



MEMORANDUM

To: Transportation Committee

From: Angela Manning-Hardimon
Deputy Executive Director, Finance and Administration

Date: January 20, 2017

Re: FY 2018 UWP Process

Unified Work Program (UWP) federal funding is available for transportation planning projects within a metropolitan area. IDOT has not received the allocation for the FY 2018 transportation planning projects, however it is projected that the funds will remain near the same level as FY 2017 funds. For the CMAP area, it is therefore anticipated that the federal funding will remain at or around \$17.1 million and that, with matching funds, the total project cost available for UWP projects will be over \$21.4 million.

The Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has the primary responsibility for preparing the UWP for its metropolitan area. The federal guidelines state that all planning and implementing agencies must be an integral part of the planning process and participate in the development of the UWP. In the CMAP region, the UWP Committee serves as the project selection body for this process. The committee is chaired by IDOT, who votes in case of a tie. The membership is comprised of a representative from each of the transit service boards (CTA, Metra and Pace), the City of Chicago, RTA, CMAP, a representative from the counties, and a mayor representing the Council of Mayors. In addition, non-voting members are representatives from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The UWP Committee establishes program priorities and selects core and competitive proposals. Final selections are approved by the Transportation Committee and then forwarded to the Programming Committee, CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee for approval.

The UWP Committee, with concurrence of the Transportation Committee, Programming Committee, CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee, has maintained the following UWP priorities with the regional priorities described in the GO TO 2040 Plan and the 2014 update.

- *Modernization of the Public Transit System.* GO TO 2040 recommends an enhanced focus on prioritizing planning work for the modernization of the existing transit

system. Actions include work on coordinating services and fares, including pursuit of a universal fare payment system, work on traveler information systems, and technological improvements including transit signal priority and ART. Project proposals, especially from the transit agencies, should feature these elements as a primary component.

- *Financial Planning Including Innovative Financing Strategies.* GO TO 2040 also stresses an array of recommendations related to transportation finance, including improved financial planning. Actions include strengthening transit financial oversight, planning for efficiencies that reduce transit operating costs, the identification of funding sources for CREATE, and continued planning/policy work on other important issues of fiscal policy to improve the transportation system.
- *Improving Decision-Making Models and Evaluation Criteria for Project Selection.* GO TO 2040 also emphasizes improving decision-making processes for transportation projects, as well as the overarching importance of prioritization for making investments given constrained funding. This includes constructing improved models for answering the most pressing questions about major projects and designing appropriate and regionally-vetted evaluation criteria for judging projects.
- *Planning Work Toward Implementation of GO TO 2040 Major Capital Projects, Including Supportive Land Use.* The continuation of near-term work to further GO TO 2040's short list of fiscally constrained major capital projects is also a high priority. Potential work includes planning for the inclusion of transit components as part of major highway projects, advancing recommended transit projects through the New Starts program or other discretionary funding programs, and planning for supportive land use around transportation, including active technical assistance to local governments.
- *Local Technical Assistance and the Formation of Collaborative Planning Efforts.* A major emphasis area of GO TO 2040 is providing targeted technical assistance to local governments, information sharing, and formal planning efforts that focus on transportation and other interconnected issues of livability.

The process for review and approval of the FY 2018 UWP programs is as follows:

- Both Core and Competitive proposals are due on January 30, 2017.
- All proposals will be forwarded to the UWP Committee on February 8 with presentations of the proposals at the Committee meeting on February 15.
- The Competitive proposals will be scored by the UWP Committee as in years past, based upon the alignment with the regional priorities listed above. The scoring of the competitive proposals will be due on February 27. CMAP staff will calculate the Committee's rankings of the Competitive proposals.
- Based on the available monies for the FY 2018 UWP program, CMAP staff will develop a proposed program recommendation to the UWP Committee which considers (1) how the Core proposals meet the federal requirements; alignment with the proposed priorities in GO TO 2040; the requested level of funding; and if

applicable, previous years' expenditure level of Core project and (2) the rankings of the Competitive proposals.

- The Committee will meet on March 8 to adopt the FY 2018 program.
- The FY 2018 program will be presented at the April 28 Transportation Committee for adoption.
- In June, following UWP Plan adoption by the Programming Committee, MPO Policy Committee, and the CMAP Board, CMAP will draft contracts for the approved programs according to the following schedule (these dates should be considered with developing proposals):
 - Programs supporting staff and operating costs (normally core proposals) will be available during the State FY 2018. All funds will need to be expended by June 30, 2018.
 - Programs supporting consulting contracts and the competitive programs will be available for a period of three years—July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020.

The apportionment of federal funds for FY 2018 has not been released, though it is estimated that it will be similar to FY 2017. The FY 2017 UWP allocated \$12,981,118 of PL funds and \$4,123,546 of FTA funds, for a total of \$17,104,664 of federal funds.

The schedule for the approval of the FY 2018 UWP process is as follows:

Call for Proposals

Call for Proposals	January 3, 2017
All Proposals Due (Core and Competitive)	January 30, 2017

Proposal presentations

UWP Meeting - Presentation of Proposals	February 15, 2017
UWP Committee members rank proposals	Due to CMAP February 27, 2017
CMAP prepares committee ranked proposals with funding allocation	March 3, 2017
UWP Meeting - Adopt FY 2018 Program	March 8, 2017

Committee Approval

Transportation Committee considers approval of FY 2018 UWP to MPO Policy Committee	April 2017
Programming Committee considers approval of FY 2018 UWP to CMAP Board	June 2017

CMAP Board considers approval of proposed FY 2018 UWP	June 2017
MPO Policy Committee considers approval of proposed FY 2018 UWP	June 2017
UWP Document Released	June 2017

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