



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Transportation Committee Minutes May 15, 2015

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

- Committee Members Present:** Chair Michael Connelly – CTA, Charles Abraham - IDOT DPIT, Reggie Arkell – FTA, Jennifer Becker – Kendall County, Mike Bolton – Pace (via phone), Brian Carlson – IDOT District One, Bruce Carmitchel – IDOT OP&P, David Chandler - CNT, Bruce Christensen – Lake County, John Donovan – FHWA, Luann Hamilton – CDOT, Jessica Hector-Hsu – RTA, Scott Hennings – McHenry County, Vice Chair Sis Killen – Cook County, David Kralik – Metra, Christina Kupkowski – Will County, Holly Ostdick – CMAP, Tom Rickert - Kane County, Peter Skosey – MPC, Chris Snyder – DuPage County, Mayor Eugene Williams – Council of Mayors, Rocco Zucherro – Illinois Tollway.
- Absent:** Robert Hann – Private Providers, Adrian Guerrero – Class 1 Railroads, Randy Neufeld – Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, Mike Rogers – IEPA, Steve Schlickman – Academic & Research, Joe Schofer – Academic & Research, Steve Strains – NIRPC, Ken Yunker – SEWRPC
- Others Present:** Mike Albin, Garland Armstrong, Noel Basquin, Kevin Donahue, Janell Jensen, Mike Klemens, Patrick Knapp, David Landeweer, Ashley Lucas, Beth McCluskey, Kirsten Mellem, Chad Riddle, Adam Rod, David Seglin, Tom Vander Woude, Mike Walczak, Tammy Wierciak, Barbara Zubek
- Staff Present:** Jill Leary, Bob Dean, Joe Szabo, Tom Kotarac, Gordon Smith, Alex Beata, Patricia Berry, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Jesse Elam, Doug Ferguson, Leroy Kos, Martin Menninger, Liz Schuh, Simone Weil.

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Committee Chair Michael Connelly called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – April 17, 2015

A motion to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2015 meeting, as presented, made by Mr. Carmitchel, seconded by Ms. Hamilton, carried.

4.0 Coordinating Committee Reports

Ms. Killen reported that the Local Coordinating Committee met on May 13, 2015 and received updates on two grants to build CMAP's capacity to incorporate stormwater management and disaster resilience into the LTA program, work to date and continued partnerships of the Kane County Planning Cooperative, and the call for LTA projects that was initiated on May 1 in partnership with the RTA and the Cook County Department of Public Health.

Mr. Connelly noted that the Regional Coordinating Committee has not met since the last Transportation Committee meeting and will meet next on June 10, 2015.

5.0 FFY 14-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

5.1 FFY 14-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) - Amendments and Administrative Modifications

Mr. Kos reported that TIP revisions exceeding financial amendment thresholds have been requested. Administrative modifications, including line items that have been awarded, moved, or deleted, were provided for the committee's information. Ms. Hamilton made a motion, seconded by Mr. Christensen, to approve the FFY 2014-19 TIP Amendments. The motion carried.

5.2 FTA Subarea Allocation between Indiana-Illinois and Wisconsin-Illinois of Section 5307/5340 Capital and Planning Funds, 5337 State of Good Repair Funds, and 5339 Bus Funds

Mr. Kos reported that the RTA Board approved the splits of §5307/ §5340, §5337, and §5339 funding with northwestern Indiana and §5307/§5340 and §5339 funding with southeastern Wisconsin and the recommended distribution to the CTA, Metra, and Pace. In response to questions from Mr. Snyder, Ms. Hector-Hsu confirmed that the service boards were consulted about the splits, which are similar to past years. In response to a question from Mr. Snyder, Mr. Connelly stated that the splits to the service boards occur after the splits to Indiana and Wisconsin are taken off. Mr. Rickert made a motion, seconded by Ms. Killen, to recommend approval of the subarea allocations between Northwestern Indiana-Northeastern Illinois and Southeastern Wisconsin- Northeastern Illinois and concurrence with financial distributions to CTA, Pace, and Metra to the MPO Policy Committee. The motion carried.

Mr. Kos reminded the committee that TIP changes for the next conformity analysis are due June 5. The committee will be asked to release the conformity analysis and TIP amendments for public comment at their July meeting. The analysis and TIP amendment is scheduled to be considered by the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee at their joint meeting in October.

