



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

## Agenda Item No. 6.0

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**To:** Planning Coordinating Committee

**Date:** March 5, 2008

**From:** Bob Dean, Principal Regional Planner

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**Re:** Regional Vision Development

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This memo provides an update on the development of the regional vision, which is a central part of the *GO TO 2040* plan. A draft vision was prepared after the visioning event in September 2007, and a survey has been available in online and paper forms since October 2007 to gather input. In addition, CMAP staff have held facilitated discussions with working and advisory committees and other stakeholders to provide additional opportunity for input on the vision statements.

Based on the results of the survey and comments received, reactions to the vision statements have been positive, but there are a few areas where there has not been consensus on the vision's direction. At its March 12, 2008 meeting, staff will ask the Planning Coordinating Committee to discuss these areas. The committee will not be asked to develop language for the vision statements, but to provide staff with general direction in resolving conflicts. Please note that public involvement will continue after the March 12 meeting, and if additional areas of disagreement arise, more guidance from the committee may be needed.

Areas where discussion is requested include the following, each of which is discussed in more detail on the following pages:

- Equity
- Freight
- Intergovernmental Cooperation

### EQUITY

The draft vision language concerning equity was:

- Equity will be pursued as a regional goal to create a high quality of life in all parts of our region. Regional decisions will strive to not create "winners" and "losers," but will improve the lives of all residents equitably.
- Policy and investment decisions will benefit all parts of our region, and all residents will have equitable access to the region's assets.

- Regardless of age, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status, all residents will be healthy, educated, safe, mobile, and involved in their communities.
- Building on the many ethnicities and cultures that have strengthened our region's society, the diversity of northeastern Illinois will continue to be celebrated in 2040.

Survey responses to this language were fairly negative, and several working committees also commented that the equity section needed improvement.

Staff recommends significant changes in this language, as follows:

- The benefits and burdens caused by the region's investments and policies will be fairly distributed to all parts of the region.
- In addition, these benefits and burdens will be shared between groups of people, regardless of age, gender, income, ethnicity, culture, or disability status.
- All residents will have the opportunity to access the region's economic, educational, and other assets.
- The diversity of the region's many cultures will be celebrated as one of our strengths.

**Staff requests that the committee give direction concerning whether the above language concerning equity is going in the right direction.**

## TRANSPORTATION

The transportation section of the vision includes language concerning freight, including the following:

- Building on its history as the nation's freight capital, the region will thrive as an international hub of goods movement and intermodal logistics, due to an efficient, fluid and expandable transportation system.
- Our regional systems of interstates and toll roads, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, airports, freight and intermodal facilities, and water-based transportation options will continue to serve the region's needs and support its quality of life.

CMAP's freight stakeholders have requested that freight be a "major theme" in the document, rather a part of the transportation theme. Other themes in the document include environmental health, energy and resource conservation, water supply, education, public health and safety, housing, economic competitiveness, reinvestment, coordinated planning and government, and civic involvement.

Freight stakeholders have argued that freight is a major part of the region's economy and identity, and that it is more than just a piece of the region's transportation system. Staff is in agreement with this, but is concerned that creating a separate theme for freight would make it appear more important than the rest of the transportation system.

A representative from the Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF), a sub-committee of the Economic and Community Development committee, will be on hand to provide additional perspective from the freight community on this issue.

**Staff requests that the committee give direction concerning the treatment of freight in the vision.**

#### **COORDINATED PLANNING AND GOVERNMENT**

Two statements in the coordinated planning and government section of the vision caused concern among local officials who reviewed the vision statements. These were:

- While celebrating the diversity of the region's municipalities, we will share resources and plan collaboratively to promote efficiency and equity in planning our region's economic, environmental, social, and infrastructure systems.
- Intergovernmental cooperation based on mutual benefit will structure taxation in the region to promote reinvestment and equitable access to resources among communities.

In the first bullet, concerns were raised about the reference "shared resources." To some officials, this implied the redistribution of tax revenue. A possible solution is to add language indicating that the sharing of resources must be done for mutual benefit.

In the second bullet, the reference to taxation and "equitable access to resources" caused concern among some local officials. Taxation has a major impact on development decisions, and must be addressed if our planning work is to have any real grounding. The above bullet is meant to make the point that the taxation system should not pit municipalities against one another in seeking tax revenue.

**Staff requests that the committee give direction concerning the issues raised above.**

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Discussion and direction on the items identified above.

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