



## Environment and Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

October 2, 2013

- Members Present:** Jack Darin-Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley-Village of Schaumburg, Martin Jaffe-UIC, Deborah Stone-Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Edde Jones (representative for Sean Weidel)-Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner-Lake County Stormwater Management Commission,
- Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Nora Beck, Drew Williams-Clark, Alex Beata
- Others Present:** Mike Klemens-WCGL, Al Kindle-IDOT

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:36.

#### 2.0 Approval of Minutes – August 6, 2013

The minutes were approved with a clarification in section 9.0 that Dooley, not Jaffe, asked about the sustainability plan template. Motion by Martha Dooley, seconded by Patricia Werner.

#### 3.0 GO TO 2040 Update Process -- Alex Beata, CMAP

As part of the GO TO 2040 plan update, the FY 2014 work plan calls for a review of the implementation action tables at the end of each of the twelve chapters in GO TO 2040. Specifically, the work plan calls for these actions to be updated to reflect their implementation status. Over the past month, CMAP staff conducted an internal review to identify implementation examples for the plan's actions, focusing on work that CMAP has completed over the past three years. The ENR working committee divided into two small groups to identify additional implementation examples for three plan chapters, focusing on work completed by external partners: Manage and Conserve Water and Energy Resources; Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space; Promote Sustainable Local Food. The committee members actively identified implementation efforts on the various action items. Beata will use these examples to inform the plan update.

#### 4.0 Illiana Corridor, CMAP Staff Recommendation -- Jesse Elam, CMAP

CMAP received a formal request from IDOT to consider inclusion of the proposed Illiana Expressway as a fiscally constrained major capital project in GO TO 2040. During the last two committee meetings, CMAP staff presented their evaluation of the proposal within the context of GO TO 2040's socioeconomic forecasts and local land use planning in the

corridor; and the committee took a vote to inform their representation on the Regional Coordinating Committee. Using the CMAP staff recommendation memo as a reference, Elam outlined the four main issues raised in the memo.

1. *Financial Risk.* The proposed facility's estimated cost and potential financing structure expose the State of Illinois to extensive financial risk. The information provided to justify the project's financial viability has been incomplete and largely anecdotal.
2. *Contradictory Growth Assumptions.* To estimate performance of the facility, IDOT has used growth projections that are not consistent with GO TO 2040 forecasts, which are based on the need to direct investment toward existing communities. The IDOT forecasts essentially show what is likely to result if GO TO 2040 is not implemented, with negative impacts on livability, mobility, and natural resources.
3. *Unsubstantiated Economic Development Potential.* The proposed facility's ability to spur or support economic growth remains unclear because existing nearby development is minimal. The selected corridor alignment is not located near the existing residential and commercial centers to the north that are necessary for sustained job creation and economic development.
4. *Limited Benefits to Regional Mobility.* The proposed Illiana Corridor achieves negligible impacts on regional transportation performance, making it a lower priority than the planned GO TO 2040 investments that do address the region's congestion challenges.

Elam stated that the staff recommendation is to not amend the GO TO 2040 Plan to include the proposed Illiana Corridor. The proposed amendment is scheduled to be voted on by the CMAP Board on Wednesday, October 9 and the MPO Policy Committee on Thursday, October 17. A discussion followed. Jaffe asked if CMAP analyzed the potential impacts to the rest of the plan's projects if this proposal is included in the plan; CMAP staff did not undertake this at this time. Committee members discussed the potential changes to the Stevenson Expressway project. Dooley asked how other working committees were handling this issue; Elam explained that they are using different methods to arrive at their decision and some have yet to meet to take a position. Darin asked where the final decision will be made; the MPO policy committee's position will ultimately decide the course of action.

**5.0 Public Comment:** There were no public comments.

**6.0 Next Meeting:** The committee meets next on November 6, 2013, at 9:30 am.

## **10.0 Adjournment**

At 11 a.m., a motion to adjourn by Dooley was seconded by Werner. All in favor, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Nora June Beck  
CMAP staff liaison