



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## **Transportation Committee Minutes** July 27, 2007

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Cook County Conference Room

### **Transportation Committee Members Present:**

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra  
Luann Hamilton, Vice-Chairman, CDOT  
Rodney Bettenhausen, Cook County  
Morgan Cotten, DuPage County  
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, Metro Office  
Neil Ferrari, IDOT-DPIT  
Bruce Gould, Will County  
Don Kopec, CMAP  
Clarita Lao, IDOT-District One  
Mike McLaughlin, BLT  
Jan Metzger, CTAQC  
Arlene Mulder, Council of Mayors  
Randy Neufeld, Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force  
Les Nunes, IDOT-OP&P  
Jason Osborn, McHenry County  
Mark Pitstick, RTA  
Thomas Rickert, Kane County  
Joseph Schofer, Northwestern University  
Holly Smith, Kendall County  
Lorraine Snorden, Pace  
Jeffrey Sriver, CTA  
Steve Strains, NIRPC  
Paul Trigg, Lake County  
Mary Wells, Illinois Tollway

### **Transportation/ Work Program Committee Members Absent:**

Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office  
Rob Hann, Private Providers  
Mike Rogers, IEPA  
Vonu Thakuriah, UIC  
Ken Yunker, SEWRPC  
Tom Zapler, Class One Records

Others Present

Bruce Christensen  
Mike Erickson  
Bud Fleming  
Anna Froster  
Paul Heltne  
Chalen Hunter

Tam Kutzmark  
Beth McCluskey  
Hugh O'Hara  
Chad Riddle  
Tammy Wierciak  
Erin Willrett

CMAP Staff

Patricia Berry  
Janet Bright  
Bob Dean  
Jesse Elam  
Tom Garritano  
Kerri Johnson  
LynToi Lawson  
Jill Leary  
Matt Maloney

Tom Murtha  
Holly Ostdick  
Ross Patronskey  
Dan Rice  
Joy Schaad  
Gordon Smith  
Amy Talbot

**1.0 Call to Order and Introductions**

Mr. Jack Groner, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Members and all present introduced themselves.

**2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements**

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Rickert noted that he was not present but had designated Holly Smith to represent Kane County at the July 27 meeting. On a motion by Mayor Mulder and seconded by Ms. Snorden the minutes were approved as revised.

**4.0 Updates and Status Reports**

**4.1 Committee and Task Force Meetings**

There were no questions or comments on the committee and task force meeting summary. Transportation Committee members discussed the committee's changing role and decided to use the

CMAQ website for information on committee and task force meetings from here on out. The status reports will also be posted to the website ([www.chicagoareaplanning.org](http://www.chicagoareaplanning.org)). The RTA Quarterly report and the Council of Mayors report will be posted and staff will prepare information for inclusion in the CMAQ area of the CMAP website and work with IDOT and CDOT to determine the format for posting their updates. As requested, a listing of the current CMAP committee structure and predecessor structure is attached to these minutes. The website was discussed further, and it was determined that links to members' websites for programming information may be useful.

#### 4.2 Status Report on Implementation of Projects

##### a. IDOT

Ms. Lao reported that in June, the State had approximately \$133.9 million on the bid letting. She reviewed some of the major work included: widening I-55 from Weber to I-80, resurfacing projects in various locations of the six counties within the District, some traffic signal modernization and structure repairs.

##### b. RTA

There was no report.

##### c. CMAP

Mr. Patronsky advised the Committee that, based on the most recent information available, the CMAQ program is 78.4% obligated. This breaks down to 87.6% for TEA-21 and 58.4% for SAFETEA-LU. He also noted that four projects are on the August, 2007 letting for \$4,400,000.

##### d. CDOT

Ms. Hamilton stated that 18 projects that total approximately \$13 million in Surface Transportation Program-Local have been obligated since the last transportation committee. To date the STP-L obligated for Chicago is 29 projects at approximately \$23.56 Million.

#### 4.3 Council of Mayors Update

Mayor Mulder reported that the Executive Committee of the Council of Mayors has not met since the last Transportation Committee. She said there were 13 STP-L projects on the June

letting equaling approximately \$13.3 million, the August letting has 11 projects equaling approximately \$3.9 million STP-L, and the September letting has 7 projects equaling approximately \$17.9 million STP-L.

#### 4.4 Coordinating Committee Reports and Evolution of the Planning Process

Chairman Groner said the materials for the Planning and Programming coordinating committees are available on the CMAP website. At the initial meetings, the Programming Coordinating Committee has been brought up to date as far as activities of the agency. Mr. Groner said that as officers of the Transportation Committee change and as CMAP Board members change, there will be a need to maintain fluidity and continuity. He noted that he is a member of the Programming Coordinating Committee, and Vice-Chairman Hamilton is a member of the Planning Coordinating Committee. They serve on these committees as representatives of the CMAP Transportation Committee and work to ensure that the proper coordination is occurring between all six working committees and the CMAP Board. He continued to state that all Transportation Committee (TC) members are more than welcome to attend meetings of either committee to ensure that the TC is being represented properly. Additionally, Mr. Groner stated that he and the Vice-Chairman will not always be available to attend these meetings and in the future other TC members may be called upon to represent the TC at these coordinating committees.

