



## Regional Coordinating Committee

### Minutes

Wednesday, March 13, 2013

**Cook County Conference Room**

**233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800**

**Chicago, Illinois**

#### **Committee Members**

##### **Present:**

Elliott Hartstein, Chair (CMAP Board) via tele-conference, Frank Beal (Metropolis Strategies-CMAP Board), Pat Carey (Cook County-Economic Development Cmte.), Sheri Cohen (Chicago Dept. Public Health-Human & Community Services Cmte.), Mike Sullivan (Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors-Environment and Natural Resources Cmte.), Michael Gorman (President, Village of Riverside-CMAP Board), Andrew Madigan (CMAP Board), Ed Paesel (South Suburban Mayors & Managers Assoc.-Land Use Cmte.), Leanne Redden (RTA-Transportation Cmte.), Rae Rupp Srch (DuPage County-CMAP Board)

##### **Others Present:**

Kristen Andersen-Metra, Bruce Carmitchel-IDOT, John Donovan-FHWA, Mark Pitstick-RTA, Tom Vander Woude-South Suburban Mayors & Managers

##### **Staff Present:**

Randy Blankenhorn, Matt Maloney, Jill Leary, Patricia Berry, Gordon Smith, Jesse Elam, Randy Deshazo and Sherry Kane

#### **1.0 Call to Order**

On behalf of the Chair, Michael Gorman called the meeting to order at 8:12 a.m., and asked committee members to introduce themselves.

#### **2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

#### **3.0 Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2013**

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2013 meeting as presented made by Rae Rupp Srch was seconded by Ed Paesel. All in favor, the motion carried.

#### **4.0 Proposed Amendment to GO TO 2040**

CMAP staff Matt Maloney summarized the analyses, public comments received (during the period that ended February 18, 2013) and recommendations regarding two proposed amendments to GO TO 2040- the inclusion of the Circle Interchange and a technical change to the Prairie Parkway description. Staff reported that the Circle Interchange project includes mostly major reconstruction elements but it also adds highway capacity, and federal law thus requires that it cannot move forward unless included as a major capital project in GO TO 2040. Transportation Committee Chair Leanne Redden described that committee's discussion and subsequent recommendation for approval. While concerns had been raised about amending the two year old plan and associated funding, a motion by Rae Rupp Srch to recommend that the CMAP Board amend GO TO 2040 to include the Circle Interchange project was seconded by Ed Paesel. All in favor, the motion carried. Staff also reported that the FHWA had indicated the need for a technical change to the Prairie Parkway description in GO TO 2040 that would preserve consistency between the TIP and GO TO 2040. A motion by Leanne Redden was seconded by Rae Rupp Srch to recommend that the CMAP Board amend GO TO 2040 as had been presented. All in favor, the motion carried.

#### **5.0 GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendment and Metropolitan Planning Area Revision**

CMAP staff Patricia Berry presented the Semi-annual GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendment reporting that the GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendments are considered twice annually because of dynamic and changing programming. Having already been reviewed by the Transportation Committee who recommended approval, Berry continued, a recommendation is sought by the Regional Coordinating Committee for approval ultimately from the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee. A motion by Leanne Redden was seconded by Rae Rupp Srch to recommend approval of the semi-annual GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendments, as presented, to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee. All in favor, the motion carried. Berry also reported on a recommendation to expand the MPA boundaries to include the townships of Sandwich and Somonauk (in DeKalb County) in the Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors resulting from federal regulations and an increase in population in the 2010 census. A motion by Mike Sullivan was seconded by Leanne Redden to recommend approval of the expansion of the MPA boundary to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee. All in favor, the motion carried.

#### **6.0 Freight Policy Issues**

CMAP staff Randy Deshazo gave an update on recent developments in freight from MAP-21. Deshazo reported that MAP-21 established the need for a National Freight Policy and the designation of a primary freight network of up to 27,000 miles of highways and recommends that the states prepare their own freight plans, with participation of state freight advisory boards. MAP-21 also directed U.S. DOT to prepare a national freight plan, involving stakeholders from various regions and sectors of freight movement in a national freight advisory committee, Deshazo continued. Nominations for the federal freight advisory committee are now being accepted. CMAP expects to work with other larger major metros to develop a consensus on freight policy for the upcoming transportation

reauthorization bill, and as called for in GO TO 2040, CMAP will conduct a feasibility analysis of a regional freight authority. The region's highways and rail infrastructure are highly congested, and existing financial resources are limited. The freight industry lacks a unified voice in Springfield and in DC and CMAP will explore ways to provide a voice for freight needs, and develop new revenue to execute projects. CMAP will form a task force to advise staff and then the board with the process taking about a calendar year after the board considers the proposed taskforce membership in June. Staff is working identify potential taskforce members, Deshazo concluded.

## **7.0 Green Infrastructure Network**

CMAP Staff Jesse Elam gave a presentation on the potential policy applications of the Chicago Wilderness Green Infrastructure Vision, a GIS tool that identifies the most critical natural areas in northeastern Illinois and links them with open space corridors. One of the 12 priorities in GO TO 2040, Elam reported, was to expand and improve parks and open space using a green infrastructure approach. CMAP has worked with Chicago Wilderness, along with a national leader in green infrastructure planning (The Conservation Fund) to improve the technical aspects of green infrastructure mapping and is now exploring ways to consider regional green infrastructure in various programming and local planning activities. Elam noted that Delaware Valley and Southeast Wisconsin regional planning commissions had done somewhat similar work. Elam gave an overview of current recommendations that include land conservation, municipal planning, and transportation programming and project development. IDOT staff Bruce Carmitchel reported that this is of great interest and comments [from the department] would be forthcoming. Other comments included the possibility that green infrastructure mapping would affect land values. Ed Paesel reported on the SSMMA pilot within the Little Calumet watershed working with the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District. The state's Millennium Reserve initiative was also cited as a potential linkage with the Green Infrastructure Vision.

## **8.0 State Legislative Update**

CMAP Staff Gordon Smith presented the State Legislative Update and reported that of the over 6,000 bills that had been introduced in the first two months of the session, CMAP is particularly interested in HB 1549 associated with performance measures. The bill was moved to sub-committee and the Metropolitan Planning Council was working diligently to alleviate concerns. Smith also reported that SB 1594 associated with a CMAP and RTA merger had been delayed. Members raised concerns about CMAP's neutrality on two bills- HB2481 (Local Government Distributive Fund) and HB2460 (Codifying a 50/50 split in state highway funds.) Regarding HB 2481, it was reported that the Illinois Municipal League had taken the lead in opposing the bill and regarding HB 2460, it was reported that CMAP does not support arbitrary formulas. Rather, the agency's priority is moving toward performance-based funding.

## **9.0 Other Business**

There was no other business before the Regional Coordinating Committee.

## **10.0 Public Comment**

There were no comments from the public.

### 11.0 Next Meeting

The Regional Coordinating Committee meets next on June 12, 2013.

### 12.0 Adjournment

At 9:06 a.m., a motion to adjourn made by Rae Rupp Srch was seconded by Sheri Cohen. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Mark", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

04-15-2013

/stk

*Approved as presented by unanimous vote, June 12, 2013*