

## 6.5 Other comments received

Tuesday, August 11, 2009  
From: Sheri Pellegrini, Esq.  
Submitted via email

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Dear Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning,

I will not be able to attend the Yorkville meeting tomorrow evening. However, to the extent that you are soliciting public opinion, I would like to offer the following comment:

In discussing future growth and environmental issues, it seems that everyone is avoiding discussion of the one action that would solve virtually every environmental issue we face: **REDUCE THE POPULATION!** Instead of glorifying people who burden our planet with litters of children, we should be encouraging couples to refrain from having children, or at least to limit their reproduction to one child per couple. Childbearing is not just a religious issue anymore. Planned parenthood is the ultimate in "going green." What have you incorporated into your "Invent the Future" plan to encourage reduced population growth?

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sheri Pellegrini

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Friday, September 4, 2009

From: Joe DiGiovanni

Submitted via email

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Hello,

Thank you for the follow up. I am comfortable with the process and choices that I was allowed the opportunity to contribute as a non public sector employee.

I humbly share the following in hopes that the future of the corridor I moved to in 2005 (Montgomery west of Orchard off US30) does end up like every other corridor that experiences an influx of out growth.

For example:

I was in Elk Grove Village for 28 years (1959 to 1988)...the greater Woodfield area (Arlington Heights, EG, Hoffman Estates, Rolling Meadows, Roselle, Schaumburg, etc.,) became one massive grid lock on main roads like Arlington Heights Road, Biesterfield, Thorndale, Devon Ave, Higgins (IL RT 72), Gulf Rd (RT 58), Meacham, Roselle Rd, Rt 53/Rohling Rd, Irving Park Rd....

I moved to Carol Stream in 1988 through 2005...no grid lock anywhere...by the time I left...Army Trail, North Avenue, Rt 59, Gary, Bloomingdale Rd, Schick, Lake Street...became the same as the above.

And the same Rt 59 is a disaster in the Aurora-Naperville corridor...does it take 300,000 plus residents in these two communities for the savvy people of Illinois to realize that four or more lanes in each direction would be needed...but now are really needed but this is all after the fact.

I surley respect growth and progress but the inconvenience and stress that comes along with more difficult and longer commutes is a burden on ones family and health.

It seems every road no matter how much planning...is widened and the tax payer must stress through the development.

Why not build four to six lane infrastructure roads to begin...inventing the future is great and investing in the future would be even greater.

I learned a tremendous amount about the seven counties being one region...we can surely look at the massive grid lock in Cook and Dupage as these areas matured and prevent the same kind of pain by investing in the infrastructure of the future first and foremost.

Orchard, US30, Rt 47, Rt 34 are already headed into the stressful transit conditions...I moved to this area a short 4 years ago thinking the great state of Illinois would not the same things that happened in Cook and Dupage happen to the very open, airey, untapped and refreshing land of the Kane and Kendall corridors....

Once again...thank you for allowing a resident to attend the session in Montgomery.

Warm regards,  
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Friday, August 21, 2009

From: Daniel Milz

Submitted via email

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Mr. Blankenhorn,

While it may be a little stale, I wanted to follow up with you on my experience at your organization's Invent the Future Workshop I attended in Crystal Lake towards the end of June. You were speaking at transportation engineering luncheon that same afternoon, and at the time, I promised to get you some feedback. Apologies for the delay, but hopefully it will be of use to you.

Let me first say, that prior to attending, I've been extremely impressed by CMAP's ability to employ "Web 2.0" technologies to spread the message and build public support and consensus for Go To 2040. As a planner myself, I've sat through countless public hearings and presentations that just don't seem to engage the public in the way your group has. We both know the problems inherent in trying to capture public input; we often only hear from a small, keenly interested segment of the population. So, I fully appreciate the elegance of the methods you and your staff have developed here. It appears that you've been capturing the opinions of a very wide segment of the population. It is also nice to be able to monitor the results as they grow and change with the addition of new groups and to see the differences between communities via the projects web site. I find myself checking back frequently.

The process itself at Crystal Lake was fantastic. I'm a huge fan of complex systems and systems dynamics, so it was really enjoyable to watch the collective results emerge from the group almost in real time. It was very reminiscent of early attempts at IT conferences to have large audiences fly airplanes through individual decision making. I think your staff did an excellent job of explaining the relevant categories while remaining objective and unbiased. This was clear evidence of your staff's experience in participatory planning. There is a fine line between facilitating a process and presenting "expert opinion," and the presenters did a fantastic job of maintaining that balance.

By far the most impressive component was the limited set of indicators. It may seem trivial, but CMAP did an excellent job in determining the six most relevant factors which will determine the future of the region. Too many times, we over collect. I'm working on project which is cataloguing natural areas in Illinois. We are collecting, literally, hundreds of data fields. Frankly, it's overkill, but CMAP has chosen the right indicators to provide the most insightful statements about what the future of the region might look like given different scenarios.

I have one minor critique. Forecasters everywhere seem to think that metropolitan populations are going to continue growing exponentially; with good reason. The trends are all in place and the models do suggest continued explosive growth. But population growth is a highly dynamic process, and I found myself thinking, what would happen to all of these scenarios if for some unexpected reason the growth forecasts were incorrect. I know that Youngstown, Ohio drafted and approved a shrinkage plan to deal with its loss of residents over the last 25 years. And, it would be interesting to see how these scenarios would vary if they were being framed by population reduction as opposed to exponential growth. Just a thought to ponder...

Please pass my compliments along to your staff. They have done a fantastic job developing the methodology and facilitating the public planning process. I'm very interested in the outcome of this project, but I'm also very interested in planning in the region in general. It was great meeting you, and I would greatly enjoy continuing a dialogue with you. I was impressed with your practical understanding of the world of planning during your speech in June and would like to learn more and possibly be involved where possible.

Regards,

*Daniel C. Milz*

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Friday, August 21, 2009  
From: Michael Goff  
Submitted via email

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Andrew-

I've attached my work shop notes for your use.

Contact me with any questions and with suggests for how I might help.

CMAPs approach to gathering information is novel. Thank you for all of your hard work on a very complex project!

Sincerely,

Michael Goff  
847-867-8964 mobile

*e.p.s. Why Goto2040 and not Goto02040 or Goto 02400? I'm curious about the choice of the period, which is just about 1 human generation's time in length. I wonder how planning changes when one considers 2 or more generations. I also wondered if anyone at CMAP had been reading Ray Kurzweil when the 2040 date was chosen. Those of us around in 2040 may get to live forever, eh, with a reduced need for transit services; but with a real need for stable electric power, perhaps;*  
<http://www.kurzweilai.net/articles/art0363.html?printable=1?>