

**Executive Committee
of the Regional Planning Board**

Wednesday May 10, 2006
9:00 -10:00 a.m.
DuPage County Conference Room
Offices of the Regional Planning Board
800 Sears Tower
233 South Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois

Meeting Minutes

**Pasel, Schlicman, Shea, MM, EH, AL, Rae, Nigel, Smith, Bennett, Athas, Rice Raul.
Beal, Evans, Blankehorn**

I. Call to Order-*Mayor Gerald Bennett, Board Chair*

9:08 MB call to order

Holly Ostidick, McCOM
Bruce Christensen, Lake County
Tom Cuculich, DuPage County
Dave Seglin, CDOT
Tom Kutzmark, DMMC
Mila Walczak, NWMC
Jill Leary, WCMC
Gordon Smith, IDOT
Beth McCluskey, NC
Jan Metzger, CNT
Scott Goodson, MPC
Pete Skossey, MPC
Les Nuenes, IDOT
Maria Urban, CM2020
Jacky Grimshaw, CNT

II. Approval of February 23, 2006 and April 12, 2006 Meeting Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 23 and April 12 meeting minutes was made by Member Shea, seconded by Member Larson, and passed unanimously.

III. Report to the Legislature-*Joyce Hollingsworth*

Ms. Hollingsworth distributed a timeline to guide the report preparation. She stated the timeline is very aggressive but considering everything the board is doing the report needs to incorporate all of that. Vice-Chair Athas stated she was pleased with the timeline and added she wants to be able to build consensus and have time available for people to comment. Ms. Hollingsworth

responded that the first draft will be ready between mid July and early August. Chairman Bennett stated he would like to establish, through the Public Participation Committee, a time within the region for the public to view and comment. Ms. Hollingsworth stated it appears everyone is satisfied with the timeline and inquired about content. In section 15 of the legislation the recommended strategies on how to move forward, comprehensive planning, funding, and consolidating functions of CATS and NIPC are all to be included in the report. Ms. Hollingsworth asked the board to clarify on content, length, and appearance of the report.

Chairman Bennett stated the board would like to include a summary of all the work that has been done by the team of consultants (possibly in table form) A narrative and power point including committee structures and agendas of each of committee should be included. Vice-Chair Smith stated the report itself should be as lengthy and comprehensive in nature as it needs to be, but should be accompanied by a synopsis. Member Hartstein stated the easier it is to synthesize the better, bullet points, executive summary and bullet points of major issues that someone can read through would be ideal. Vice-Chair Athas expressed concern about the appearance that on the front end a lot of work has been done, but it is very detailed and specific work. The report needs to be detailed enough to illustrate that. Member Schlickman asked if the full RPB will receive of copy of the information to review. Member Michelini and Member Paesel agreed the board should receive a full copy before the stakeholders.

IV. Organizational Design-Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director RPB

The Transition Committee has been working on the organizational design and setting a direction for the organization. The law calls for a deputy for Transportation and a deputy for Comprehensive Planning. Given that this organization is trying to be combined and integrated, we have steered away from that and developed a 6 manager team. In regards to forecasting and research it was decided that this is so important and crosses so many lines it should become a direct report. In regards to economic development there is a great desire to be effective in that capacity but do not want to take over roles of other organizations.

Member Paesel stated he believes the reorganization of staff is top priority. He also recommends going back to the NIPC and CATS Policy Committee because they are still in place. He believes that trying to implement things with out some support form the existing structure would be a mistake. Member Hartstein agreed stating he believes buy in from these key stakeholders is important. Member Larson commented he believes there needs to be discussion with these groups because there is a certain amount of paranoia and we want to ensure them of our intentions. Mr. Blankenhorn stated CATS policy committee is considering having a special meeting to

discuss these issues. He stated the RPB needs to be sure that everyone is included. Chairman Bennett added he believes we need to be sure to reach out and the RPB has the ultimate decision to create and implement the plan in a timely manner. Member Hartstein stated the timeframes are fast paced and things get schedule in a relatively short window so we need to give people as much lead time as possible to arrange schedules should they want to attend and be involved in the process. Mr. Blankenhorn stated a lot of people can't be in a physical place but have been able to participate through electronic meeting in case the majority of the board could be there and some could not, we can work through conferencing and technology.

