Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Board Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2013

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

Board Members Present:
Gerald Bennett, CMAP Board Chair-representing southwest Cook County, Rita Athas-representing the City of Chicago, Frank Beal-representing the City of Chicago, Roger Claar-representing Will County, Elliott Hartstein-representing Lake County, Al Larson-representing northwest Cook County, Lisa Laws-representing the City of Chicago, Raul Raymundo-representing the City of Chicago, Rick Reinbold-representing South Suburban Cook County, William Rodeghier-representing West Cook County, Carolyn Schofield-representing McHenry County, Peter Silvestri-representing Cook County Rae Rupp Srch-representing DuPage County, Tom Weisner-representing Kane and Kendall Counties, and non-voting members Sean O’Shea-representing the Governor’s office and Leanne Redden-representing the MPO Policy Committee.

Staff Present:
Randy Blankenhorn, Jill Leary, Dolores Dowdle, Don Kopec, Bob Dean, Matt Maloney, Doug Ferguson, and Sherry Kane

Others Present:
1.0 Call to Order and Introductions
CMAP Board Chair, Mayor Gerald Bennett, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and asked Board members to introduce themselves.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements
There were no agenda changes. Board Chair Mayor Bennett announced that Susan Campbell and Heather Weed Niehoff, both representing the City of Chicago, would be leaving the Board. Bennett, on behalf of all the Board thanked them for the time and dedication they gave to the agency and wished them well. Mayor Bennett welcomed Lisa Laws, a new appointee representing the City of Chicago, announced that Rita Athas, also representing the City of Chicago had been reappointed to the Board and welcomed Mayor Tom Weisner of Aurora and President William Rodeghier from the Village of Western Springs, both of whom were attending for the first time.

Agenda Item No. 7.0 a report of GO TO 2040 Implementation, Board Chair Bennett announced, would be tabled and considered at another meeting. And finally, Bennett congratulated CMAP on its eighth birthday and the third anniversary of GO TO 2040.

3.0 Approval of Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013 meeting of the CMAP Board as presented was made by Elliott Hartstein and seconded by Rae Rupp Srch. All in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Executive Director’s Report
An update of the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program had been included in the board packet and later in the meeting, Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn reported, the Board will consider approving additional projects into the program. Having been invited to speak at a public hearing of the Northeastern Illinois Public Transit Task Force to speak, Blankenhorn turned to Raul Raymundo, a member of the task force who reported that the task force will be, among other issues, addressing the overall
coordination with respect to planning. Blankenhorn also reported that Deputy Director Don Kopec had been named as a recipient, at the national level, of an individual leadership award by the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO). In an effort to diversify its funding stream, CMAP has a number of pending grants, Blankenhorn continued: a 3-year, $447,118 grant through the Illinois Attorney General’s office to develop a Housing Policy Planning Toolkit; a $200,000 grant from U.S., Department of Commerce to expand existing Local Technical Assistance (LTA) to areas of economic/workforce development; a $150,000 grant from the Chicago Community Trust to cover projects that are not covered by transportation-related funding; and, a $224,000 grant through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for work related to the Boone Creek Watershed-Based Plan. Regarding CMAP Funding, Blankenhorn explained the process by which CMAP invoices the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and history of how CMAP had been reimbursed. Blankenhorn went on to say that the State of Illinois is out of compliance with federal law, that CMAP had to suspend payments to contractors and local government partners on two occasions since August, that the on-going delay is creating a serious cash flow situation for CMAP, and that CMAP has asked the FHWA to enforce the federal law that requires IDOT’s reimbursements in a timely manner.

5.0 Committee Reports
President Rick Reinbold, on behalf of the Local Coordinating Committee reported the following from the meeting that occurred earlier in the morning. The committee welcomed two new members representing the City of Chicago, Rita Athas and Lisa Laws. The committee considered and will be recommending approval of the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. Reinbold also reported that CMAP has been seeking external resources to support projects in the LTA program that do not relate directly to transportation which will allow CMAP to continue to pursue a broad range of projects through the LTA program.

