



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Freight Committee

Minutes

October 24, 2016

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

Members Present: Joe Alonzo, Ben Brockschmidt, Mike Burton, Maria Choca Urban (for John Yonan), David Chandler, Eric Gallien, Adrian Guerrero, Debbie Halvorson, Lee Hutchins, Mike Klemens, Mike Kowalczyk, Jim LaBelle, Floyd Miras, Adam Rod, DeAnna Smith (by phone)

Staff Present: Alex Beata, Kara Komp, Tom Kotarac, Todd Schmidt, Elizabeth Schuh, Joe Szabo

Others Present: Garland Armstrong (Access Living), Heather Armstrong (Access Living), Jackie Forbes (Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors), Bob Ginsburg (UIC), John Greuling (Will County CED), Alicia Hanlon (Quetica LLC), Tomohiko Music (Cook County), Mary Elisabeth Pitz (MEP&A), Jonathan Rualo (Cook County), Steve Vujic (Acres Truck Parking), Laura Wilkison (Metro Strategies), Bo Zou (UIC)

1.0 Call to Order

Adrian Guerrero, co-chair of the Freight Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Mr. Guerrero introduced the new committee co-chair, Eric Gallien of the Illinois Trucking Association, as well as the new FHWA representative, Mike Kowalczyk. Mr. Gallien and Mr. Kowalczyk briefly described their professional backgrounds.

2.0 Approval of Minutes – May 16, 2016

The minutes from May 16, 2016 were approved by the committee.

3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Mr. Beata noted one agenda change: Item 8.0 was postponed to the December 5, 2016 meeting of the Freight Committee due to an unexpected illness for a CMAP staff member. For announcements, Mr. Guerrero briefly reviewed the Freight Committee's field trip to the UP Joliet Intermodal Terminal and BNSF Logistics Park Chicago in August 2016.

4.0 Critical urban freight corridors designation

Mr. Beata updated the Committee on recent progress in identifying critical urban freight corridors (CUFCs), which represent one component of the larger National Highway Freight Network pursuant to the federal FAST Act. Staff presented a draft map of CUFCs

to the Freight Committee at its May 16, 2016 meeting, and later updated the map given feedback from IDOT staff.

5.0 Freight land use clusters

Mr. Beata presented a recent CMAP staff Policy Update reviewing freight land use clusters in northeastern Illinois. The Policy Update is the third in a series focused on industrial development trends in the region, and identifies six major freight clusters. It goes on to develop statistical profiles of each cluster based on land use, built environment, infrastructure, and employment.

Freight Committee members offered numerous suggestions, including methodological approaches and points of clarification. The Committee expressed an interest in learning more about the interactions between clusters, refined cluster definitions, and more economic context. The Committee also suggested that identifying shared challenges and opportunities across clusters, as well as cluster-specific issues, would help to frame future land-use research.

6.0 Intermodal policies

Mr. Beata presented a staff memo proposing a potential regional policy on intermodal facilities for the Regional Freight Plan. The proposal has two main components: a local analysis, based on three principles and including numerous discussion questions, and regional analysis focused on consistency with the regional comprehensive plan, including a focus on major capital projects.

The Freight Committee discussed the proposal at length. The Committee appreciated the list of discussion questions and found them to be appropriate and helpful. Some Committee members felt that no analysis should be required, particularly a regional analysis, that it would delay projects and in fact might not be possible due to the sensitive nature of negotiations with private railroads. Other members noted that intermodal facilities have broad impacts across jurisdictions, and so some analysis would be beneficial in helping CMAP discharge its regional planning responsibilities. Some members noted that a regional policy could be broadened to include existing intermodal facilities, particularly in context of changing national supply chain trends. The Committee emphasized the importance of local control over land use decisions.

7.0 Freight snapshot report

Mr. Beata noted that staff has completed a draft Freight System Trends snapshot report as part of a larger series of ON TO 2050 strategy papers and snapshot reports. He asked for any comments to be submitted now that draft is now undergoing internal review.

8.0 ATRI updates

This item was postponed to the upcoming December 5, 2016 meeting of the Freight Committee.

9.0 Other Business

Mr. Brockschmidt noted that the Great Lakes Commission recently released a Maritime Strategy to increase waterborne freight traffic, and that the CAWS Advisory Committee

identified the Brandon Road lock and dam as a potential site to test one-way control mechanisms for invasive species. Mr. Miras noted that a Regional Maritime Entity has been designated to help move forward the Maritime Strategy and that IDOT's Beth McCluskey serves as the Illinois member. He also mentioned a recent letter by Great Lakes senators asking for research into critical freight bottlenecks on the Great Lakes. Finally, Mr. Miras also asked if the new Illinois International Port District executive director could come to speak to the Freight Committee. Mr. LaBelle asked about the status of the Elgin O'Hare Western Access project's recent negotiations with the Canadian Pacific; Mr. Kotarac said that negotiations are ongoing.

10.0 Public Comment

Ms. Pitz announced that the 2017 Rail and Supply Chain Summit would continue the focus on maritime issues, including connections between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River systems. Mr. Armstrong asked when the ongoing grade separation project at 25th Avenue in Melrose Park would be completed; Ms. Wilkison noted that the project is 92 percent complete and should be closed out by the end of the year, weather permitting.

11.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be December 5, 2016.

12.0 Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Beata, CMAP Staff