



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes Thursday, November 2, 2017

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

**Members Present:** Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Keary Cragan (via phone) – U.S. EPA, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, KC Doyle – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Mike Prusila – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Mike Sullivan – IDOT, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

**Members Absent:** Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization

**Staff Present:** Nora Beck, Brian Daly, Jesse Elam, Kristin Ihnchak, Elizabeth Irvin, Jason Navota, Jared Patton, Noel Peterson

**Others Present:** Garland Armstrong, Heather Armstrong, Saki Handa, Emily Golla, Rich Walter

### 1.0 Call to Order

Ed Collins called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- **2018 Meeting Schedule:** Staff proposed to continue meeting on the first Thursday of each month at 9:30 am, with the following exceptions: switching the July meeting to July 12 given July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, and no meetings in August or December. Committee approved this schedule, [here](#).
- **ON TO 2050 Bi-monthly update:** available [here](#).

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the October 5 meeting, with two updates to the attendance list, was made by Martha Dooley, seconded by Stacy Meyers. The motion carried with all in favor.

**4.0 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Inventory – Emily Golla and Rich Walter, ICF**  
CMAP is in the process of updating the regional GHG emissions inventory for the year 2015. This project will create a new, Global Protocol for Community-Scale (GPC)-compliant inventory and update the 2010 inventory to meet GPC requirements. CMAP is consulting with ICF, a global energy and environment consulting firm. Using a [presentation](#), Emily and Rich presented their proposed work plan and inventory methodology. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Central repository of GPC inventories:** Committee members asked if inventories were being compiled in a central place to allow for comparisons. The C40 is using this protocol and may have this information gathered.
- **Geographical extent of inventory:** GPC protocol looks at emissions generated within the 7-county area and does not include the emissions generated elsewhere for products used within the CMAP region.
- Freight Model could be useful for commodity flows.
- City of Chicago’s inventory included take offs and landings at O’Hare and Midway airports, so these will be included in regional inventory. Smaller airports will not. Helicopters (commercial and medical) will be considered.
- **Data collection is a large component of this project.** Where data is missing, ICF will use population derived data.
- **Scenarios.** Future scenarios can be explored through forecasts and targets. Forecasts can consider current trends, as well as potential effects of federal/state policies. The inventory will include multiple forecasts. Targets can be set based on current trends, or desired outcomes.
- **Data format.** Data will be available for the region, county, and per capita, but not municipality. Municipalities could use the per capita numbers but that would be a gross estimate. The City of Chicago and suburban Cook County will be considered separate entities for the inventory.
- **Carbon sequestration offsets.** 2010 inventory did include offsets as the Morton Arboretum had just concluded a tree inventory. Offsets are not part of the global protocol, but this information could be added on later if update data is available.
- GHG inventory will meet the GPC basic level, additional tiers could be added later.

CMAP staff will send along ICF’s memo on the proposed workplan and inventory methodology. Committee members were asked to submit any further comments by November 9, 2017.

#### **5.0 Update on Regionally Significant Projects – Jesse Elam, CMAP staff**

Staff provided the committee with a quick overview of the purpose and process for this project. One role of ON TO 2050 is to establish a list of regionally significant projects that fit within the region’s expected future financial resources. CMAP staff requested a candidate pool of projects last year from both transportation agencies as well as the general public. Since then, RTA and CMAP staff have engaged in evaluating the projects based on the criteria developed in 2016, which were reviewed by the ENR committee in advance. In collaboration with RTA, staff has completed the initial evaluation of the

regionally significant projects submitted for ON TO 2050 and drafted a [report](#) on their performance, which is anticipated to be finalized in January.

CMAP staff will then engage with stakeholders and submit a recommended slate of projects to the CMAP Transportation Committee in April 2018. This draft list will be reviewed by stakeholders and a final list presented in the draft ON TO 2050 plan in June, which will then be open for public comment.

Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Discussion on lack of bicycle and pedestrian projects.** Pure bicycle and pedestrian projects are unlikely to make the qualifying thresholds to be included as a regionally significant project. However, these components are often part of regionally significant projects. For example, GO TO 2040 endorsed the Elgin-O'Hare project with multimodal components. Other funding processes, such as CMAQ, TAP, and ITEP, are used for bike-ped projects. Committee members discussed the transformation bicycle and pedestrian projects could have at that scale and how it impacts the process.
- **Recommendation to re-title the project so that it is explicitly about transportation.** There are several other "regionally significant" projects will be identified in the ON TO 2050 plan.
- **Evaluation of clusters of projects.** Discussion of the importance of looking at investments as a regional, sub-regional package, instead of isolation. For example, if a set of 5 projects for an area address known transportation issues, the sixth project may no longer be necessary. This type of evaluation will occur as CMAP staff compose their recommendations for the slate of projects.
- **Green Infrastructure Vision.** Discussion of the data source and the vision component. Discussion on the cumulative impacts to natural resources that isn't communicated with direct land consumption.
- **Agricultural impacts.** Discussion of the economic transformation that could occur with some projects and how some industries could see declines or growth.
- **Balance of qualitative and quantitative evaluation.** Recommendation to enlist academic institutions to understand the industry impacts over time. Other models, recent Canadian project to run multi-variable risk factors.
- **Evaluation of project merit and available funding.** Discussion on how projects that are not authorized to receive federal loans could be included in list; suggestion that this could be a criteria in the evaluation process. CMAP has kept these processes separate and it's more the other way around. Discussion about how funding alternatives, such as value capture and managed lanes, could contribute to the funding equation.

Committee members were asked to submit comments on the evaluation report by November 16.

## 6.0 ON TO 2050: Plan Environment Indicators Refinement Memo – Noel Peterson, CMAP staff

The ON TO 2050 indicators provide performance measures to benchmark our progress on plan implementation. Staff will discuss efforts underway to refine indicators established in the [GO TO 2040 Plan Update](#). Using a presentation, CMAP staff present a refined set of environment indicators, as summarized in a [memo](#). Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- **Public water supply demand.** Recommendation to review how to incorporate the regional water demand forecast in the set of indicators.
- **Acres of land harvesting food for human consumption.** NRCS may have improved, more frequently released datasets. Support for this indicator as it includes a broader array of products.
- **Value of agricultural products sold directly to individuals for human consumption.** Recognition that it only captures a portion of local food economy and doesn't include livestock sales. Committee members may have advice on how to track the local food economy in a better way.
- **Percentage of population living in food deserts.** Committee members discussed the importance of this issue and how it impacts a variety of other goals important to the plan, such as VMT and public health. Committee members expressed that data availability alone should not be the deciding factor, since long-term availability may be an issue for a variety of other indicators presented in the memo. Chicago Health Atlas may be tracking something useable. Recommendation that CMAP become the regional data steward.
- **Percent of region in sensitive and impacted watersheds.** Committee members discussed how this is a good indicator in urban areas, but doesn't reflect the impact of agricultural on stream health. Recommendation to account for what proportion of a catchment is under agricultural production. Discussion of variability in water quality and habitat that may not be connected to impervious cover. Recommendation to include additional indicator focused on the area of the region covered by a watershed plan.
- **Percent of Preserved Open Space within CMAP Conservation Areas layer.** Recommendation to change to "Percent of Conservation Areas layer protected." Discussion of the vision piece of the GIV and how that gets communicated in the Conservation Areas layer. The Conservation Areas layer includes all county GI mapping efforts in addition to up to date datasets where available.
- **Regional access to parks per person in acres.** Discussion on how the previous number can backfire conversations about conservation needs. CMAP staff explained that the older methodology had some significant errors. The updated approach will include a significant drop in the proportion of the region meeting the 10 acres per 1,000 people criteria - from 52 percent of the regional population to 16 percent.

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## 7.0 Other Business.

None.

## 8.0 Public Comment

- **Importance of recycling.** Heather Armstrong stated that recycling of waste products remains an essential activity for multiple reasons, including the negative impacts of landfills. Education efforts to increase recycling and transitioning to composting organic materials should increase. Garland Armstrong stated that education efforts are long overdue and education and communication activities should be conducted in multiple languages.
- **Language format of ON TO 2050.** Committee members discussed the need to present the ON TO 2050 plan in multiple languages. Staff will inquire and report back to the committee.

#### 9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, January 4, 2018.

#### 10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)  
November 2, 2017