



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Agenda Item No. 3.0

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MPO Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2015

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

Members Present: Randy Blankenhorn-IDOT (Chair), Kay Batey-FHWA, Mike Connelly CTA, Tom Cuculich-DuPage County, Joseph Gottemoller-McHenry County, Luann Hamilton-CDOT, Aaron Lawlor-Lake County, Wes Lujan-Union Pacific, John McCarthy-Private Providers, Don Orseno-Metra, Leanne Redden-RTA, T.J. Ross-Pace, Jeffery Schielke-Council of Mayors, Tom Rickert-Kane County, and John Yonan-Cook County

Staff Present: Jill Leary, Dolores Dowdle, Joe Szabo, Tom Kotarac, Gordon Smith, Ross Patrosky, and Sherry Kane

Others Present: Mike Albin-DMMC, Reggie Arkell-FTA, Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong-Access Living, Rich Brauer-IDOT, Len Cannata-WCMC, Bruce Carmitchel-IDOT, Lynette Ciavarella-Metra, Mark Copeland-IDOT, John Donovan-FHWA, Tara Fifer-Cook County DOTH, Scott Hennings-McHenry County DOT, Janell Jensen-McHenry County Council, Syed Kaz-Delta Engineering, Jennifer (Sis) Killen-Cook County DOTH, Jon-Paul Kohler-FHWA, Matt Magalis-IDOT, Feroz Nathani-Bowman Consulting, Mark Pitstick-RTA, Christine Reed-IDOT, Justine Reisinger-IDOT, Jonathan Rualo-Cook County DOTH, David Seglin-CDOT, Karen Shoup-IDOT, Peter Skosey-Metropolitan Planning Council, Paula Trigg-Lake County, Tom VanDerWoude-SSMMA, Brian Pigeon-NWMC

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Policy Committee Chair Randy Blankenhorn called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. and asked Policy Committee members to introduce themselves. Blankenhorn also introduced members of IDOT's executive team.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2015, meeting of the Policy Committee as presented was made by Mayor Jeffrey Schielke and seconded by T.J. Ross. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Agency Reports

4.1 Mayor Jeffery Schielke reported that the Council of Mayors had met in January. A status update of the STP & CMAQ expenditures for 2015 were given and CMAQ is on track to meet its FY 2015 obligation goal, but the region has only spent 11% of its local STP funds Schielke continued. Additional advanced funding was approved. The City gave a presentation on the Adams viaduct and bridge work over Union Station and the Chicago River as the regional project for federal fiscal years 2015 and 2016. The committee concurred with this project. The Planning Liaisons also presented their FY 2016 project applications for the Unified Work Program (UWP), which was approved. A demonstration was given of the data mobility visualizations and a summary of the CMAP 2015 State Legislative Agenda and Framework were given. Each council was asked to prepare a 3-5 minute presentation on their individual council priorities at the next meeting scheduled for May 19.

4.2 Leanne Redden, representing the MPO Policy Committee on the CMAP Board reported that the Board had met in February and March. In February, the Board approved the 2015 Legislative Agenda that reflects key elements of the GO TO 2040 plan, including interest in public-private partnerships, and the importance of achieving parity in transit and parking pre-tax benefits. The Board also met the previous day, Redden continued, and essentially covered everything that the Policy Committee will consider today. Options for a sliding scale local match for the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) were considered along with the Memorandum of Understanding between CMAP and the MPO Policy Committee.

4.3 CMAP Interim Executive Director Jill Leary reported that the CMAP Board had hired a search firm to assist in the recruitment of a new Executive Director, the job description will be posted shortly and the Board hopes to fill the position as early as June. Leary also introduced a new member of the staff, Tom Kotarac, from Senator Durbin's office where he was a senior policy advisor, joins CMAP as Deputy Executive Director of Policy and Programming. Joe Szabo, also a new member of CMAP staff, was honored this past week, Leary continued, as Amtrak dedicated its Chicago railroad operations center as the Joseph C. Szabo Chicago Control Center. Distributed this morning were the Federal Agenda and Principles documents as well as the Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) yearbook, Leary concluded.

If asked to get involved in the FLIP program, Chairman Blankenhorn suggested, please do.

5.0 CMAP & MPO Memorandum of Understanding (annual review)

The CMAP & MPO Policy Committee Memorandum of Understanding was included in the packet, Interim Director Jill Leary reported, for annual review. Staff would recommend approval of the MOU that includes a technical change to add the Town of Sandwich and Somonauk Township, in DeKalb County to the MPO planning area. A motion by Mayor Jeffrey Schielke was seconded by Leanne Redden to approve the MOU as had been presented. All in favor, the motion carried.

6.0 Transportation Consent Agenda: Semi-Annual GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendment

Since most are familiar with Conformity, the process of verifying that our Plan and short range program meet national air quality requirements, CMAP staff Ross Patronsky gave a brief intro to this topic and reported that 13 projects were changed to the extent that they needed to be re-conformed and the analysis shows conformity to the state implementation plan to meet air quality requirements. The analysis and TIP amendment was released in January for public comment and while no comments were received during the comment period, at the Transportation Committee meeting last week, residents from Homer Glen and Homer Glen Township spoke and encouraged action on the Caton-Bruce Corridor be delayed. The Transportation Committee recommended approval of the amendment and analysis as originally presented. Also considered and approved by the Regional Coordinating Committee and the CMAP Board, staff recommends approval of the analysis and adoption of the amendment by the Policy Committee. A motion to approve the Semi-Annual GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis & TIP Amendment by Tom Cuculich was seconded by John Yonan. All in favor, the motion carried.

