



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 4.0

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MEMORANDUM

To: UWP Committee

From: Dolores Dowdle
Deputy Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: October 1, 2014

Re: FY 2016 UWP Process

Unified Work Program (UWP) federal funding is available for transportation planning projects within a metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the primary responsibility for preparing the UWP for its metropolitan area. The federal guidelines state that all planning and implementing agencies must be an integral part of the planning process and participate in the development of the UWP.

In the CMAP region, the UWP Committee serves as the project selection body for this process. The committee is chaired by IDOT, who votes in case of a tie. The membership is comprised of a representative from each of the transit service boards (CTA, Metra and Pace), the City of Chicago, RTA, CMAP, a representative from the counties, and a mayor representing the Council of Mayors. In addition, representatives from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) are non-voting members. The UWP Committee establishes program priorities and selects core and competitive proposals. Final selections are approved by the Transportation Committee and the Regional Coordination Committee and then forwarded to the MPO Policy Committee and the CMAP Board for approval.

The UWP priorities followed for the last three years align with the regional priorities described in the GO TO 2040 Plan and the 2015 update of the Plan. The approved priorities are:

- *Modernization of the Public Transit System.* GO TO 2040 recommends an enhanced focus on prioritizing planning work for the modernization of the existing transit system. Actions include work on coordinating services and fares, including pursuit of a universal fare payment system, work on traveler information systems, and technological improvements including transit signal priority and ART. Project proposals, especially from the transit agencies, should feature these elements as a primary component.

- *Financial Planning Including Innovative Financing Strategies.* GO TO 2040 also stresses an array of recommendations related to transportation finance, including improved financial planning. Actions include strengthening transit financial oversight, planning for efficiencies that reduce transit operating costs, the identification of funding sources for CREATE, and continued planning/policy work on other important issues of fiscal policy to improve the transportation system.
- *Improving Decision-Making Models and Evaluation Criteria for Project Selection.* GO TO 2040 also emphasizes improving decision-making processes for transportation projects, as well as the overarching importance of prioritization for making investments given constrained funding. This includes constructing improved models for answering the most pressing questions about major projects and designing appropriate and regionally-vetted evaluation criteria for judging projects.
- *Planning Work Toward Implementation of GO TO 2040 Major Capital Projects, Including Supportive Land Use.* The continuation of near-term work to further GO TO 2040's short list of fiscally constrained major capital projects is also a high priority. Potential work includes planning for the inclusion of transit components as part of major highway projects, advancing recommended transit projects through the New Starts program or other discretionary funding programs, and planning for supportive land use around transportation, including active technical assistance to local governments.
- *Local Technical Assistance and the Formation of Collaborative Planning Efforts.* A major emphasis area of GO TO 2040 is providing targeted technical assistance to local governments, information sharing, and formal planning efforts that focus on transportation and other interconnected issues of livability.

CMAP staff recommends that the FY 2016 UWP process follow the following format, which is a slight alteration from last year:

- The Call for Projects will be made in January and will include both the Core and the Competitive proposals.
- The Core and the Competitive proposals will be presented to the Committee. The Committee will score the Competitive proposals as in years based, based upon the alignment with the regional priorities listed above.
- CMAP staff will conduct an in-depth proposal review and develop a proposed program for the UWP Committee's consideration. The proposed program will incorporate the Committee's rankings of the Competitive proposals.

The revised schedule for the development and approval of the FY 2016 UWP process is as follows:

Development of Program Priorities and Selection Process

UWP Meeting	October 8, 2014
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Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals	January 5, 2015
All Proposals Due (Core and Competitive)	January 30, 2015

Proposal presentations

UWP Meeting - Presentation of Proposals	February 11, 2015
UWP Committee members rank proposals	Due to CMAP February 20, 2015
CMAP prepares committee ranked proposals with funding allocation	February 26, 2015
UWP Meeting - Adopt FY 2016 Program	March 5, 2015

Committee Approval

Transportation Committee considers approval of FY 2016 UWP to MPO Policy Committee	April, 2015
Regional Coordinating Committee considers approval of FY 2016 UWP to CMAP Board	May or June 2015
CMAP Board considers approval of proposed FY 2016 UWP	June 10, 2015
MPO Policy Committee considers approval of proposed FY 2016 UWP	June 11, 2015
UWP Document Released	June 2015

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