Elliott Harstein, Chair of the Regional Coordinating Committee reported the following from the meeting that had also occurred earlier in the morning. The committee considered and recommended Board approval of the FY 2014-2018 CMAQ program (federal funds for air quality non-attainment areas for transportation projects that mitigate congestion or improve air quality), committing $286 million to 51 projects. The committee also discussed the proposed amendment to GO TO 2040 that would include the Illiana Corridor project and voted not to amend the plan. Hartstein would report additional details later in the meeting. Also considered by the Committee was the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Hartstein continued, and accompanying air quality conformity analysis, resulting in the Committee recommendation that the Board approve the amendment, excepting the change that would bring the Illiana project into the TIP. Finally, staff presented a summary of the major components of the GO TO 2040 financial plan update process as well as an overview of recent policy changes and actions undertaken by federal, state, and local entities that may affect transportation revenue trends during the planning period.
6.0 CMAP Board Vice Chair
Following last month’s naming of the Executive Committee, the City of Chicago had made two new appointments to the CMAP Board which had created a vacancy in the position of Vice Chair. Chairman Mayor Bennett suggested that newly reappointed board member Rita Athas fill the position. A motion by President Al Larson naming Rita Athas as Vice Chair to the CMAP Board and Chair of the Local Coordinating Committee was seconded by Commissioner Peter Silvestri, and with all in favor, carried.

7.0 GO TO 2040 Implementation
The GO TO 2040 Implementation report was tabled and will be considered at the Board’s next meeting.

8.0 Selection of Local Technical Assistance (LTA) Program Projects
CMAP staff Bob Dean reported briefly that thirty-two (32) projects are recommended to be pursued through the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, that the Local Coordinating Committee had considered the staff’s recommendation for project selection earlier in the morning and were able to recommend approval of the projects by the CMAP Board. A motion by Commissioner Peter Silvestri was seconded by President William Rodeghier to approve the selection of Local Technical Assistance (LTA) projects as has been presented. All in favor, the motion carried.

9.0 Proposed Amendment to GO TO 2040 -- Illiana Corridor
Opening the discussion, Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn cited the following four areas of concern that were included in the staff recommendation not to amend GO TO 2040 that would include the Illiana Corridor project: (a) financial risk, (b) contradictory growth assumptions, (c) unsubstantiated economic development potential, and (d) limited benefits to regional mobility. Blankenhorn touched briefly on each of the concerns and concluded with the following summary. Staff has concerns with the highway’s location, its financial viability and necessary unknown public sector resources, its minor benefit for economic growth and congestion relief, its potential impact on natural resources particularly the Midewin Tallgrass Prairie, its potential conflicts with the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, and finally, its implications for the timely construction of other important transportation investments in the region. Most importantly, Blankenhorn added, is concern that approving the Illiana project would undermine the region’s commitment to GO TO 2040.

CMAP Board member and Regional Coordinating Committee chair Elliott Hartstein gave a summary of the discussion that had occurred earlier in the morning at the Coordinating Committee, reporting that the Transportation Committee in a vote of 10-7, with 4 abstentions, did support the Illiana project emphasizing reduced congestion on I-80 and economic development potential in southern Will County. However, Hartstein continued, other CMAP working committees, among those Environment & Natural Resources, Economic & Community Development, Human & Community Development did not favor including the project and both the Land Use and Housing Committees, being split, were unable to take a position. Following a lengthy discussion at the Regional
Coordinating Committee, Hartstein concluded, 7 were in favor of staff recommendation, 3 opposed and 2 abstained from voting.

IDOT staff, Pete Harmet also reported to the Board explaining the process and comparing the project to others included in the plan. Harmet discussed the Public Private Partnership (P3) to the extent that he was able and suggested that the road would pay for itself in 35 years. Harmet also reported that the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) had reviewed the cost estimates, that the analysis had proved the project was strong and compared benefits to those of the Eisenhower Expressway project also in the plan.

