



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Freight Committee

**From:** CMAP Staff

**Date:** May 14, 2018

**Re:** National Highway System Changes

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CMAP and IDOT have been collaborating on revisions to the National Highway System (NHS). The NHS is periodically revised as conditions change. Revisions proposed by IDOT are subject to review by Counties and the Metropolitan Planning Organization. CMAP staff is presenting NHS changes to the Freight Committee and to the Transportation Committee in anticipation of approval by the CMAP MPO Policy Committee in June 2018.

The NHS consists of the Interstate System, highways functionally classed as freeways and expressways, and other principal arterials, plus intermodal connectors. Intermodal connectors link intermodal terminals to the remainder of the NHS. Changes in both functional classifications and access to intermodal terminals are the source of proposed changes in the NHS.

IDOT approved changes in functional classifications in 2016. These changes, developed collaboratively with CMAP staff, were reviewed by the Counties and the Councils of Mayors. Many of the functional classification changes resulted from a close look at principal arterials, which had not been reviewed prior to their addition to the NHS. Most of the changes now being proposed for the mainline NHS follow directly from the 2016 changes in functional classification. A few additional changes are also proposed that arose in reviewing intermodal connectors (e.g., Higgins Rd. in the vicinity of O'Hare).

In addition, CMAP and IDOT reviewed the status of intermodal connectors. Many of the changes are technical (based on prior approved changes). Other changes are based on changes in connectivity or better information regarding truck routing. Still more changes were based on changes in the industry, including newly open facilities (e.g., the O'Hare freight terminals) and closed facilities (e.g., the CN Railport facility).

CMAP staff will review the proposed changes with the committee at the meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

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