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To: Planning Coordinating Committee

Date: May 2, 2007

From: Bob Dean, Associate Regional Planner

Re: Update on Regional Comprehensive Plan Development

This memo provides an update on development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan, which is to be completed and adopted by the CMAP Board and the Metropolitan Planning Organization by fall 2010. The Planning Coordinating Committee is expected to be the primary committee responsible for developing the plan.

Below is a description of activities -- in-progress or planned for the near future -- related to the development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Attached to this document is a draft schedule of the major actions that will be requested from the Planning Coordinating Committee between now and 2010.

Vision development. The development of a vision for the region's future is central to the plan's development. The regional vision will build on goal-setting processes for the 2040 Regional Framework Plan and the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan. The vision will be published in an illustrated, narrative document that describes the desired future of the region.

- Most working committees have reviewed the goals and objectives in the 2040 Regional Framework Plan and 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, identifying which ones are most related to their committee's work. Attached to this memo is a document reflecting the priorities of the working committees to date. An explanation of the process used to develop this document will be provided at the Planning Coordinating Committee meeting.
- In May, June, and July, each working committee will undertake facilitated discussions of these identified goals and objectives, to identify the major issues and ideas within each goal and the overarching themes that connect the goals and objectives.
- CMAP will hold a photography contest during the summer, asking residents of the region to take photographs of what they value about northeastern Illinois. This contest will help to engage the public in the planning process and will also provide CMAP with photographs that can be used in the visioning process for the Regional Comprehensive Plan and other documents.

- A visioning event will be held in late August or early September. Members of all of CMAP's committees, the Board of Directors, the Metropolitan Planning Organization, and other relevant groups will be invited. At the event, the issues and themes identified by the working committees will be discussed, and the content of a regional vision will be preliminarily developed.
- After the visioning event, CMAP's working and advisory committees will work on developing a draft regional vision. A recommendation for the endorsement of the regional vision is expected to be sought from the Planning Coordinating Committee in March 2008.

Regional snapshot report series. The Regional Snapshot was published in February 2007 and contained an overview of current regional conditions for CMAP's issue areas. Building from this report, a series of more detailed reports will be prepared to provide more detail and analysis of specific issues, focusing on those issues which will need to be addressed in the Regional Comprehensive Plan.

- Staff has begun work on two reports in the series. The first of these, on sustainability, will define this complex topic, consider how it will be addressed in the Regional Comprehensive Plan, and identify potential measures of sustainability. The second report, on the jobs-housing balance, will analysis the location of affordable housing relative to appropriate jobs, and will also examine the transportation links between them. A third report, on recent major demographic changes such as immigration and aging, will be initiated during the summer.
- The release of these reports will occur approximately quarterly. They will continue to be prepared and released during the next several years.
- Appropriate working committees will be involved in the preparation of these reports.
 For example, the Environment and Natural Resources committee will be primarily involved in the sustainability report, while the Economic and Community Development committee and the Housing committee will both be involved in the jobs-housing balance report. Working committee involvement will include review of outlines, discussion of report focus and content, and review of draft documents.

Strategy analysis. The 2040 Regional Framework Plan and the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan recommended the implementation of a number of planning strategies. CMAP will conduct a thorough analysis of the effect of these strategies to ensure that the recommendations made in the plan are fully grounded in an understanding of their impacts.

- Staff is currently working to identify strategies to be analyzed. Discussion of these potential strategies with the working committees will occur during the summer.
- Also during the summer, CMAP will hire a number of interns to begin background research on the effect of the potential implementation strategies.

• At a later stage in the plan development process, alternative future scenarios for the region will be constructed and evaluated based on how well they meet the regional vision. Each scenario will consist of a number of the strategies described above. The strategy analysis will be used as the basis for determining the performance of each alternative scenario.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discuss and provide comments on current activities and the plan development schedule. Also, provide preferences on timing of visioning event.