



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Freight Committee

Minutes

December 5, 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, David Chandler, Eric Gallien, Adrian Guerrero, Debbie Halvorson, Jim LaBelle, Aimee Lee (for Kevin Donahue), Steve Lazzara, Floyd Miras, Libby Ogard, Adam Rod
- Staff Present:** Alex Beata, Elizabeth Irvin, Kara Komp, Tom Kotarac, Jacki Murdock, Elizabeth Schuh, Simone Weil
- Others Present:** Kristen Andersen (Metra), Jackie Forbes (Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors), Vontra Giles (FHWA), Bob Ginsburg (UIC), Alicia Hanlon (Quetica LLC), Clayton Harris III (IIPD), Elaine McKenzie (Cambridge Systematics), Tomohiko Music (Cook County), Mary Elisabeth Pitz (MEP&A), Jonathan Rualo (Cook County), Steve Vujic (Acres Truck Parking), Sam Van Hecke (Cambridge Systematics), Nick Vlahos (Cambridge Systematics), Laura Wilkison (Metro Strategies), Bo Zou (UIC)

### 1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Guerrero, co-chair of the Freight Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes – October 24, 2016

The minutes from October 24, 2016 were approved by the Committee.

### 3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 4.0 Regional truck permitting plan

Mr. Vlahos from Cambridge Systematics presented the final report of the Regional Truck Permitting Study. This project was initiated by the region's seven county executives and the City of Chicago as part of the Chicago Regional Growth Initiative, and was funded through CMAP's LTA program.

Mr. Vlahos reviewed the need for permitting of oversize/overweight loads, the economic importance of the issue, and challenges in leveraging innovation. The report's recommendations center on improving communications protocols, collecting and

publishing key data, reviewing and updating ordinances, pursuing opportunities for greater coordination among agencies, and the appropriate adoption of technological solutions.

The Committee discussed the report at length, acknowledging the importance of the issue and asking follow-up and clarification questions. Ms. Halvorson noted that she served as a co-chair to the report's Steering Committee, and called for champions to support implementation of the report's recommendations.

#### **5.0 Illinois International Port District presentation**

Mr. Harris presented to the Committee on the Illinois International Port District. He reviewed statistics on the volume of freight moving through the port, acknowledged the importance of waterborne freight in the larger multimodal freight system, and noted that the IIPD is currently working on a strategic vision.

The Committee welcomed the presentation and the greater attention paid to maritime freight issues, and also asked numerous specific follow-up questions. Mr. Harris offered to join the Freight Committee as a member to continue this relationship.

#### **6.0 Regional freight planning charrette**

Mr. Beata presented the results of an internal staff charrette which identified key topics for the agency's near-term freight planning efforts. These efforts are distinct from ON TO 2050, are focused on a select number of topics, and are intended for a narrower audience. The charrette identified specific topics within rail policy, trucking policy, land use policy, and freight programming.

The Committee was disappointed that CMAP's near-term freight planning efforts will not focus on air and water topics, particularly the latter. Mr. Beata explained that CMAP recognizes the importance of all modes of freight transportation, and that the intent of near-term staff efforts in developing a Regional Strategic Freight Direction is to focus on a smaller number of topics on which it can offer meaningful comments.

#### **7.0 Advanced transportation technologies**

Mr. Van Hecke from Cambridge Systematics briefly reviewed the Emerging Transportation Technologies Strategy Paper. This effort is meant to identify technologies with the potential to transform the regional transportation system over the long-term, as well as strategies that can help the region prepare for these technologies and potential roles for CMAP. Topics for study include autonomous vehicles, connected vehicles, shared infrastructure, alternative energy, shared mobility, active transportation and health, data and information, communications, business and logistics, and freight movement.

#### **8.0 Municipal freight interviews**

Ms. Murdock provided a brief overview of the results from a series of municipal freight interviews recently completed by CMAP staff. Staff leveraged past work to contact roughly 30 freight-heavy municipalities and completed about 15 interviews. Topics of discussion included local approaches to truck routing and restriction, as well as local

approaches to land-use planning and conflict mitigation. Local officials commented that they would benefit from best practices and case studies as part of regional planning efforts.

**9.0 Other Business**

There was no other business before the Committee.

**10.0 Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**11.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be January 23, 2017.

**12.0 Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alex Beata, CMAP Staff