

Update on Regional Freight Leadership Task Force

GO TO 2040 and the subsequent CMAP Freight Cluster Drill-Down Report call for a Regional Freight Authority to be explored to address institutional and funding barriers affecting the freight system in northeastern Illinois. To move this recommendation forward, GO TO 2040 calls for the region to convene freight stakeholders and transportation implementers to discuss potential institutional models for a Regional Freight Authority, including consideration of revenue sources and governance issues. CMAP is convening the Regional Freight Leadership Task Force to meet this call.

In June 2013, the CMAP Board approved the membership of the Regional Freight Leadership Task Force. The Task Force first met in October 2013 and will continue meeting through May 2014, with a final report to the CMAP Board expected in June 2014. The Task Force's webpage is available here: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/involvement/committees/other-groups/regional-freight-leadership-task-force>, and the direct link to minutes and other meeting materials is available here: <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/about/involvement/committees/other-groups/regional-freight-leadership-task-force/minutes>. All materials described below are available at the second website.

The remainder of this document summarizes the materials produced to date.

October 18, 2013

The first meeting of the Task Force introduced the scope and membership of the Task Force. Staff presented on the economic importance of freight to northeastern Illinois and also provided an overview of ongoing freight groups at the national, state, and regional levels.

November 15, 2013

The second meeting of the Task Force focused on case studies. Staff provided background material on three freight institutions: the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority in Southern California, the Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board in Washington State, and KC SmartPort in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Guest speakers representing each of the case studies presented to the Task Force.

January 10, 2014

The third meeting of the Task Force discussed institutional models. Staff presented a review of the case studies, and also presented background material on conceptual models for freight institutions, reviewed the scope of a "Regional Freight Authority" envisioned in GO TO 2040, and surveyed existing institutions in northeastern Illinois that are relevant to freight.

February 7, 2014

The fourth meeting of the Task Force will begin discussions on potential revenue sources, project costs, and planning and programming processes. Background materials for this meeting will be available online beginning January 31, 2014.