Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2012

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Cook County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Board Members Present: Gerald Bennett, CMAP Board Chair-representing southwest Cook County, Frank Beal-representing the City of Chicago, Susan Campbell-representing the City of Chicago, Roger Claar-representing Will County, Michael Gorman-representing Cook County, Elliott Hartstein-representing Lake County, Al Larson-representing northwest Cook County, Andrew Madigan-representing the City of Chicago, Marilyn Michelini-representing Kane and Kendall Counties, Heather Weed Niehoff-representing the City of Chicago, Raul Raymundo-representing the City of Chicago, Rick Reinbold-representing South Suburban Cook County, Rae Rupp Srch-representing DuPage County, Dan Shea-representing McHenry County, and non-voting member Leanne Redden-representing the MPO Policy Committee (via tele-conference)

Staff Present: Randy Blankenhorn, Jill Leary, Dolores Dowdle, Don Kopec, Bob Dean, Matt Maloney, Gordon Smith, Dan Olson and Sherry Kane


1.0 Call to Order and Introductions
CMAP Board Chair, Mayor Gerald Bennett, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., and asked Board members to introduce themselves.
2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements
Board Chair Mayor Bennett announced that Alan Bennett, representing suburban Cook County, and who had served as a CMAP board member for approximately 5 years had submitted his resignation. Mayor Bennett went on to say that he would be missed and on behalf of the entire CMAP Board, wished him well.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – June 13, 2012
A motion to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2012 Board meeting as presented, made by Dan Shea, was seconded by Marilyn Michelini and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 Executive Director’s Report
Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn reported on the following topics.
- CMAP’s FY 2012 Annual Report that had been completed over the summer was distributed. Blankenhorn stated that the report would be forwarded to the Governor’s office and legislators.
- Not having met since June, Blankenhorn welcomed the Board back and reported on several highlights that took place over the summer, including a Federal Transportation Reauthorization (MAP-21) that finally passed after 11 extensions of SAFETEA-LU.
- CMAP hosted a peer exchange that was attended by both IDOT and the RTA, as well as other state’s MPOs and DOTs.
- The Local Technical Assistance (LTA) call for projects was released and closed over the summer and more information will be provided, Blankenhorn reported, later in the meeting.
- CMAP was the recipient of both national and regional awards for GO TO 2040. Given bi-annually, CMAP received the national Transportation Planning Excellence Award from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in partnership with the American Planning Association (APA) and the Transportation Research Board (TRB). The Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) honored CMAP and GO TO 2040 with its Burnham Excellence in Planning Award.
- Blankenhorn reported that next month the CMAP Board would meet jointly with the MPO Policy Committee and topics including MAP-21 implementation, performance-based programming and congestion pricing will be covered.
- Having sub-contracted with 12 Latino community-based agencies including the Resurrection Project, CMAP completed its Latino Travel Tracker Survey in August Blankenhorn reported. The Data will be used to model people’s travel behavior.
- Regarding talks of a merger of CMAP and the RTA, Blankenhorn reported that John Gates had been invited and will attend the Council of County Board Chairs’ meeting later in the month. Mayor Bennett also reported that Metropolis Strategies had given a presentation to the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus’ Executive Committee.
- Finally, Blankenhorn reported that a summary of CMAP’s working committees’ activities over the summer had also been distributed and that Don Kopec, CMAP Deputy Executive Director of Planning and Programming would be announced
President to the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations at its annual conference later in the morning.

5.0 Procurements
A motion to approve the following procurements made by Dan Shea was seconded by Mayor Marilyn Michelini and with all in favor, carried.
5.1 A contract renewal for market and financial analyses for Local Technical Assistance (LTA) projects for one year to Valerie S. Kretchmer Associates (SKA) in the amount of $80,000 bringing the total contract amount to $130,000.00.
5.2 A contract renewal for visualizations for LTA projects to Solomon Cordwell Buenz (SCB) in the amount of $50,000 bringing the total contract amount to $130,000.
5.3 Award of contract to provide assessment of economic development incentives to S.B. Friedman in the amount of $74,777.
5.4 Award of contract to provide assessment of regional fiscal and economic impacts of local development decisions to S.B. Friedman in the amount of $93,838.00.
5.5 Approval of Energy Impact Illinois (EI2) Program contract concept changes resulting in the reduction of the Village of Oak Park’s administration of a multi-unit retrofit improvement program in an amount of $100,000, a reduction of $3,000,000 to the SCI Energy, Inc. loan program for commercial and industrial retrofit program and a $430,000 reallocation from the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) all of which would be used to expand other programs.

