



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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MPO Policy Committee September 9, 2010—10:00 a.m.

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

MPO Policy Committee Members Present:

Lynette Ciavarella–Metra (Representing Jack Groner), Joe Deal–CMAP, Rupert Graham–Cook County (Representing Joseph Moreno), Gary Hannig–IDOT, Kenneth Koehler–McHenry County, Dennis Mondero–Chicago Transit Authority (Representing Richard Rodriguez), Michael Payette–Class I Railroads, Tom Rickert–Kane Kane County (Representing Karen McConnaughay), T.J. Ross–Pace (Representing R. Kwasneski), Jeffery Schielke–Council of Mayors, Steve Schlickman–RTA, Chris Snyder–DuPage County (Representing Tom Cuculich), Norman Stoner–FHWA, Paula Trigg–Lake County (Representing Marty Buehler), Bobby Ware–CDOT, Rocco Zuccherò–Illinois Tollway

Absent:

Bob Davidson–Kendall County, Elliott Hartstein–CMAP, John McCarthy–Private Transportation Providers, Marisol Simon–FTA, and Larry Walsh–Will County

Staff Present:

Patricia Berry, Randy Blankenhorn, Janet Bright, Bob Dean, Doug Ferguson, George Johnson, Don Kopec, Jill Leary, Tom Murtha, Holly Ostdick, Joy Schaad

Others Present:

Aristide Biciunas–public, Chalen Daigle–McHenry County Council, Kama Dobbs–DMMC, John Donovan–FHWA, Luann Hamilton–CDOT, Charles Ingersoll–IDOT, Jon-Paul Kohler–FHWA, Joe Korpalski–McHenry County DOT, Marta Perales–Illinois MPO, David Seglin–CDOT, and Chris Staron and Mike Walczyk–NWMC

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

At 10:05 a.m., Chairman Hannig called the meeting to order. Introductions of those present for the meeting were made.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Secretary Hannig informed the committee that a proposal of his affecting the distribution of MFT funding was not well received so he is taking it off the table. There will be no change in the distribution of MFT funds. He also noted that there was still some stimulus funding that has not been expended and urged anyone still having such funds to make sure they are expended by the federal deadline.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – June 10, 2010

On a motion by Mr. Schielke, seconded by Mr. Rickert, the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting of the Policy Committee were approved.

4.0 Election of Vice Chairman of the Policy Committee for 2011

Mr. Deal informed the Committee that the Nominating Committee consisting of Mayor Schielke, Marty Buehler, Jack Groner, Tom Cuculich and himself discussed the nomination and are recommending that the current vice-chair, Rich Rodriguez serve a second term as Vice-Chairman. He made a motion to that effect which was seconded by Mr. Schlickman. There were no other nominations. By unanimous vote, Mr. Rodriguez was elected Vice-Chairman.

5.0 End of the Year Legislative Wrapup

Ms. Ylda Capriccioso highlighted a number of bills pertaining to transportation. Among them were legislation allowing the RTA to sell up to \$300 million in working cash bonds; legislation allowing a public-private partnership to implement the Illiana Expressway; and legislation requiring state agencies to use the Housing and Transportation Affordability Index when considering funding allocations. Mr. Ken Koehler noted that although Representative Franks sponsored legislation authorizing an opt out option from the RTA, McHenry County does not support that action.

6.0 Policy Committee Appointment to the CMAP Board

Mr. Kopec reminded the Committee that with the upcoming resignation of Mr. Schlickman, they will be losing their appointee to the CMAP Board. He suggested that since October will be a joint meeting, and November and December will likely have limited meeting agendas if the Board meets at all, that the Policy Committee discuss and select a new CMAP representative at their January meeting. He asked anyone interested in serving in that capacity to contact him. He will then report that interest at the January meeting.

