrastructure, service, and funding as well as jobs, economic development, and the federal money available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

The steering committee discussed this agenda item.

3.04 How to Implement It

[23-278](#)

Aimee Lee reviewed the framework that is driving the governance recommendations, the different system functions that governance structures impact, and the wide spectrum to which those functions can be assigned to (from fully centralized to fully independent).

Lee reminded the committee members that governance reforms must address the problem statements co-created by the How to Implement It group all while achieving the goals from System We Want and maximizing investments from How to Pay For It. Lee presented the spectrum of governance options CMAP is looking at, including: Keeping the structure the same, but revising funding allocations; Stronger regional agency with existing service boards; Unifying the existing RTA and service boards into a consolidated regional agency with subdivisions for operating units.

Steering committee members requested that CMAP staff begin to tease out the tradeoffs of each governance proposal, including the implications for System We Want recommendations, clarity on potential cost savings of a restructure, and analyzing reforms through the lens of the transit rider. Members also noted that governance reforms are inextricably linked to seeking new funding to address the budget gap and make system improvements.

The steering committee discussed this agenda item.

3.05 Next steps

[23-280](#)

Erin Aleman provided closing statements and next steps in the PART project.

Next steps were discussed.

4.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion. It should be noted that the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

Two members of the public provided comments.

Kevin Brubaker, Environmental Law and Policy Center, echoed earlier comments on highlighting the nexus between climate change and transit. Brubaker noted that the conversation around improving transit should happen simultaneously with CMAP's climate work and that achieving the region's climate goals will not happen unless there is a thriving transit network.

Linda Soto, Pace Board of Directors, highlighted progress that the service boards and the RTA have made to improve regional coordination in recent years. Soto noted that infrastructure needs and Rebuild Illinois served in uniting the agencies to work together and lobby for more funding, along with smarter purchasing and planning. On climate, Soto noted that Pace is working to shift to electric buses, with CTA and Metra also having their own plans and efforts underway to move the region towards more sustainable transit. Lastly, Soto noted that while the region would benefit from changes to governance rules and management practices, the pandemic obscured recent progress on cooperative efforts between the agencies.

5.0 Next Meeting

he next PART Steering Committee meeting takes place on July 19, 2023.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Leo Torres.



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

AGENDA - FINAL-REVISED

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

9:00 AM

**Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov until Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89390241077>

CMAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to info@cmap.illinois.gov at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

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1.0 Call To Order**2.0 Approval of Minutes****2.01 Approval of the minutes from May 24, 2023**[23-337](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [PART 5.24.23 Draft Minutes](#)**3.0 New Business****3.01 Outreach update: focus groups and county outreach**[23-338](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

3.02 System We Want progress[23-340](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

3.03 Financial sustainability[23-341](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.04 How to Implement It[23-345](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

3.05 Next steps[23-342](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

4.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

6.0 Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**7.0 Adjournment**



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Wednesday, July 19, 2023

9:00 AM

**Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov until Tuesday, July 18, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

Please click the link below to join the webinar meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89390241077>

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If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call To Order

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

Absent: Mark Denzler, Robb Karr, and Jack Lavin

(Members Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Dan Cronin, and Bob Reiter attended the meeting virtually.)

Attendees (in person/online): John Amdor, Steven Brown, Kevin Brubaker, Christopher Canning, M Castle, Lynnette Ciavarella, Jack Cruikshank, Karen Darch, State Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, John Donovan, Ashton Drake, Jesse Elam, Jackie Forbes, Mark Fowler, Brandon Geber, Sam Greene, Dimitre Guenov, Veton Hasku, Scott Hennings, Neil James, Kendra Johnson, Pam Jones, Peter Kerston, Tom Kotarac, David Kralik, Brian Larson, Jill Leary, Nika Lofton, John Loper, Jen McNeil Dhadwal, John Noak, Charlotte Obodzinski, Kevin O'Malley, Philip Plotch, Jada Porter, Rob Puentes, Leanne Redden, Dany Robles, Stephanie Sarabia, Jeff Schielke, Garrett Shrode, Christoher Snyder, Linda Soto, Doug Sullivan, David Tomzik, Brian Townsend, Michael Vanderhoof, State Senator Ram Villivalam, Audrey Wennink, Kyle Whitehead

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of the minutes from May 24, 2023

[23-337](#)

Attachments: [PART 5.24.23 Draft Minutes](#)

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2023 PART Steering Committee meeting was made. Motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

Absent: Mark Denzler, Robb Karr, and Jack Lavin

3.0 New Business

3.01 Outreach update: focus groups and county outreach

[23-338](#)

Erin Aleman gave introductory remarks and briefed the committee on the PART report approval process, which requires a vote by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee on October 11, 2023 to meet the Illinois General Assembly's (ILGA) deadline of January 1, 2024. Aleman highlighted the committee's dedication and vision to achieving a better, more resilient transit system that supports economic growth, addresses racial equity, and mitigates the effects of climate change.

Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam, Chief Senate Sponsor of the PART enabling legislation ([Public Act 102-1028 <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/102/PDF/102-1028.pdf>](#)), briefed the committee on legislative progress at the ILGA related to PART, particularly the transportation omnibus legislation, [HB1342 <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/103/HB/PDF/10300HB1342lv.pdf>](#), signed by Governor Pritzker on July 28, 2023. The legislation extends the farebox recovery ratio waiver, requires the service boards to report system

performance metrics, directs the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to study the feasibility of providing year-round free or reduced fares to different groups for a more equitable fare structure, and addresses other issues like public safety and employment for youth.

Sen. Villivalam highlighted that improving regional transit is a task that relies on everybody, including the PART Steering Committee, to think big and outside the box for solutions that will make the regional transit system stand out among its peers. Sen. Villivalam stated that the consensus of the ILGA is that new revenues for transit must be accompanied by improvements in how we operate, fund, and govern the system.

Acknowledging that going beyond the status quo often brings an extra set of challenges, Sen. Villivalam stated that reforms to funding and governance guide the ability to make the case to taxpayers that the transit system is improving and will be able to address challenges around equity, climate change, and economic growth.

Illinois House Representative Eva-Dina Delgado, Chief House Sponsor of the PART enabling legislation, seconded Sen. Villivalam's remarks and noted appreciation for the committee and CMAP for taking on this work. Rep. Delgado emphasized that the committee and CMAP are working to develop policy ideas that will be used to make the case in Springfield for improving regional transit and highlighted the value of good policy to guide decision-making for challenging issues around funding and governance.

Erin Aleman emphasized the wide array of stakeholders CMAP is engaging with in this process, with Jane Grover providing details of recent public engagement initiatives, including an update on regional stakeholder focus groups, engagement with Councils of Governments and Councils of Mayors, County officials and staff, and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Grover also highlighted some of the key themes that are emerging from these discussions.

Aleman closed introductory remarks by noting that while there will be disagreement on various issues in the PART process, there is collective agreement that the fiscal crisis needs to be addressed and letting the regional transit system fail is not an option.

An update on outreach was given.

3.02 System We Want progress

[23-340](#)

Daniel Comeaux reviewed the seven main areas of system improvements that will be addressed by the report and provided an overview of how these improvements will scale with new funding for transit. Comeaux provided a high-level overview of the three packages of recommendations being considered based on the level of new resources proposed: *minimum viable*, *meaningful change*, and *transformational investment*.

Each package addresses the fiscal cliff, though only *meaningful change* and *transformational investment* will provide the resources necessary to ensure the long-term financial viability of a comprehensive and coordinated regional transit system, as the enabling legislation requires. Comeaux also highlighted the nexus between the system improvement recommendations and both funding (*How to Pay for It*) and governance (*How to Implement It*).

Committee members asked clarifying questions on the packages and noted the importance of providing a list of improvements that could be made based on each level of new public investment.

The committee discussed progress on the System We Want.

3.03 Financial sustainability

[23-341](#)

Elizabeth Scott provided an overview of the principles that guide the funding packages, highlighted paratransit cost growth. Scott reviewed state support of paratransit in peer regions and elsewhere in the state. Scott provided a conceptual framework for how various funding sources were allocated to each package, with an

intermediate solution set (composed of baseline actions, durable funding sources, and stopgap/diminishing sources) and a long-term solution set (composed of baseline actions, durable sources, and long-term sources aimed at replacing stopgap/diminishing sources and reducing reliance on the RTA sales tax). This framework also includes cost savings that transit providers must pursue both by reducing future cost growth and raising fares.

Scott detailed each of the three funding packages, including the types of revenue sources under consideration, the amount each source could raise in 2026, and the types of improvements that the system could pursue with level of new resources.