5.3 Transportation Alternatives Program – Local (TAP-L) Update

Mr. Ferguson provided an update on the status of the eight projects in the TAP-L program. He stated that three projects have missed milestones, but are progressing, and therefore staff does not recommend any action at this time. Mr. Carmitchel complimented CMAP staff on the timeliness of project development, monitoring, and management of the TAP-L program. Mr. Snyder stated that these projects are part of the first TAP-L program, using FFY 2013 and 2014 funds, and that the recently closed call for projects will use FFY 2015 and 2016 funds. He stated that more projects may include ROW, and that by the time projects are selected, a full year has gone by and therefore he suggested that the region program further out. Mr. Ferguson stated that due to the uncertain future of this new program, staff is reluctant to program too far out, but also recognizes that with 55 bicycle facilities applications received, it may make sense to program a third year of funding. .

6.0 The Next Long-Range Plan

6.1 Long-Range Plan Schedule and Strategy Paper Development Process

Mr. Elam reviewed the overall plan development schedule that calls for prep work, gathering background information, and preparing strategy papers over the next year, followed by financial plan developments and regionally significant project evaluations the following year. He stated that scenario planning and robust public involvement are planned. Mr. Connelly added that the timeline is broad and this will be a long process involving significant effort by staff and the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Elam explained that informal topic specific working groups including Transportation Committee members, and other subject matter experts would be utilized for development of strategy papers. Papers are expected to take 6-12 months to develop and four papers on transportation topics will be developed this year. An initial list of potential topics was provided, which Mr. Elam reviewed. Mr. Skosey asked about the Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (RTOC) committee. Mr. Elam explained that they are an ad hoc group that meets approximately quarterly to discuss transportation management and operations. Mr. Snyder added that the group is made up of operations engineers. Mr. Connelly stated that they are also involved in the review of CMAQ applications and funding recommendations. Mr. Rickert stated they discuss new technologies and share

information and are a good group to inform the development of an operations and management focused strategy paper.

Mr. Skosey stated that MPC would like to be involved in the development of alternative funding concepts and transit modernization strategy papers. Ms. Hamilton stated that any paper related to car sharing should be focused on mobility sharing and include a wider range of mobility sharing, including consideration of bike sharing.. Mr. Rickert stated that asset management and alternative funding concepts strategy papers should be pursued because they have been topics of heavy discussion with the movement toward performance based programming. Mr. Zucherro stated that there is no champion for Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and technology solutions in the state and asked what the region needs to do to be sure we are investing in the right technologies.

Mr. Bolton stated that Pace is finding that pedestrian access and safety are huge issues that are unaddressed in planning using state and federal funds and suggested that with the increase in the aging population, these issues should be included in the strategy papers. Ms. Hamilton stated that Chicago concurs that this is an important issue and noted that the suggested topics are for only the first four of several papers to be developed.

Mr. Rickert stated that we need a better regional understanding of where PROWAG (proposed guidelines for accessible rights-of-way released by the U.S. Access Board) is going, the fiscal ability to address guidelines, and the metrics to keep facilities up to standards when cost and liability discourage them. Ms. Hamilton stated that PROWAG requires making accommodations whenever a signal is "touched", but the definition of "touch" is unclear, such as whether re-timing a signal is considered to be "touching" that signal. Mr. Donovan stated information is trickling out, and he would have to get back to the committee with more.

Mr. Snyder stated that car sharing and sharing in general has been discussed in DuPage to address "last mile" challenges that are a huge issue in the suburbs where people can arrive on trains or buses, but not quite get to their final destination. He agreed with Ms. Hamilton's point on the broadening the topic to mobility sharing.

Mr. Connelly stated that the committee conversation has been good, but of course not all guidance is clear or complete at this time. Regarding the structure of groups to work on the strategy papers and plan development, he noted that Ms. Hamilton had stated at the last meeting that during the development of previous plans there was a "re-write" committee and asked for additional discussion on subcommittees or working groups. Ms. Hamilton stated that breakout meetings after the Transportation Committee on specific topics sounds like a workable structure. Mr.

Elam noted that the Local and Regional Coordinating Committees will do a lot of the "steering" of the plan development.