V. Governance

Mr. Blankenhorn stated there seems to be little support to redesignate the MPO, leaving option A off the table and work to develop option B. Chairmen Bennett stated the board knew from day one that changing the MPO would be quite involved and difficult, but we are not saying that it won't happen in the future. Option A would tie up this organization and we would not be able to make out recommendation to the legislature. The Executive Committee recommends Option B and further research and development. Vice-Chair Athas stated the board has not voted today, we needed clarification when the redesignation happens and did not want to the public to think the board has voted on an option. The board was asked if they had any objections to researching Option B. Member Larson objected, the rest of the board agreed. Member Schlickman stated SAFTEALU met last week and there was a lot of concern expressed from the policy committee to review the presentation. H summarized that communication is a major concern, and Option B was not clear. He stated they received clarification on Option B but do not believe it is workable. They believe the designation of the MPO should remain with the RPB and the structure of CATS should remain in place. A meeting will be convened to create more conversations that will be acceptable to the CATS policy committee.

Chairmen Bennett stated whether or not it is the board's fault to be communicating what we are doing or not it is the board's responsibility to integrate land use and trans planning. The board needs to move forward and integrate these two organizations. Some of the comments made about not changing anything were confusing because our authority is to integrate land use and transportation planning. We have spent a lot of time as board members integrating two agencies and are looking to do what we need to do to accomplish our tasks. The board agrees that NIPC and CATS Policy Committee must be part of this but how we do that in an effective organization is our charge. Member Schlickman responded members f the policy committee understand RPB is on the fast track, and CATS policy

committee is not set up for that, but are now looking to make a well coordinated effort. Many members of the Policy Committee were involved in the development of the legislation and the reaction of these persons was very blunt. Member Schlickman stated putting the past behind and moving forward is something everyone can agree on. Chairman Bennett stated when speaking of governance there are 15 people of this organization representing people in the area and the RPB is not an exclusive club, the charge at hand is to not have multiple decision makers but to have further input from the grassroots organizations and mayors on planning issues. What is on the table is to give them more serious direct work at a local level. Member Hartstein stated this goes back to the board needing to work on outreach and expressed an understanding of the fast paced nature of the board but believes the RPB has a responsibility to meet the integration goal. Member Hartstein stated that it is easier to remove Option A from the table, but does not think there has been discussion to make a choice. He continued to state the board needs to deal with the issues, Member Larson responded he feels the issues are being dealt with.

Member Rice asked for clarification on why Option A was no longer being explored. Member Schlickman responded it requires the redesignation of the MPO. Member Rice inquired if this was bad for the people of the area, continuing to state his understanding was we need to do what we need to do to help the region move forward. Member Schlickman stated initially there was resistance to the RPB if it involved the redesignation of the MPO and from transportation planning point of view there wasn't a need to redesignate the MPO. The legislation states the MPO designation shall remain with CATS. Chairman Bennett responded that is not completely true. To change such designation requires the vote of the current members, and if redesignation does not occur the RPB would need to incorporate those 21 members into our board. Member Evans stated the board is only trying to reach a consensus to direct staff to further examine Option B and at a later date the board may want to make a recommendation but at this point we should follow Option B and move forward.

Member Shea stated he has experience in attempting for a unified plan. If something does get delayed you can pass the transportation plan separate but you have to keep up to date transportation plans floating in order to maintain funding. The RPB can probably bring back more money if we bring back a transportation plan. Vice-Chair Smith stated we keep hearing that Option A had a number of concerns, and Option B was not clear. The concern is representation, the board needs to address the concerns in order to achieve consensus and move forward. Vice-Chair Smith noted the difficulty of this task but stated its importance.

Chairman Bennett stated the final decision making body lies with this board and that needs to be noted. He stated that the board is aware there has to be

components to have service agencies involved. Member Rupp Srch stated the law states what is to be done and the new legislature requires coordination with transportation and land use. Both existing structures have been successful and that needs to be noted. The board needs to be careful of the wording, and the MPO can not be a separate committee that just meets once a year. Vice-Chair Athas stated this conversation is evidence that the board still has questions about the options. She stated she agrees with Member Evans, staff should be allowed to explore but no final decision has been made. Mr. Blankenhorn stated this organization was built on consensus and we are committed to that. We have not done a spectacular job reaching out but we will do a better job at that.

Memembr Hartstein stated the board has been very busy and noted the accomplishment of hiring the new Executive Director. The board now knows we have a leader and we know Randy is committed. Member Telman stated that point is well taken but in terms the of the outreach I think the board needs to take responsibility for that as well, not just staff.

VI. By Laws

Tom McKone stated Ms. Lorraine Tyson receive some late comments to the By Laws and will have another draft to the board by Tuesday, requesting final comments by May. June 5 the final copy will be circulated with vote during the June meeting.

VII. Other Business

The June board meeting has been moved to June 21, 2006.

VIII. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Member Larson, seconded by Member Telman, and approved unanimously.