



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800, Willis Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.cmap.illinois.gov

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program Project Selection Committee

Minutes

October 30, 2009

Members Present: Chair - Ross Patronsky – CMAP, Marty Buehler – Counties, Larry Keller – Council of Mayors, Luann Hamilton – City of Chicago, Mark Pitstick - RTA, Mike Rogers – IEPA (via phone), Betsy Tracy – IDOT (via phone)

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Steven Berecz, Leonard Cannata, Michael Connelly, Chalen Daigle, Kama Dobbs, Lou Dominguez, John Donovan, Nicholas Haddad, Adam M. Letendie, Bill Lenski, Dan Malartsik, Jonathan O'Connell, Keith Privett, Eve Pytel, Tom Rickert, Chad Riddle, Lorraine Snorden, Chris Staron, Chris Tomich, Joe Wade, Mike Walczak, Jan Ward, David Werner, Thomas Weaver, Tim Wiberg, Tammy Wierciak

Staff Present: Patricia Berry, Randy Blankenhorn, Janet Bright, Don Kopec, Holly Ostdick, Joy Schaad

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Committee Chair Ross Patronsky called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

The next meeting was set for Wednesday November 17th at 2:00 p.m. at CMAP.

3.0 FY 2010-2011 CMAQ Program

3.1 Status of Program

Staff informed the committee that all proposed FY 2010 & 2011 projects received a favorable eligibility determination on October 29th. Letters to recipients are in process and the projects will be added to the TIP on November 20.

4.0 Project Changes

Discussion of the requests, justification and staff analysis of benefits/ranking is provided in the October 30, 2009 *CMAQ Project Change Request* memo included with the agenda packet.

It was explained that project changes that were processed as “staff administrative changes” will not be discussed unless a committee member brings such to the floor.

4.1 Des Plaines - Central Rd from Timothy Lane to East River Rd – (TIP ID 03-08-0002)
The projects limits were revised: the west limit, Timothy Lane, was moved to the next street to the west, Wolf Rd, to create a logical terminus. Staff undertook this action as an administrative change.

4.2 Homewood – Village of Homewood Bicycle Network – Near and Mid-Term Priorities – (TIP ID 07-08-0009)
Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor’s request for an adjustment of when their funds would be used. On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by L. Keller, the committee approved the request to move a portion of Homewood’s Phase 2 funding to Phase 1 Engineering in FY 2010 and to move Phase 2 Eng. and Construction to later years. This is the project’s one-time move.

4.3 Downers Grove – Eastern Corridor Bikeway and Bikeway Connections (TIP ID 08-04-0001)
Staff informed the committee that the Village has requested permission to remove the installation of traffic signals from their project and use those funds to complete future years of their bike plan. The staff recommendation is to approve the removal of signals but the sponsor should apply regarding using the unspent monies to fund phases of the village’s bike plan that have not been evaluated and ranked.

Lou Dominguez and Jonathan O’Connell spoke for Downers Grove and said that the current project is \$550,000 which includes \$400,000 for the two signals. Mr. Dominguez explained that the signals did not meet warrants without substantial geometric changes and ROW acquisition. He said that the desired substitute work would be filling in gaps between bike routes that received CMAQ funding for signage and striping in years 1, 2 and 3. A committee member pointed out that there is a specific process for a large scope change and encouraged them to apply for FY 2012 funds. On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee voted to allow the scope change to remove the signal installation but asked the sponsor to apply in future years for completing years 4 and 5 of their bike plan.

4.4 Morton Grove – IL 58/Dempster St. from Ferris Ave to Central Ave (TIP ID 02-03-0001)
Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor’s request for a cost increase of \$1,570,347 federal. Mr. Tomich of Morton Grove addressed the committee and said that the newest estimate is about \$80,000 larger than outlined in the request memo (\$1,654,201 federal). Because the project is on a state route, and is an SRA route, it requires traffic signal modernization, intersection improvements and the relocation of parking to off-street. It is targeted for a March 2010 letting. On a motion by L. Hamilton and a second by M. Buehler, the committee approved the cost increase of \$1,654,201 (federal).

4.5 IDOT – IL 53/Baltimore St. & IL 102/Water St from First St to Kahler Rd. (TIP ID 12-09-0011)

Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor's request for a cost increase of \$128,000 federal for this signal interconnect project in Will County. There were no scope changes; it was apparently a low estimate in the application phase. On a motion by L. Keller and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee approved the cost increase of \$128,000 (federal).

- 4.6 Schaumburg – Del Lago Bikeway Connector (TIP ID 03-06-0001) & Schaumburg Commuter Rail Facility Bikeway Connector – IL 19/Irving Park Rd Bike Path (TIP ID 03-06-0002)

The sponsor's request that the projects be combined into one TIP number (03-06-0002) was processed as an administrative change and was not discussed.

- 4.7 Lake County DOT – IL 132/Grand Ave from IL 131/Green Bay Rd to IL 137/Sheridan Rd (TIP ID 10-06-0062)

Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor's request to move the project to federal fiscal year 2010. This is the project's one time move.

On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by M. Pitstick, the committee approved the one time move.

