



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## MPO Policy Committee Agenda January 8, 2009 – 10:00 a.m.

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

- 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions** 10:00 a.m.
- 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**
- 3.0 Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2008**  
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval
- 4.0 Agency Reports**
- 4.1 Council of Mayors' Report
  - 4.2 CMAP Report
- 5.0 Unified Work Program**  
Preliminary work developing the FY10 Unified Work Program has begun. The Committee will be updated on the process.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Informational
- 6.0 Revised CMAQ Procedures**  
The CMAQ Project Selection Committee has discussed many strategies for creating 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. A draft of the recommended programming revisions is attached.  
ACTION REQUESTED: Informational
- 7.0 Acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway by the Canadian National Railway**  
The Surface Transportation Board has approved, with conditions, the acquisition of the EJ&E Railway by the CN. The CMAP Board had thorough discussions debating the merits

of the acquisition and despite their best efforts, they were unable to reach a consensus regarding a position either supporting or opposing the acquisition. However, during their discussion, they identified a number of reasons supporting both sides of this very important issue and sent a letter to both the STB and the CN describing their deliberations.

The Committee will be briefed on their discussions and the final ruling by the STB.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

## **8.0 Economic Recovery Package**

The CMAP Board has passed a set of principles that would guide the implementation of a federal economic recovery package. The most recent proposal discussed has grown to \$850 billion. Still to be decided is how much will be allocated to transportation infrastructure and how will the money be distributed? A prominent theme of all discussions is the "Use it or lose it" stipulation that will require recipients to spend the funding within 90-180 days. How the funding is distributed within the state, and how projects are analyzed and selected is also unknown at this time. Congress is expected to act quickly on this issue and have a bill ready for the new president to sign in late January.

The Policy Committee will be asked to review the CMAP Board principles and discuss their impact on transportation investments.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

## **9.0 Transportation Committee Membership**

### **9.1 Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee**

The Policy Committee bylaws state that the committee will appoint one of its members or alternates as the Chair and one of its members or alternates as the Vice-Chair of the CMAP Transportation Committee for calendar year 2009.

ACTION REQUESTED: Appoint Chair and Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee

### **9.2 Business Leaders for Transportation**

Per the MPO Policy Committee bylaws, the Transportation Committee members are determined by the MPO Policy Committee. A current member is Business Leaders for Transportation, led by the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC), Chicago Metropolis 2020 and the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce. With the dissolution of the Business Leaders for Transportation, MPC has requested that the member of the Transportation Committee be changed to the Metropolitan Planning Council.

ACTION REQUESTED: Remove Business Leaders for Transportation from the Transportation Committee and add the Metropolitan Planning Council.

## **10.0 Other Business**

### 11.0 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 exact time for the public comment period will immediately follow the last item on the agenda.

### 12.0 Next Meeting – March 12, 2009

### 13.0 Adjournment

#### MPO Policy Committee Members:

	Rita Athas		Kenneth Koehler		Steve Schlickman
	Martin G. Buehler		R. A. Kwasneski		Jeffery Schielke
	Thomas G. Byrne		John McCarthy		Milton R. Sees
	Tom Cuculich		Karen McConnaughay		Marisol Simon
	Bob Davidson		Joseph Moreno		Norman R. Stoner
	Elliott Hartstein		Philip A. Pagano		Larry Walsh
	Ron Huberman		Michael Payette		Rocco Zucchero