6.0 Election of Officers
President Michael Gorman, chair of CMAP’s nominating committee reported that the committee had met, discussed and recommended for re-appointment to the CMAP Board the following slate of officers:

- Mayor Gerald Bennett, Chair
- Susan Campbell, Vice Chair
- Elliott Hartstein, Vice Chair
- Rae Rupp Srch, At-Large Member
- President Al Larson, At-Large Member
- Raul Raymundo, At-Large Member

Gorman went on to say that the committee had also discussed with staff a potential rotational policy of the at-large members and that additional reporting on that topic may occur in December or January. A motion by President Gorman to approve the slate as was recommended by the Nominating Committee was seconded by Frank Beal and with all in favor, carried.

7.0 Legislative Recap
A brief legislative recap was given by CMAP staff Gordon Smith. Smith reported that a new bill HB 6216 had been introduced to address the short term problems prompted by
the summer drought. The bill, in emergency situations, would allow the Department of Natural Resources the authority to regulate and permit all water use within a determined disaster area. The topic drew criticism from some board members who suggested that at the local level, this matter is being handled just fine. Blankenhorn interjected that IDNR understands that water is both a regional and local matter and could be using this as an opportunity to continue discussions regarding the need and importance of water supply planning statewide and in the region.

8.0 Energy Impact Illinois (EI2) Program Update
CMAP staffer, Dan Olson presented the Energy Impact Illinois (EI2) Program Update, and led the board through a general overview and status update on the financial and retrofitting targets for the grant, additional detail on programmatic updates within multi-family, residential and commercial programs sectors, and review of the programmatic changes heading into the final year of the program including recent clawback actions and fund reallocation plans. Olson concluded with the following summary: the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Better Buildings program nationally are emphasizing the use of remaining grant funds on consumer incentives to spur greater demand for energy efficiency; work continues in the design and implementation of rebates and incentives that complement existing programs with utility and grant partners; and “Dollars for Doing” (rebates of up to $1750 per home) are available now! Olson fielded questions raised by board members regarding owner-occupancy and condos, competitive financing that is offered and the practicality of reaching goals.

9.0 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program Update
A brief update of the existing local technical assistance (LTA) program was given by Bob Dean. Dean reported that currently 40 projects are underway, one-third of which are being handled by consultants, that 14 projects have been completed, and that it is anticipated 2 or 3 additional projects per month could be completed through fall. Dean also reported implementation is important, and that actions on a smaller scale, such as assistance with grant applications, training and meetings are helping to advance a few projects each quarter. Details of projects currently underway had been distributed in the Board packet. Regarding the recent call for projects—both the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) and the Community Planning program—Dean reported that a good range of project types had been received, that a good geographical mix was represented and that staff continues its work on recommendations and prioritizing, particularly the multi-jurisdictional and high-need community projects. A summary of this was also included in the Board packet. Dean also reported the review process and timeline would conclude with consideration by the Local Coordinating Committee and approval by the Board at its joint meeting with the Policy Committee in October.

10.0 Other Business
CMAP board member Frank Beal, Executive Director of Metropolis Strategies, thanked the Board for its feedback and comments regarding the CMAP/RTA merger and indicated that the status quo is just no longer satisfactory. Beal distributed a handout that shows Chicago as second (only to Houston) to last in terms of ridership increases over the period 1991-2010. It is believed that the problem is with the RTA and its service boards. Leanne Redden asked if Metropolis Strategies would make its presentation to the RTA board.
Others confirm that it is an important conversation and asked what can be done to improve use of transit. Modernization of equipment is important so that the transit experience can compete with the driving experience. New initiatives, such as Bus on Shoulders and BRT can also have an impact on transit ridership.

11.0 Public Comment  
There were no comments from the public.

12.0 Next Meeting  
The Board meets next on October 10, jointly with the MPO Policy Committee.

13.0 Adjournment  
At 10:45 a.m., a motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Al Larson and seconded by Rae Rupp Srch. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Leary, Chief of Staff

09-17-2012  
/stk

Approved as presented by unanimous vote, October 10, 2012