



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Freight Committee Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2017

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Cook County Conference Room  
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800  
Chicago, IL 60606

**Members Present:** Joe Alonzo (CDOT), Ben Brockschmidt (Illinois Chamber), Mike Burton (C&K Trucking), David Chandler (CNT), Maria Choca Urban (Cook County DOT), Eric Gallien (Illinois Trucking), Mike Kowalczyk (FHWA), Jim LaBelle (UIC-UTC), John Loper (DuPage DOT), Floyd Miras (US DOT MARAD), Libby Ogard (Consultant), DeAnna Smith (IDOT), Adam Rod (CDA)

**Staff Present:** Diana Cooke, Austen Edwards, Erin Kenney, Tom Kotarac, Wei Luo, Tom Murtha, Elizabeth Schuh, Simone Weil

**Others Present:** Kristen Andersen (Metra), Ryan Anderson (Metro Strategies), Garland Armstrong (Access Living), Heather Armstrong (Access Living), Alex Beata (Cook County DOT), Jack Cruikshank (Will County Governmental League), John Donovan (FHWA), Jackie Forbes (KKCOM), Hugh O'Hara (Will County Governmental League), Mary Elisabeth Pitz (MEP&A), Pete Stresino (IDOT), Steve Vujic (Acres Trucking Parking)

### 1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Gallien, co-chair of the Freight Committee, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes – May 15, 2017

The minutes from the May 15, 2017 meeting were approved by the Committee.

### 3.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

### 4.0 2018 Proposed Freight Committee Meeting Schedule

The committee approved meeting dates for calendar year 2018: March 19<sup>th</sup>, May 21<sup>st</sup>, September 17<sup>th</sup>, and December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **5.0 O'Hare Subregional Truck Routing Study**

Tom Murtha updated the Committee on the final O'Hare Subregional Truck Routing Study, supported by CMAP's Local Technical Assistance Program. The presentation covered the proposed truck route network, recommended actions, and CMAP's actions. The Committee inquired about the study's incorporation of autonomous vehicles. Tom Murtha responded that they are not currently included in the scope of the study.

## **6.0 Expressway Vision**

Tom Murtha provided an update regarding the project to develop a multijurisdictional vision to guide future capital investments, coordinate transportation operations, and recommend policy and management strategies for the existing expressway system in northeastern Illinois. Transit, freight, community impacts, and revenue will all be key aspects of the vision. The presentation included the vision for the policy framework, including the plan for IDOT and the tollways, and relevance for ON TO 2050. Goals include supporting the regional economy, enhancing operations, and managing environmental impacts. The policy framework consists of full-scale tolling, with a basic cross-section of two general lanes and two managed lanes, coordination across partners, and equity. The project is expected to extend beyond the original deadline of June 2018.

Questions and discussion from the Committee included the operations related to the Corwith facility, and Tom Murtha responded that the Vision is proposing multiple points of entry to Corwith. The Committee asked about the toll zones and the factors influencing the toll amount; Tom Murtha responded that the toll fees are a function of time of day and congestion, with a premium for trucks. This raised another question about the impact of the tiered tolls on businesses, as increasing tolls closer to Chicago may discourage businesses from locating in Cook County. Another question from the Committee inquired about the frequency of entry and exit points for the managed lanes; Tom Murtha responded that the entry and exit points would be infrequent so as to keep the travel speeds of the managed lanes high. The Committee inquired about precedents for this type of vision; Tom Murtha responded that, to the drafters' knowledge, there was not a regional precedent for this.

## **7.0 Local Approaches to Freight Planning**

Liz Schuh presented local approaches to freight planning as part of the Regional Strategic Freight Direction. There were no questions on the memo distributed to committees.

## **8.0 Regional Strategic Freight Direction**

Liz Schuh presented the draft of the Regional Strategic Freight Direction. The document covers six topic areas: major freight facility development principles, truck policy, rail policy, municipal support for freight, environmental justice, and programming of freight funds. The next steps include revision, presentation to the CMAP board in January 2018, and scheduled publication in January 2018.

The Committee asked about the intersection of freight and economic development policy, and also how economic development funding vehicles could be leveraged to

support transportation investments. Liz Schuh responded that this intersection would consist of a study of best practices for communities with freight jobs as well as overall consideration of the benefits of transportation investments at the regional scale. The Committee asked about data available for freight and passenger rail performance metrics, as these factors would be useful for future transportation planning efforts; Liz Schuh responded that much of this data was private, but that CMAP recommends that the railroads provide additional information to help target public investments. The Committee advised including maritime and air cargo in the report so that the system of freight movement in the region would be studied holistically. The Committee also discussed CREATE and the relationship between CMAP's mandates and its role in evaluating the impacts of major new freight facilities. Finally, the Committee asked how regional prioritization of freight projects seeking federal funds would occur. Liz Schuh responded that the next step would be a collaborative process to define criteria.

**9.0 Other Business**

IDOT's freight plan is complete except for the freight investment plan. IDOT will soon release a call for projects for FAST Act freight formula funds.

**10.0 Public Comment**

The Port of Chicago highlighted Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart's RENEW program, which provides a training program for nonviolent felons, and mentioned the program's need for employment partners. Ms. Armstrong advocated for tolls on highways into Chicago, especially near the downtown and surrounding areas. Mr. Armstrong identified the need for greater truck-related safety, as cars and pedestrians are especially vulnerable when trucks are maneuvering.

**11.0 Next Meeting – March 19, 2018**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 19, 2018.

**12.0 Adjournment**

The Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Schuh, Committee liaison

*Approved as presented, by unanimous vote, March 19, 2018*