



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 4.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional Coordinating Committee

From: CMAP Staff

Date: May 4, 2011

Re: Elgin O'Hare West Bypass

IDOT and FHWA began the Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass project in 2007 to study transportation issues in a 127-square mile project area west of O'Hare Airport. The study area is a densely developed mix of residential, commercial and industrial development and a major transportation and employment center.

Two closely aligned efforts are currently underway on this project. First, Tier Two engineering and environmental study is working to refine design within the preferred corridor. These details are necessary to better determine the extent of the project footprint, and measures to avoid, minimize or mitigate environmental effects. Project documentation from Tier Two will include the Tier Two Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Preliminary Geometry, Design Report, Drainage Report, Financial Plan, Project Management Plan and continued stakeholder involvement. These documents will provide the basis for contract plan preparation and full ROW acquisition to advance construction.

Secondly, on October 5, 2010, Governor Pat Quinn signed Executive Order 2010-13 creating an Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass Advisory Council. The Council's mission is to make recommendations in the development of an implementation, financing and operating structure for the infrastructure improvements surrounding and supporting O'Hare International Airport including the extension of the existing Elgin-O'Hare Expressway and a new West Bypass, and explore viable funding options for a new complimentary public transit network. As part of this work, the Council shall strive to maximize economic opportunities for the region, support diversity, and incorporate sustainable practices and planning. Abundant background materials for these efforts can be found online at the project Web site: <http://www.elginohare-westbypass.org>

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The Regional Coordinating Committee will receive a presentation on these efforts from Pete Harmet, Bureau of Programming, at the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Rocco Zucchero, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning, at the Illinois Tollway.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information and Discussion

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