



MEMORANDUM

To: CMAP Freight Committee

From: Randy Deshazo, Senior Policy Analyst

Date: September 17, 2012

Re: CMAP Freight Mobility Strategic Plan and the Freight Committee

Staff recently completed developing a strategic plan to implement GO TO 2040's freight related objectives and to better coordinate ongoing CMAP staff activities related to freight. Given CMAP's increased emphasis on furthering policy objectives in freight mobility, the following brief on the Strategic Plan will introduce the concerns that will be coming before the Committee over the next year. While the Freight Committee will focus more on policy issues, freight operational issues will be considered by the Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (RTOC) with periodic updates to the Freight Committee.

The CMAP Freight Mobility objectives are:

- Create a National Vision for Freight
- Raise CMAP profile with CREATE
- Investigate the feasibility of a Regional Freight Authority
- Continue work on identifying opportunities for operational improvements
- Identify, study and implement opportunities for freight demand management

Each objective is described in brief, below.

Create a National Vision for Freight

Develop a Policy Platform with input from the Freight Committee to articulate CMAP's position on federal freight policy and to use the platform as the basis for legislative advocacy.

Raise CMAP profile with CREATE

Participate in CREATE meetings and offer technical support for any future project additions to the CREATE project list.

Investigate the feasibility of a Regional Freight Authority

Working with the Freight Committee and other stakeholders, analyze the advantages and disadvantages of establishing an institution that will provide financing for freight related projects and support the coordination of freight related policies across the region.

Continue work on identifying opportunities for operational improvements

Support the Chicago and McHenry Truck Route Planning studies, support an IDOT study of a potential managed lane on I-55, and update the CMAP highway network. Staff will also produce a Community Briefing Paper on truck routes with Local Technical Assistance program staff. These issues will be highlighted in RTOC with periodic updates to the Freight Committee.

Identify, study and implement opportunities for freight demand management

Collect and synthesize data on truck travel by time of day, coordinated inter-agency restrictions for truck permits, and prepare a Community Briefing Paper on local ordinances and truck movements with Local Technical Assistance program staff. These issues will be highlighted in RTOC with periodic updates to the Freight Committee.

Ahead of the November meeting of the Freight Committee, staff will send out a survey to the Committee Members on their interest in participating in the Freight Committee.