Board Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2009

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

Board Members: Gerald Bennett-representing southwest Cook County, Frank H. Beal-representing the City of Chicago, Roger Claar-representing Will County, Joe Deal-representing the City of Chicago, Russell Hartigan-representing west Cook County, Elliott Hartstein-representing Lake County, Al Larson-representing northwest Cook County, Marilyn Michelini-representing Kane and Kendall Counties, Raul Raymundo-representing the City of Chicago, Rick Reinbold-representing south Cook County, Andre Rice (via teleconference)-representing the City of Chicago, Rae Rupp Srch-representing DuPage County, Dan Shea-representing McHenry County, and non-voting members Steve Schlickman-representing the MPO Policy Committee and Ian Doughty-representing the office of the Governor.

Absent: Alan Bennett-representing suburban Cook County, Nigel Telman-representing the City of Chicago.

Staff Present: Randy Blankenhorn, Jill Leary, Dolores Dowdle, Tom Garritano, Matt Maloney, Jesse Elam and Sherry Kane.


1.0 Call to Order and Introductions
The Chairman, Mayor Gerald R. Bennett called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m., and asked Board members to introduce themselves.
2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements
There were no agenda changes.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2009
A motion to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2009 board meeting, as presented, was made by Russell Hartigan and seconded by Mayor Al Larson. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Executive Director’s Report
Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn reported that real projects could be postponed or even eliminated because of transportation rescissions that took effect at the end of the federal fiscal year. Of particular concern to CMAP is the local STP program which, if traditional methods are used in determining the local amount, could result in an amount greater than the expected $15 million. Further, Blankenhorn reported, the CMAQ program’s project selection team met and recommended addressing the $83 million rescission by moving projects out of the region’s TIP into a multi-year “B” list that allows the TIP to meet fiscal constraint and would also require project sponsors to manage their projects or risk losing the funding.

Blankenhorn also reported on CMAP’s involvement in Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG): ARRA Competitive Grant Opportunity that could result in 8-20 awards ranging from $5-75 million. A Letter of Intent due tomorrow, Blankenhorn continued, CMAP will apply for $62 million of “Retrofit Ramp-Up Program” funds as the lead applicant on behalf of the region. A copy of the Letter of Intent will be forwarded to the CMAP Board.

5.0 Contract Approvals
A motion to approve a contract award for coordinating the Hickory Creek Watershed initiative in the total amount of $39,310 to the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT) made by Mayor Marilyn Michelini, seconded by Frank Beal and with all in favor, carried. A motion by Mayor Rick Reinbold that was seconded by Dan Shea for the approval of local government outreach services in an amount not to exceed $50,000 to Dan Podgorski carried, although Russell Hartigan voted no.

6.0 Committee Reports
Committee Chair Elliott Hartstein reported that the Planning Coordinating Committee had met and discussed the development process for the Preferred Scenario, that will form the basis of GO TO 2040’s recommendations. Currently being presented to stakeholder groups for comments, the Regional Scenario will be brought to the Board for approval in January. Hartstein also reported that potential recommendations of GO TO 2040 will be brought to the Board for discussion over the next several months, the first two potential recommendation areas Tax Policy and Open Space, will be discussed later today. The Board will be asked to discuss the proposed direction for each of these recommendations and provide feedback to staff. Finally, the committee discussed the production and
promotion of GO TO 2040 and Hartstein reported that staff is currently in the process of selecting a consulting firm and the Board will likely be asked to approve a contract at its December meeting.

7.0 Potential GO TO 2040 Recommendations
Senior CMAP staff, Matt Maloney gave a presentation entitled “Tax Policy and GO TO 2040” meant to brief the board on some topics staff had been exploring regarding state and local taxation in our region and discuss the subject matter within the scope of GO TO 2040. The presentation sparked a lengthy discussion on such topics as sales tax sharing and equity, sustainability with housing, jobs and investments, the Motor Fuel Tax, retail sales tax and real estate taxes, a progressive income tax and the development of a task force comprised of government, academia, business and other concerns to get started now to look at tax policy. Staff was complimented on its work and the Board confirmed that CMAP should be addressing these issues.

Senior CMAP staff, Jesse Elam presented a GO TO 2040 Policy Briefing entitled “Open Space and Parks”, stating that staff’s recommendation that one of the top priorities in the GO TO 2040 plan should be to protect conservation areas in the region and to improve access to parks. A network of parks connected by open space corridors was one of the main recommendations of the Burnham Plan, and it was suggested that this concept be extended and updated by looking at it from a green infrastructure perspective. Analysis by CMAP suggests that the region still needs to increase its supply of parks and open space and GO TO 2040 should focus on providing more parks where there is now the least access to parks, establishing more preserves to protect the areas that have the highest conservation value, and to provide connections between the parks and the preserves. The connections are meant to fill out the green infrastructure network.

8.0 Other Business
Board Chair Mayor Jerry Bennett reported briefly that the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) had recently released a draft watershed management resolution that he believes can damage development in Cook County and urged that an economic impact analysis be conducted.

8.0 Public Comment
There were no comments from the public.

9.0 Next Meeting
A schedule of next year’s meeting dates was distributed and will be included in the December packet. The Board will meet again on December 9, 2009.
10.0 Adjournment
A motion to adjourn made by Mayor Al Larson was seconded by Dan Shea at approximately 10:53 a.m. All in favor the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Leary, Chief of Staff

11-30-09
/stk

Approved as presented by unanimous vote, December 9, 2009.