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# **Planning Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes**

March 14, 2007 8:00 a.m.

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Cook County Conference Room Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

## **Committee Members Present:**

Michael Smith – Chair (CMAP Board). David Cole (Housing Committee), Zenovia Evans (CMAP Board), Luann Hamilton (Transportation Committee), Elliott Hartstein (CMAP Board), Ed Paesel (CMAP Board & Land Use Committee), Andre Rice (CMAP Board), Rae Rupp Srch (CMAP Board), Ingrid Ruttenje (Environment & Natural Resources Committee), Holly Smith (Human Services Committee),

**Staff Present:** Randy Blankenhorn, Bob Dean, Tom Garritano, Joy Schaad,

Ron Thomas, Ty Warner.

Others Present: Tom Cuculich (DuPage County), Tam Kutzmark (DuPage

Mayors and Managers Conference), Christina Siepel

(Resurrection Project), Sid Weseman (Regional Transportation

Authority).

#### 1. Call to Order and Introductions

Michael Smith, Mayor of New Lenox and Chair of the Planning Coordinating Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Committee and audience members introduced themselves.

#### 2. Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 3. Role of the Planning Coordinating Committee within CMAP

Chair Michael Smith described the role of the Planning Coordinating Committee (hereafter abbreviated "Planning") in relation to the working committees. He indicated that the six working committees would consider issues and send recommendations to Planning and Programming, and these coordinating committees would then determine whether there is consensus or whether additional discussion is needed at the working committee level. Randy Blankenhorn emphasized that the role of the coordinating committees was to reach consensus among the working committees, and then provide recommendations for action to the Board. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that a list of the members of each working committee would be distributed, and that future Board and Planning packets would contain short summaries of working committee activities.

Ed Paesel asked whether the Developments of Regional Impact (DRI) process would be handled through Planning. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that this would be primarily the responsibility of Programming, although Planning would need to consider the impact of these major projects on long-range planning. Chair Smith advised that some DRI projects would be long-term, and should go to both committees, and Mr. Blankenhorn responded that this was possible, as the process has not been developed yet. Luann Hamilton asked whether all DRI projects would be major transportation projects, and Mr. Blankenhorn responded that they could include infrastructure projects, major developments or land use changes, and even policy proposals. Ms. Rupp Srch asked whether CMAP would have the ability to determine criteria and process for reviewing DRI projects, and Mr. Blankenhorn responded that this was the case in the current legislation giving CMAP the authority to undertake these reviews.

#### 4. SAFETEA-LU Compliant 2030 RTP Update

Joy Schaad described the purpose and process of the SAFETEA-LU update to the 2030 RTP. She explained that this was largely an administrative change to respond to new federal requirements and guidance in SAFETEA-LU by updating text in the 2030 RTP. Ms. Schaad stated that changes were focused in the sections on transportation safety and security, economic development, public participation, and the relationship of the RTP to the 2040 Regional Framework Plan.

Elliott Hartstein expressed concern that Planning had not received sufficient opportunity to review and comment on the document, and stated that the committee's usefulness will be limited without an improved flow of information. Mr. Blankenhorn responded that the review process of this document was unusual, as the update process had begun through the previous CATS structure before the CMAP committee structure had been fully formed. He stated that future items of this type would be handled through CMAP's new process, in which Planning is a central committee for this type of document. Chair Smith emphasized that this update was simply meant to bring the region into compliance with SAFETEA-LU.

Mr. Paesel asked whether NIPC would have an opportunity to review and comment on the document, and Mr. Blankenhorn stated that they could, per the existing interagency agreement.

#### 5. Regional Comprehensive Plan Development

Mr. Blankenhorn introduced the 2040 Regional Comprehensive Plan. He informed the committee that the development of the plan would be occurring over the next three years, and that it would be linked to the celebration of the 100-year anniversary of Daniel Burnham's Plan of Chicago. He stated that CMAP and its partners were optimistic about the Regional Comprehensive Plan, and expected it to be a plan for the region for the 21st century.

Ron Thomas stated that the Regional Comprehensive Plan would build on the 2040 Regional Framework Plan, and that some important features of the new plan would include links to the Burnham centennial, the use of visualization techniques to illustrate the concepts in the plan, and high levels of public involvement. He stated that implementation was also critical and would be strengthened by the integration of planning and programming activities at CMAP.

Ty Warner reviewed the project flowchart. He stated that the working committees would soon begin reviewing the goals and objectives from the 2040 Regional Framework Plan and the 2030 RTP, and this process would lead to the development of a regional vision. He also described the proposed regional snapshot report series, the strategy analysis process, and the development of regional models for land use, transportation, environment, and other areas. Mr. Warner stated that this process would result in the development of alternative future scenarios and recommendations for policies, strategies, and investments to best meet the regional vision.

Chair Smith stated that transportation and land use modeling had been separate activities before, and asked if this would still be the case. Mr. Warner responded that there would be integration, and Mr. Thomas added that modeling is only part of the analysis and decision-making process. Mr. Paesel advised that Planning should be involved in ensuring the integration of the models used in the plan development process.

Mr. Hartstein stated that most of the region is already developed, so the planning process and any modeling tools that are used must be sensitive to this. Ms. Hamilton added that issues such as historic preservation and teardowns should be considered in the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Ingrid Ruttenje stated that the plan could have considerable local support if it can be developed properly. Chair Smith agreed, and noted that the Burnham Plan had been successful due to the buy-in of the business community into the plans.

Mr. Blankenhorn stated that there were many activities that needed to be undertaken in the development of the plan, and cited the development of modeling tools, the analysis of potential future strategies, and public participation. Mr. Warner added that a series of workshops planned for May and June would be the first step in engaging communities in the plan development process. He also noted that the Burnham Plan was accompanied by a teaching tool, the Wacker Manual, which was still being used in Chicago schools until the

1960s. He stated that the new Regional Comprehensive Plan had to engage youth as successfully.

## 6. Other Business

There was no other business.

## 7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

## 8. Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for May 9, at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Rupp Srch asked that the committee agendas be focused, to allow maximum time for committee discussion on relevant issues. Mr. Hartstein agreed that all reports provided to the committee should be relevant.

# 9. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 a.m.