Mr. Schlickman thanked the Policy Committee for having the confidence in him to represent their interests on the CMAP Board. He noted that the job was actually quite easy given the comfortable relationship that has developed between the Policy Committee and the CMAP Board. He commended the staff on their ability to juggle the dual reporting relationship and bring the two boards together to integrate transportation and land use planning. Secretary Hannig thanked Mr. Schlickman for having served the Policy Committee well on the CMAP Board.

7.0 Revised GO TO 2040 Final Draft

Mr. Blankenhorn described the schedule for the joint meeting of the CMAP Board and Policy Committee on October 13th at CMAP at 9:30 am. Members will then be transported to the Harris Theatre at Millennium Park. Committee and Board members will be expected to be available to the media during that event. The purpose of today's meeting is to give everyone here a final opportunity to comment on the plan. There will really not be an opportunity to make changes after this. He then introduced Bob Dean to explain the comments received from the public and the changes made to the original draft plan.

Mr. Dean explained that CMAP conducted or attended over 700 meetings over the summer and received over 1,000 comments, about 300 of which could be described as form letters either for or against a particular capital project. He then highlighted some of the more important changes to the draft plan. The biggest changes were those suggested by the Policy Committee's SAFETEA-LU committee which included adding a map and more detailed description of the fiscally unconstrained projects and additional language supporting public-private partnerships. Additionally, language was added regarding biking and the impacts on transportation of an aging population. Outside the area of transportation, changes were made to sections on arts and culture, water and energy, local food, work force boards and taxation. Finally, extensive reformatting took place to make the document more graphically pleasing. He then asked for final comments.

Mayor Schielke expressed his appreciation for the treatment in the plan regarding expanding the RTA service areas beyond its current boundaries. He noted that a number of counties outside the existing RTA service area have unrealistic expectations regarding what the RTA can do for them. Mr. Schlickman echoed that sentiment saying the RTA has spent a considerable amount of time with the "ring around the collar" communities, educating them on what they need to do to acquire an effective transit system. Ms. Ciavarella also supported that aspect of the plan. She also noted that everyone is probably aware of Metra's issue regarding what is and is not in the list of fiscally constrained projects in the plan. Another issue is the unequal treatment of projects by FHWA and FTA which permits highway projects to advance much further than transit projects before they need to be included in the long range plan. Mr. Schlickman emphasized that this clearly illustrates the deep financial straits that the state and transit are currently in. Given our financial condition, we will not be able to expand the system.

Mr. Rickert commended the staff on the excellent document and the process of developing the plan. He noted the professionalism and responsiveness of staff throughout the development of the plan.

Mr. Dean thanked the committee for all the work they and their staffs have put in to help develop this product.

8.0 Other Business

Mr. Blankenhorn pointed out that a handout was distributed to the members that outlined the message that we are sending out to the media and others regarding *GO TO 2040*. It

will give members of the committee an outline for their conversations in the coming weeks.

Mr. Blankenhorn then thanked Mr. Steve Schlickman of the RTA for his service to the MPO Policy Committee and presented him with a plaque honoring his years of service. Mr. Schlickman, who is retiring from the RTA at the end of the month, has served as that agency's Executive Director and representative to the Policy Committee for the past five years. Mr. Blankenhorn emphasized the close working relationship between the two agencies. He met with Chairman Gates yesterday and expects that to continue. Mr. Schlickman thanked Mr. Blankenhorn and the committee. He noted that in his 30 years in the business, serving on the Policy Committee and as their representation to the CMAP Board was a great pleasure. He noted that he would still be working in the field and looked forward to the continued evolution of planning.

Mr. Stoner mentioned upcoming summits on the FHWA campaign "Everyday Counts." He noted that these were invitation only events and encouraged those receiving an invitation to attend.

9.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment from the meeting attendees.

10.0 Next Meeting – Wednesday, October 13, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

Mr. Kopec noted that this will be a joint meeting with the CMAP Board to consider adopting *GO TO 2040*. He reminded the members that the meeting is on a Wednesday and will begin at 9:30 am.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m. on a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Ross.

Approved as presented, by unanimous vote, October 13, 2010.