Committee members discussed the capital investments needed within each funding package and provided messaging suggestions to better frame what the region gets out of each package. Members suggested an explicit link between funding transit improvements with other policy issues like healthcare and education to better frame these solutions to the public for buy-in. Members expressed skepticism of the political feasibility of expanding the sales tax base. However, the fiscal cliff represents a prime opportunity to push through good, but difficult, policy choices.

Members also asked clarifying questions around the exclusion of trucks in increasing existing tolls on the Tollway, expressed the need to understand the differential equity impacts each funding solution may have, discussed different policy choices that could be made around vehicle registration fees, and suggested that CMAP emphasize the role that some funding sources play in increasing transit ridership (e.g., congestion tolling, parking tax, etc.). Lastly, members suggested that the *minimum viable* package should not be proposed as a funding solution given its inability to address the concerns of the PART report.

Committee members participated in a polling activity to gauge the committee's collective thoughts on funding solutions. Members overwhelmingly agreed that any potential packages should include changes to the sales tax, with more agreement on expanding the sales tax base and less consensus on raising the rate. Members also demonstrated strong support to include a combination of road revenues in the funding packages, with the majority agreeing on including funds from tolling and road pricing as revenue solutions. When surveyed on the support for each package, the committee most supported the *meaningful change* package, with *transformational investment* second, and *minimum viable* last. Members were also provided an outlet to express any other questions they might still have.

The Committee discussed Financial Sustainability.

3.04 How to Implement It

[23-345](#)

Aimee Lee provided a summary of the results of a governance survey that committee members participated in which attempted to gauge the level of consensus around centralization of different transit functions (e.g., fare policy, capital planning, service operations, etc.) Lee also reviewed the four major governance reforms under consideration in the PART report (e.g., "*Strengthening a regional entity and maintaining the service boards (Options 1 and 2)*" or "*Integrating service boards into one regional agency (Options 3 and 4)*") and presented several principles that any governance structure reform should seek to address.

Committee members remarked that existing governance structures do not advance a regionally focused system, rather they promote siloed decision-making. Members reflected on governance reforms that took place in 2008 as part of legislation that provided the system new revenues, and how the region can apply lessons learned from that legislation to advance the priorities and address the [problem statements](https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/1523087/PART+How+to+Implement+It+Problem+Statement.pdf/f38459d1-05d7-a617-a9e2-fc79cb3a0682?t=1679068341399) [of the PART report](https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/1523087/PART+How+to+Implement+It+Problem+Statement.pdf/f38459d1-05d7-a617-a9e2-fc79cb3a0682?t=1679068341399).

Members also noted specific weaknesses of the existing governance structure, particularly around

accountability and coordination, and remarked that the system is not designed to address today's challenges. Committee members highlighted the need to carefully consider governance proposals and their impacts on riders while balancing the need to improve integration, regional coordination, and accountability. Members noted potential cost savings of agency consolidation, provided suggestions on the framing of governance proposals, and noted the need to consider the system's workforce in these discussions.

Committee members participated in a second polling activity to gauge feedback on potential strengths and weaknesses of each governance approach under consideration. Members noted that the first approach, "*Strengthening a regional entity and maintaining the service boards (Option 1 and 2)*", does not fully address concerns around coordination and inter-agency competition, maintains existing redundancies, remains confusing for riders which are primarily concerned about service and their destination, and doesn't provide a regional entity the authority to enact priorities which advance regional goals. However, members also highlighted that this approach, with greater accountability, may promote innovation and competition, could still improve the rider experience and assuage concerns around decreased influence that different parts of the region may have in a singular regional entity.

Members noted that the second approach, "*Integrating service boards into one regional agency (Option 3 and 4)*", has the potential to improve service and seamlessness for the rider, could lead to greater cost savings (e.g., consolidated procurement), and is more effective/efficient and provides greater opportunities for public engagement on service planning. Members also noted this approach provides the authority needed to implement a regional transit strategy on capital planning. However, members highlighted that this approach could impact labor negotiations and could create internal friction and mistrust of the allocation of funding to each service division. When surveyed on the preference rank of each governance option, the committee tied on both "*Option 3 - Integrated agency with committees*" and "*Option 4 - Unified new entity*" with "*Option 2 - Regional network manager*" third, and "*Option 1 - Stronger coordinating agency*" last.

The Committee discussed How to Implement It.

3.05 Next steps

[23-342](#)

Daniel Comeaux provided next steps in the PART project. Erin Aleman gave closing statements.

Next steps were discussed.