In response to a question from Mr. Snyder about the next steps, Mr. Elam stated that in July staff will present scoping information for a final list of paper topics and will seek approval of those. Staff will be reaching out for volunteers to participate in working groups between now and then. Mr. Carmitchel stated it would be good to see a link between economic development and transportation as a paper topic. He also noted that the definition of regionally significant projects is a big part of the timeline and asked if staff is reaching out for help. Mr. Elam stated that the hope is that the definition will be developed by the region this fiscal year, so that solicitation for projects and analysis of projects could begin next fiscal year. Staff wants to focus on this concept in July and September so that staff can develop recommendations for discussion and consideration in September or November.

Mr. Zucchero stated that the region should be conducting post-project evaluations to determine if the investments being made in the transportation system are resulting in a good return. He stated the Tollway collects a lot of data that should be shared and analyzed to determine what worked. Mr. Bolton stated that UC Berkeley and the Mineta Transportation Institute have done significant work on analyses, particularly related to transit, and suggested CMAP staff look at that research. Mr. Carlson stated that these are good points especially as the region tries to wrap its arms around determining the economic benefits of projects. Mr. Bolton added that things change and that technological changes in the logistics field, for example, mean that a warehouse that used to provide 100 jobs per 100 thousand square feet may now only provide 5 jobs per 100 thousand square feet, and the region needs to understand the impact of these changes. Mr. Elam stated that CMAP is working on improving economic impact analyses and that would be a place for looking at post-project impacts. Mr. Zucchero added that anecdotal accounts can also be useful.

In response to a question from Ms. Killen, Mr. Elam stated that additional topic suggestions could be emailed to staff, with the understanding that likely only four could be addressed this year. Suggestions will be gathered and sent back out for consideration and discussion.

Mr. Chandler stated that economic benefits tie back into past discussions about priority development areas and determining where clusters are located. He asked how the four strategy papers fit with regional economic development strategies. Mr. Donovan stated that although the papers being discussed by the Transportation Committee are directly related to transportation topics, some cross-pollination is good. Topics should not be isolated and the full range of issues should be discussed. Mr. Chandler stated that how the freight plan fits into the larger plan should be determined. Mr. Rickert stated that the definition of regionally significant projects

will be a good discussion and it is an appropriate approach to talk about financial planning this year, but it may be necessary to start addressing alternatives sooner with changes to state and federal funding being discussed.

Mr. Elam reviewed the milestones for committee engagement in the development of the plan over the upcoming year and thanked the committee for a good discussion.

6.2 Transportation Elements of CMAP Draft FY 2016 Work Plan

Mr. Elam provided an overview of work plan elements in Performance Based Programming related to long range plan development that may be of interest to the committee. Mr. Rickert thanked staff for providing the Work Plan and asked if the Transportation Committee could see the projects a couple months in advance next year.

7.0 Legislative Update

Mr. Smith reported that the update presented to the CMAP Board on Wednesday includes information on the 2015 budget fix bills and fund sweeps affecting various accounts including the Grade Crossing Protection Fund. He reported that as deadlines pass, the number of bills being watched by CMAP is shrinking. One new bill that CMAP is watching is SB 277, which MPC is involved with. Mr. Skosey stated that the bill would amend the TIF law to allow value capture on specific transit projects, including the Red/Purple Modernization, Union Station improvements, and the Red Line South Extension. The Senate also added Blue Line Modernization and Expansion. 80% of TIF funds would be allocated for transit, and 20% to the taxing district. In districts where Chicago Public Schools receive the funding, there would be no change. Mr. Smith also reported that CMAP is monitoring appropriations discussions, particularly funding for CMAP planning activities.

8.0 Status of the Local Technical Assistance Program

Mr. Connelly stated that a current status report on the LTA program was included in the meeting materials.

9.0 Other Business

Mr. Seglin thanked retiring CMAP Finance and Administration Deputy Executive Director Dolores Dowdle for her outstanding work. He also reported two milestones for CDOT. As of today, Divvy is the largest bike-sharing program in North America, surpassing Montreal. As of tomorrow, Ms. Luann Hamilton has been with CDOT for 30 years.

10.0 Public Comment

Mr. Garland Armstrong stated that he commends the committee for hearing and discussing what Mr. Bolton said about pedestrian access being a priority. He also stated that the persons who take calls for paratransit services need specific addresses for pick-up

points, and that is difficult to provide at walk events held at parks or forest preserves, or at congested locations such as Union Station.

11.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for July 17, 2015.

13.0 Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 10:32 a.m., made by Ms. Killen, seconded by Mr. Snyder, carried.