- 4.8 Lake County DOT – Lewis Ave from York House Rd to 14th St. (TIP ID 10-06-0063)

Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor's request for a one-time change into FFY 2010 and to extend the limits from IL 173 to 14th St. with no cost increase. It was noted that the benefits went up with no cost increase. On a motion by L. Keller and a second by L. Hamilton, the committee approved the schedule change.

- 4.9 Glenview – Techny Trail Segment 3 – West side of Lehigh Ave. (TIP ID 02-08-0001)

The sponsor requested the transfer of funds from Phase 1 (design) to Phase III (construction). Staff undertook this transfer as an administrative change.

- 4.10 St. Charles Park District – Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over Randall Rd at Silver Glen Rd (TIP ID 09-00-0016)

Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor's request for a cost increase of \$55,488 (federal) for completion of the project. IDOT District 1 staff confirmed that the project is currently under construction and can use the additional funding. On a motion by M. Pitstick and a second L. Keller, the committee approved the cost increase.

- 4.11 Kane County DOT – Burlington Rd at IL 47 (TIP ID 09-06-0068)

Staff presented and recommended approval of the sponsor's request to change the scope of the project from a signalized intersection to a roundabout design. The IDOT District One representative, Chad Riddle, said that IDOT has concurred in the design change. On a motion by M. Buehler and a second by M. Pitstick, the committee approved the scope change.

5.0 Program Management

5.1 Rescissions

The MPO Policy Committee has charged the CMAQ Project Selection Committee with developing a recommendation for implementing the rescission that was applied to region's CMAQ program.

Staff provided background on the issue and then presented various options for implementing the rescission. The options were outlined in the October 27 memo included with the agenda. Illinois has a rescission of about \$300 million and the CMAQ program will take a cut of \$83 million statewide, nearly all of which is attributed to our region. After discussion of the pros and cons of each alternative, the committee supported the concepts in Option C of the memo whereby projects that are 100% unobligated are removed from the TIP and moved to a new list (later named the "A" list). When the projects are ready for obligation of engineering, ROW, construction or implementation they will be brought into the TIP immediately by staff without CMAQ Committee action.

A major concern of the committee was determining which projects are ready for obligation. Staff stated that project sponsors would need to request that the project be moved into the current program and give justification for being moved into the current program. The reviewing agencies (IDOT/RTA) have agreed to weigh in on the sponsor's request. After discussing the difficulties on the transit side, staff indicated that they would continue research to identify appropriate triggers for transit projects. Discussion included the fact that this method both solves the financial problem of the rescission and it reinforces the importance of getting projects ready to obligate quickly and may go a long way in shifting the slow obligation rate. It was clarified that all of the new 2010 and 2011 CMAQ projects will be put into the TIP at the November 20th Transportation Committee meeting. Then, when the MPO Policy Committee and CMAQ Board take action on the handling of rescission in January – adjustments to the TIP will be made accordingly. The Committee asked staff to "flesh out" option C further for the next meeting and to provide a list of what projects are will be moved to the A list prior to the next meeting.

5.2 Status of projects with FY 2009 deadlines.

Holly Ostdick reported that Saturday, October 31st is the deadline for status updates from sponsors with FY 2009 project phases. While some updates have come in many have not. Ms. Ostdick reported that the Council of Mayors planning liaisons are reaching out to suburban sponsors to encourage submittal of their updates. A full report will be given at the next meeting.

5.3 Funding Private Sector Projects

Staff reported that the MPO Policy Committee requested information from the CMAQ Project Selection Committee on the reasoning behind the funding of private sector Diesel Emission Reduction Projects (i.e. diesel retrofits for locomotives). The CMAQ committee generally was in agreement that Diesel Emission Reduction Projects provide a huge air quality benefit to our region and unlike automobiles that get replaced with cleaner cars every few years, diesel engines are in service for 50 or 60 years. It was pointed out that the funding going to private entities is at a much higher match ratio than standard CMAQ projects to help alleviate the concern (65/35 vs. 80/20). There was discussion of the common concern that the railroads could just move retrofitted locomotives to a different part of their system and then the benefits would not accrue to our region. Staff explained that the

agreements with the railroads require them to keep the retrofitted locomotives in northeast Illinois.

The committee asked staff to put together a briefing paper for review before it is provided to the MPO Policy Committee in January. Suggestions were offered: emphasize the great air quality benefits; clarify the special match ratio; explain the proof that the locomotives stay in the region once retrofitted; and provide local sponsor input such as Bedford Park and Riverdale who are very happy with the locomotives in their areas. Staff agreed to provide a draft at an upcoming meeting.

5.4 Expected letting of CMAQ projects

The next letting is scheduled to have two CMAQ projects (DuPage and Kane) for a total of \$275,000. McHenry's Walk Up Road project was delayed until January.

6.0 Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7.0 Other Business

One of the Committee member noted that the Meeting Agreements for the last several meetings were not posted on the CMAP website. Other members asked if the documentation of the meetings could be more specific and include a listing of who was in attendance. Staff responded that they will post the previous meeting agreements and reformat future meeting notes according to the committee's preferences.

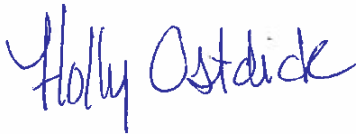
8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting was set earlier for Tuesday November 17th at 2:00 at CMAP.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Holly Ostdick
Manager, CMAQ Program