4.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

6.0 Next Meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

7.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

AGENDA - FINAL

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

9:00 AM

**Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov until Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82933736939>

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1.0 Call To Order**2.0 Approval of Minutes****2.01 Approval of the minutes from July 19, 2023**[23-393](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [PART 7.19.23 Minutes](#)**3.0 New Business****3.01 Overview of draft recommendations: CMAP staff**[23-396](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

Attachments: [Plan of Action for Regional Transit DRAFT](#)**3.02 Steering Committee discussion**[23-395](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

3.03 Next steps[23-398](#)

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

4.0 Other Business**5.0 Public Comment**

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

6.0 Adjournment



PART STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Wednesday, September 6, 2023

9:00 AM

Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

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1.0 Call To Order

CMAP Executive Director and Chair Erin Aleman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed the committee members and called the roll.

Present: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

(Members Carole Brown, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, and Sarah Wetmore attended the meeting virtually, having met the requirements for virtual attendance)

Attendees (in person/online): Nick Blumberg, Kevin Brubaker, Kevin Bueso, Lynnette Ciavarella, Shane Cullen, Michelle Curran, Eric Czarnota, Karen Darch, Kristi DeLaurentis, John Donovan, Ashton Drake, Drew Duffin, Jesse Elam, Jeremy Fine, Jackie Forbes, Mark Fowler, Sam Greene, Ben Heigl, Scott Hennings, Neil James, Pam Jones, Peter Kersten, Mike Klemens, David Kralik, Rick Kwasneski, Brian Larson, Jill Leary, Erik Llewellyn, Hannah Martin, Bill McLeod, Melinda Metzger, Melissa Meyer, Megan Miller, Rob Nash, John Noak, William O'Connell, Kevin O'Malley, Matt Pasquini, Robert Puentes, Phillip Plotch, Molly Poppe, Scott Presslak, Leslie Rauer, Leanne Redden, Ryan Ruehle, Erin Smith, Gordon Smith, Garrett Shrode, Linda Soto, Doug Sullivan, Sonali Tandon, Daniel Thomas, David Tomzik, Michael Vanderhoof, Terry Wendt, Kyle Whitehead, Carter Wilhite, Skylar Woodhouse, Paula Worthington

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Approval of the minutes from July 19, 2023

[23-393](#)

Attachments: [PART 7.19.23 Minutes](#)

A motion was made by Randy Blankenhorn, seconded by Deborah Carroll, to approve the minutes from July 19, 2023. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: MarySue Barrett, Randy Blankenhorn, Carole Brown, Deborah Carroll, Kevin Considine, Dan Cronin, Mark Denzler, Derek Douglas, Jacky Grimshaw, Julie Hamos, Darlene Hightower, Robb Karr, Jack Lavin, David Leopold, Juan Carlos Linares, Tom Livingston, Justin Marlowe, David Narefsky, Jorge Perez, Doug Pryer, Bob Reiter, Roberto Requejo, Amy Rynell, Stephen Schlickman, Karen Tamley, and Jen Walling

3.0 New Business

Chair Erin Aleman welcomed the committee members and called the roll. A motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2023, PART Steering Committee meeting was moved by Randy Blankenhorn, seconded by Deborah Carroll. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Chair Aleman gave introductory remarks and reminded the committee members of the charge from the Illinois General Assembly for CMAP to be bold in identifying recommendations to address the fiscal cliff and improve regional transit's long-term financial viability and sustainability. Chair Aleman noted that, ultimately, transit is about people. It provides mobility for riders and non-riders alike. It also drives the regional economy and is a key driver to meeting the region's climate goals. Likewise, Chair Aleman highlighted that transit is inherently a vehicle for equitable outcomes - connecting people to jobs, education, healthcare, and other opportunities.

Chair Aleman closed introductory remarks by noting that the region's long-range comprehensive plan, ON TO 2050, identifies that regional success relies on transit and that CMAP, as the author of the draft PART report, believes that the cost of inaction is far greater than the cost of action.

3.01 Overview of draft recommendations: CMAP staff

[23-396](#)

Attachments: [Plan of Action for Regional Transit DRAFT](#)

Daniel Comeaux, CMAP Senior Policy Analyst, provided an overview of the draft System We Want recommendations, including a focus on better transit service, providing integrated and affordable fares, enabling faster and reliable bus service, bolstering public confidence, building back a ridership base through regional rail and transit-supportive land use, and investing in a universally accessible system.

