



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Economic Development Committee

Minutes

Thursday, November 13, 2014,

9:00 a.m.

DuPage County Conference Room

233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800

Chicago, Illinois

Committee members present: Pat Carey (vice-chair, Cook County), Greg Bedalov (Choose DuPage), Peter Creticos (Institute for Work and the Economy), Katie Hamilton (Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce), Emily Harris (Harris Strategies), Gretchen Kosarko (RW Ventures), Kelly O'Brian (Alliance for Regional Development), Lance Pressl (Institute for Work and the Economy), Kurtis Poszgay (Berwyn Development Corporation)

Others present: Jennifer Miller (Cook County)

Staff present: Erin Aleman, Jonathan Burch, Bob Dean, Lindsay Hollander, Jacki Murdock, Jason Navota, Brian Peterson, Elizabeth Schuh, Simone Weil

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions

Committee vice-chair, Pat Carey, called to order at 9:05am.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No agenda changes were made.

Erin Aleman briefly discussed FUND 2040, CMAP's proposal for a regional infrastructure fund. Aleman shared that the fund would support prioritized investments in transportation, including freight; water, with a focus on flood mitigation; and parks and open space. These were core areas of focus in GO TO 2040 and investments could improve quality of life and economic prosperity in the region. FUND 2040 would move a significant number of important projects toward completion -- leveraging additional private and public investment. CMAP and its partners are building a coalition of business, civic, and labor leaders to support the effort. Aleman shared a draft proposal with the committee. Staff will follow up with additional information.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting was made by Greg Bedalov, seconded by Peter Creticos, and with all in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Cook County CEDs and Comprehensive Plan

Jennifer Miller, a program manager with the Cook County Cook County Department of Planning and Development, provided an update on the dual-track comprehensive planning process. The effort will guide funding requests, investments, and partnerships over the next five years around community development, affordable housing, and economic development. The effort will result in the development of a new [Consolidated Plan \(Con Plan\)](#) and [Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy \(CEDS\)](#).

The effort builds on Partnering for Prosperity and GO TO 2040 to develop strategies to address infrastructure, business and workforce development, and affordable housing. Currently the plan is out for public comment, committee members are encouraged to contribute. Miller shared that ongoing outreach has been critical to the success of the project. The Cook County Board will consider it in early 2015.

5.0 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program Evaluation and Next Round

Bob Dean presented the findings and conclusions from a comprehensive evaluation of the Local Technical Assistance program. The review focused on the approximately 90 completed projects evaluating the types of projects and strategies, implementation, staffing, among other factors.

Dean reported that the LTA program has helped the region's communities translate the principles of GO TO 2040 to the local level. Some LTA projects have had implementation successes, leading to meaningful changes in the communities that they cover. Others have not progressed very far since their adoption. The evaluation allows us to make adjustments to the program that will improve the success of future projects.

The evaluation identified several potential administrative and programmatic changes. First, CMAP should increase the focus of the LTA program on plan implementation. The evaluation also found that the LTA program's broad focus is beneficial, and CMAP should continue to seek external resources to support the non-transportation elements of the program. Some elements of GO TO 2040 deserve further focus in the LTA program: economic development and reinvestment; stormwater, flooding, and disaster resilience; and freight. Finally, the single most important driver of project quality is the degree of local commitment. CMAP should confirm that there is substantial local commitment to an LTA project before beginning work, and should also structure the project

process to increase commitment. Staff will develop recommendations for potential modifications to the program will considered by the board. Committee members provided feedback about partnerships CMAP may want to consider to broaden the scope of current work and expand partnerships to leverage experts throughout the region. Members also provided suggestions on structuring the match to maximize implementation.

Dean also provided a brief overview about the [next round of LTA projects](#), which include multi-jurisdictional and region-wide projects.

6.0 **Reorienting State and Regional Economic Development**

Lindsay Hollander presented findings from a forthcoming analysis on regional economic development. Like many other states and regions, Illinois and metropolitan Chicago have begun to reevaluate their economic development practices for greater efficiency and results. The report features case studies to explore opportunities to reorient current practices around four strategies: strategic and prioritized investment of resources; coordinated workforce development initiatives; monitoring and evaluation of policies; and competing in a global marketplace. This is the second in a two-part series of reports on economic development policy and practices. Findings were informed by research from the previous report, which presented national case studies on common challenges and innovative, strategic, and transparent practices undertaken to bolster state and regional strengths. Committee members inquired about next steps for this research and how it relates to CMAP's other work and external policy initiatives to reform the state's economic development policies and practices.

7.0 **Next long-range comprehensive regional plan**

Elizabeth Schuh provided an overview of scoping future research regarding the regional economy to inform the next long-range planning process. Staff have begun cataloguing and synthesizing CMAP's research on the region's workforce and industry innovation since the adoption of GO TO 2040. Staff have also reviewed relevant research by local and national entities including other major metropolitan MPOs. These activities are very early steps for developing the next comprehensive plan. The findings will inform the FY 2016 workplan to include industry cluster research, ongoing regional economic indicators, and economic development practices research. Committee members inquired about how regional economy research will relate to CMAP's demographic forecasting. Members also discussed emphasizing the current and future roles for technology in regional economic resilience, particularly in terms of infrastructure and human capital development.

8.0 **Committee workplan and revised schedule**

Simone Weil presented a draft workplan for the remainder of the committee's meetings in FY2015. The workplan highlights upcoming CMAP projects in policy

and local planning that have economic development components. The committee will continue discussing the workplan at its January meeting.

Weil also discussed the need to reschedule the committee's future meetings because of the current conflict with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy committee. ED committee members requested that multiple alternatives be considered.

10.0 Other Business

No other business was introduced.

11.0 Public Comment

No public comment was provided.

12.0 Next meeting

The Economic Development Committee is scheduled to meet next on Monday, January 26, 2015 at 9:30am.

13.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:55 am, made by Ed Sitar, seconded by Lance Pressl and with all in favor, carried.