7.0 State Legislative Update

CMAP staff Gordon Smith reported that the March legislative update had been included in the packet, that in the Governor's budget for IDOT a line-item for CMAP had been zeroed out, that staff conversations with the department suggest that CMAP funding is in the budget in the state-wide planning line, and that staff has completed an analysis of the budget which is posted to the web. On the legislative side, Smith continued, about 6,000 bills have been introduced by the General Assembly and staff is in the process of analyzing those that are important to the region as they relate to GO TO 2040. The CMAP Board had approved 5 positions of the bills being monitored, including: HB229 provides all counties in the state with the power to dissolve a local government (support); SB40 provides a process by which a single township within a coterminous (same boundary) municipality could dissolve (support); HB2685 allows the RTA to sell additional Working Cash Notes (support); SB1907 amends the Motor Fuel statute to include natural (and other) gas to the motor fuel tax base when used as motor fuel (support); HB1375 amends the State Finance Act to require a 50/50 split of road funds (oppose). In the coming weeks, Smith concluded, staff will be circulating this material to members of the General Assembly and committee's staff.

Clarification was given regarding CMAP funding, which is considered a grant out of the state metropolitan planning appropriation line item. Not frozen, Chairman Blankenhorn further clarified, as funding is required to match federal.

Mayor Schielke reported that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is in the process of hiring a lobbyist in addition to the Municipal League and that most of the Councils of Government have or are also considering a lobbyist because of the high profile bills that are affecting municipalities and information is actually being brought back to the Councils the names of those who are voting for these bills which is hoped to bring more accountability.

County Board Chair Aaron Lawlor reported that the County Board Chairs had pulled together a joint legislative agenda, too, and gave a brief summary of its tenets and priorities.

8.0 Metropolitan Planning Council Presentation-Accelerate Illinois

Vice President Peter Skosey gave a presentation on the Metropolitan Planning Council's public-facing campaign to address the state and federal transportation funding crises, referred to as Accelerate Illinois. A direct outreach to public communication and the media through websites, blogs and twitter feeds and speaking with the legislators, the campaign is suggesting this is an issue of primary importance to the region. A supporter of FUND 2040, MPC sees both programs working together to raise awareness in Springfield for new revenue. The coalition is broad and growing, Skosey continued, and encouraged all organizations who would like to be represented to send logos to be posted as supporters of Accelerate Illinois. In addition to organizations, Skosey also appealed to everyone in the audience to sign on as well as a personal member. Live for about a week, over 100 people have signed on already and another 250 have liked on Facebook. Campaign is focused on need and the hopes that Springfield will take action during this session.

9.0 Cook County Long-Range Transportation Plan

Jennifer (Sis) Killen, Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways, gave a presentation on the County's long-range transportation plan. Thanking those involved in developing the plan, Killen acknowledged the efforts of team members John Yonan, Tara Fifer and Jonathan Rualo. Killen gave 3 reasons for launching this plan: (a) broader vision, greater impact—Cook County needs a strategy for where and why it is investing; (b) positions Cook County for federal funds; and (c) marshal resources of the county's municipalities, whose aggregate number equals that of the City of Chicago. The county should be a leader in planning, prioritizing and aligning resources to ensure transportation investments are coordinated and foster future economic growth. Killen reviewed the vision statement and the associated goals, gave an overview of investment scenarios, and public outreach efforts as well as the project schedule that culminates with a draft plan and public comment period slated for the summer and adoption of the 2040 plan by the Cook County Commissioners in early fall.

10.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the Policy Committee. Chairman Blankenhorn did report that when he introduced members of the executive team, he overlooked Mark Copeland, who is also in the Chicago office.

11.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong, noting that he is a member of Pace's ADA Advisory Committee, reported that signage at O'Hare for Pace and Metra is lacking and appealed to the Policy Committee to help with the situation.

Heather Armstrong voiced concerns over the Governor's threat to cut funding for public transit, especially in the suburbs and concerns that the dollar-ride programs may also be cut.

12.0 Next Meeting

The MPO Policy Committee is scheduled to meet next on June 11, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.

13.0 Closed Session – IOMA Section 2(c)(11)

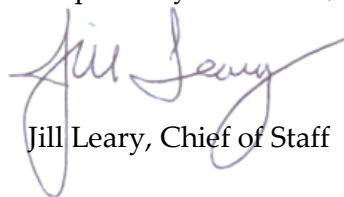
At 10:21 a.m., a motion by Mayor Jeffrey Schielke was seconded by Michael Connelly to adjourn to a closed session. All in favor the motion carried.

At 10:24 a.m., a motion to adjourn the closed session was made by Mayor Jeffrey Schielke, seconded by Don Orseno and with all in favor, carried.

14.0 Adjournment

A motion by Don Orseno was seconded by Mayor Jeffrey Schielke to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:25 a.m. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jill Leary, Chief of Staff

05-28-2015
/stk

Approved as presented, by unanimous vote, June 11, 2015