Elizabeth Scott, CMAP Policy Principal, provided historical context of transit funding in northeastern Illinois and gave an overview of the draft How to Pay for It recommendations. Scott reviewed the successes and remaining challenges that resulted from the 2008 funding reforms, noted that the service boards are efficient relative to national peers, reviewed baseline principles for funding solutions that CMAP considered, and provided an overview of the proposed funding packages which advance the System We Want recommendations. Scott also provided an overview of the increasing cost of paratransit and the need for greater state funding support for this essential service, as well as greater state support for the regional transit system overall. Lastly, Scott reviewed revenue sources for capital investments that are necessary to support and facilitate the implementation of the System We Want recommendations.

Aimee Lee, CMAP Deputy for Transportation, provided an overview of baseline principles for governance reforms that CMAP established in the PART process. These principles recognize that reforms should be pursued to solve structural challenges of transit governance like funding allocation, coordination of transit service, fares, and capital planning, the farebox recovery ratio and goal-based performance metrics, and regional board appointments. Lee then provided an overview of the two governance reform options that CMAP recommends: (1) integrate the service boards into one regional agency, or (2) strengthen the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) and maintain the service boards. Lee detailed the various transit functions that each governance reform would affect and how it would change from the existing structure. Lee also noted that the centralization of certain functions such as fare policy, funding allocation, and regional service planning - regardless of structure - address the baseline principles outlined earlier.

Staff provided an overview of draft recommendations.

3.02 Steering Committee discussion

[23-395](#)

As to funding, committee members remarked that, while the focus of the PART report is on operational funding, the recommendations should make clear that the funding solutions proposed do not address the system's state-of-good-repair capital maintenance backlog. Members noted the administrative, legal, and political challenges of implementing congestion pricing and dedicating tollway revenues to transit which may affect the feasibility of this revenue source both in the short and long terms. Committee members inquired about the growth of the funding gap beyond 2026 and whether the proposed revenue solutions would address that gap.

Members remarked that pension costs are included in the estimated 2026 budget gap and perhaps should be considered separately for the General Assembly to address alongside any new revenues. Members also noted that additional consideration should be given to the public health impact, both

physical and mental, of an auto-dominated transportation system, and how the proposed PART recommendations can work to address the impact on historically marginalized residents. Committee members also expressed the need to evaluate the equity impacts of the report, particularly regarding the proposed revenue solutions. Lastly, members noted the challenges with dedicating motor fuel tax revenues to transit given that they are already a diminishing revenue source that strain the finances of the overall transportation system.

As to governance reforms, committee members highlighted the need to maintain suburban voices and representation on transit governance boards, regardless of structure. Members noted that both options, as presented, cannot accomplish the same goals outlined in the report and should clearly distinguish the benefits and challenges with each approach for legislators to consider. Committee members highlighted the challenges with an integrated regional agency, particularly regarding pensions and labor agreements. Members also noted the need to include paratransit within the governance discussions as it becomes a growing part of the overall regional transit network and the need to include employer representation within the overall governance framework. Members expressed the need to build public awareness of the PART report, especially given the substantive changes it proposes. Members also noted the importance of connecting the proposed governance reforms with the System We Want recommendations, and how the reforms can help achieve and implement those recommendations.

There was clarification requested of the Steering Committee's role to approve versus guide and adopt the recommendations.

Lastly, committee members commended CMAP staff and leadership for their work on drafting the report and expressed appreciation for their participation in the PART Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee discussed the recommendations.

3.03 Next steps

[23-398](#)

Laura Wilkison outlined the next steps in the PART project, including a discussion of the recommendations by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee on September 13, 2023, and a vote on whether to adopt the report by the CMAP's governing bodies on October 11, 2023.

Next steps were presented.

4.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

5.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.
There were no comments from the public.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Endnotes

- ¹ Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), “Context and Background for the Plan of Action for Regional Transit,” May 2023, <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/documents/10180/1523087/PART+briefing+book+May+2023.pdf/b68e6689-cf0e-8c77-0b9f-adbc92be1936?t=1684168270150>.
- ² CMAP, “Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning,” <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov>.
- ³ CMAP, “Plan of Action for Regional Transit,” 2023, <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/regional-transit-action>.
- ⁴ Legistar, “PART Steering Committee,” 2023, <https://cmap.legistar.com/DepartmentDetail.aspx?ID=50065&GUID=A9F5BEF5-9265-4353-A73E-A4E2EF439D46>.