



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 4.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: Local Coordinating Committee

From: Hala Ahmed, Senior Planner

Date: June 1, 2011

Re: Community Planning Program Grants

As part of the implementation initiatives for GO TO 2040, CMAP entered into a partnership with the Regional Transportation Authority to expand their existing Community Planning Program to offer more opportunities for the integration of transportation and land use planning. This is a competitive grant program that provides funds for municipalities in the northeastern Illinois region to participate in the planning of local transportation, transit and transit-related development. The partnership between the two agencies will provide additional funding to an expanded base of eligible applicants and projects as well as facilitate inter-agency coordination.

CMAP has set a tight schedule for the review and approval of the Community Planning Program grants, based on its interest in moving aggressively to implement the GO TO 2040 plan and provide resources to local governments for planning. Applications are due June 9, and will be discussed with working committees and other stakeholders during June and July. The Board is scheduled to take action on a recommendation on August 10.

The Local Coordinating Committee is currently scheduled to meet immediately preceding the Board on August 10, and will be asked to recommend action to the Board. Committee members may be interested in having an additional meeting earlier in the process at which they can discuss the recommended projects before being asked to take action. However, staff also does not want to schedule an additional meeting for the committee unless it is necessary.

Therefore, staff recommends that a date for an *optional working meeting* of the Local Coordinating Committee be scheduled in case it is necessary. No action will be taken at this special meeting, and committee members will be encouraged to call in rather than attending in person. The process for determining whether this meeting is necessary is proposed to be:

- Staff recommendations will be prepared by Friday, July 22 and sent to committee members to review. The committee will be asked to review them by Tuesday, July 26.
- If all committee members are comfortable with the recommendations, no additional meeting will be scheduled, and the committee will meet next on August 10.

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- If any committee member believes that a separate meeting to discuss the projects is necessary, they will let CMAP know this by July 26. CMAP will then inform the other committee members that the optional working meeting will occur as scheduled.

If this approach is acceptable to the Local Coordinating Committee, CMAP will distribute an online survey to determine the date of the optional working meeting, seeking to find dates between July 27 and August 3. It should be emphasized that this meeting is hoped to be unnecessary.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion.

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