Board members, particularly Sean O’Shea, representing the Governor’s office, Mayor Roger Claar, representing Will County, Elliott Hartstein, representing Lake County and CMAP Board Chair Mayor Gerald Bennett offered their respective positions.

Related to the proposed amendment of GO TO 2040 that would include the Illiana Corridor project, each of the following were given three minutes to address the CMAP Board. Briefly stated, they either opposed or supported the amendment.

- John Greuling, President and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development (support)
- Don Moran, District 3-Will County Board (support)
- Stacy Meyers, Openlands (opposed)
- Peter Skosey, Vice President-MPC (opposed)
- Michael Bossert, Chair-Kankakee County Board (support)
- Nick Narducci, representing the Village of Elwood (opposed)
- Reverend James Hunt, South Suburban Action Conference (support)
- Father Len Dubi, South Suburban Action Conference (support)
- Max Bosso, the Village of Elwood (opposed)
- Patrick Hosty, Chicago Area Laborers-Employers Cooperation & Education Trust (support)
- Andrew Armstrong, Environmental Law & Policy Center (opposed)

A motion by Frank Beal was seconded by Peter Silvestri to amend the GO TO 2040 Plan to include the Illiana Corridor project.

| Gerald Bennett—No | Raul Raymundo—No |
| Rita Athas—No     | Rick Reinbold—Yes |
| Frank Beal—No     | William Rodeghier—No |
| Roger Claar—Yes   | Carolyn Schofield—No |
| Elliott Hartstein—No | Peter Silvestri—No |
| Al Larson—No      | Rae Rupp Srch—Yes |
| Lisa Laws—No      | Thomas Weisner—Yes |
| Andrew Madigan—Absent |

A roll-call vote (4-10 and 1 absent) resulted in a failed motion.
10.0 Approval of GO TO 2040/TIP Conformity Analysis and TIP Amendments
Executive Director Randy Blankenhorn briefly explained that twice each year CMAP considers an amendment to the Transportation Improvement Program for projects affecting air quality. The Regional Coordinating Committee reviewed the amendment and accompanying analysis and recommended that the Board adopt the amendment, excepting the change that would bring the Illiana project into the TIP. The committee also recommended that the Board find that GO TO 2040 and the TIP as amended without the Illiana project meet air quality conformity requirements. A motion was made by Mayor Larson and seconded by Carolyn Schofield to approve the GO TO 2040/TIP conformity analysis and TIP amendments that would exclude the Illiana Corridor project. All in favor, the motion carried.

11.0 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program FFY2014-2018 Proposed Program
CMAP staff Doug Ferguson reported that material supporting the proposed Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, covering FFY2014-2018 had been included in the Board packet for consideration. The $286 million in funding for 51 projects is in addition to funds programmed in prior funding cycles and gives the region a five year program total of $582 million, Ferguson continued. Developed by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee and released for a public comment period during the month of August, both the Transportation Committee and the Regional Coordination Committee have reviewed the program and recommend approval by the CMAP Board. A motion by Carolyn Schofield was seconded by Rae Rupp Srch to approve the program as presented. All in favor, the motion carried.

12.0 Federal Transportation Certification Review
John Donovan of the Federal Highway Administration reported that the Federal Transportation Certification Review would be postponed because of the number of federal employees, particularly the Federal Transit Administration, being furloughed by the recent shutdown.

13.0 Public Comment
The public comment portion of the meeting was detailed under Item No. 9.0 Proposed Amendment to GO TO 2040—Illiana Corridor.

14.0 Other Business
There was no other business before the CMAP Board.

15.0 Next Meeting
The CMAP Board is scheduled to meet next on November 13, 2013.

16.0 Adjournment
At 11:20 a.m., a motion to adjourn by President William Rodeghier was seconded by Commissioner Peter Silvestri. All in favor, the motion carried.
Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Jill Leary, Chief of Staff

10-16-2013
/stk

Approved as presented by unanimous vote, November 13, 2013.