Ms. Hamilton reported that at their last meeting, the Planning Coordinating Committee discussed the progress on the regionwide Leadership Workshops. CMAP has completed all the Leadership Workshops in the suburbs and the workshops will continue in the city of Chicago during the fall. She noted that there has been pretty good attendance but not enough participation by elected officials. Additionally, she mentioned the fall event being held at the Illinois Institute of Technology on September 12. The event is being held to update the regional vision and will be discussed further in agenda item 7. Ms. Hamilton said that in future, items such as the Visioning Event will be discussed in the “correct” order; going to the Working Committees prior to the Coordinating Committees,

but the TC is just transitioning to its new, monthly meeting schedule.

Mr. Groner reported that at their last meeting, the Programming Coordinating Committee discussed the regional legislation and the development of a process of defining and identifying projects of regional importance. Mr. Kopec noted that the legislation calls on CMAP to develop a process and we're not sure what that process will be. In six to twelve months something solid will be in place. It's a work in progress that is policy and technically oriented. We are looking at how to best analyze developments. Mr. Groner said the Programming Coordinating Committee has also been briefed on FPA, CMAQ, UWP and the existing agreements of the predecessor agencies.

Mr. Groner then asked for feedback on the direction of the Transportation Committee. There are now more members and less subcommittees and the TC is reporting to both the MPO Policy Committee and the Coordinating Committees. General concerns were that the Committee continue to provide the critical link in maintaining adherence to the federal process in order to continue the flow of federal funds to the region. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the committee should coordinate more with policy makers on Capital Hill. We've done a good job with train whistle legislation, but we need more outreach between the CMAP and D.C. Mr. Smith said that over the last couple of months he and Executive Director Blankenhorn have been reaching out to establish such relationships. He said that Randy has had ten meetings with Congressional representatives, including meeting with both Senators. Chairman Groner noted that CMAP has lots of interests and asked if these meetings had dealt with specific issues. Mr. Smith said they are general, talking about regional issues. Members talked about the importance of addressing the next federal surface transportation re-authorization and the need for quick turn around if contacted by D.C.

Ms. Metzger suggested that if we want CMAP to be asked questions we have to take positions that not everybody agree with. The regional comprehensive plan needs to make hard choices, we need evaluation measures and the news has to get to the media.

Right now we work to keep the implementers happy. She noted that the evaluation measures were important. A beginning effort was made by NIPC for the 2030 RTP addressing the jobs/housing balance: it wasn't brought in robustly, but it was a start.

Mr. Rickert echoed earlier comments about the importance of accomplishing the required activities of the TC, including addressing federal requirements. Mr. DiPalma agreed, saying the Transportation Committee is a vital link between the old and the new. Until the MPO changes, we play a critical role in ensuring the continued flow of federal funds. A key role as we evolve is a link to the past and taking care of the bread and butter issues of the MPO.

Ms. Lao asked about the timeliness of the availability of the coordinating committee's agendas. Mr. Groner asked that the agendas be put on the website earlier than in the past and encouraged members to contact staff if they would like to see agenda items added.

Mr. Osborn suggested that if CMAP will be identifying regional projects, the Transportation Committee would guide that effort for transportation projects. Mayor Mulder stated that policy makers should establish goals and every committee should look at how they can meet those goals. She cited the efforts on behalf of walkability and noted that lots of the best ideas come from the general public. She suggested that to get local elected officials involvement, CMAP should work thorough the COG executive directors. Practicality and common sense need to be watch words as we move forward.

Mr. Neufeld said that maybe some of the old mechanisms could be looked at in new ways. The TIP is important and the Committee's role can be more than approval of a list. Project programming and project selection should be affected by the RTP. TIP projects should honor existing policies.

Mr. Schofer said it is helpful to track where the system is going. Measures can be organized into a dashboard so we know what direction we're going. Projects of regional significance can be

addressed in many ways. Mr. Schofer cited Virginia and noted their Governor has said he would look at project of regional significance not from a regulatory standpoint, but with a system of measures and a framework for evaluating programs.

Mr. Heltne said the goals that we are establishing for long range planning have a complete absence of reference to global warming and this should be raised as a fundamental criterion. Ms. Hamilton said the Planning Coordinating Committee is talking about global warming and sustainability and some of those efforts will be discussed later in the agenda, under item 9.

Ms. Hamilton said she shares Mr. DiPalma's concerns that we adequately address federal transportation requirements. The TC would like to develop a summary of responsibilities and understand better how the Transportation Committee will coordinate with other committees.

Ms. Metzger asked a procedural note. She noted that at a previous meeting it was stated that the new members were not yet voting members and asked if they are now. Chairman Groner said yes, as of this meeting, the transition from Work Program Committee to Transportation Committee is complete.

## **5.0 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Ostdick)**

Ms. Ostdick stated that CMAP is holding TIP training for any programmers who would be interested in attending. She asked that they contact her at [HOstdick@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:HOstdick@cmapp.illinois.gov).

Ms. Ostdick continued, requesting approval of TIP changes. She stated there were:

- 5 delete project actions
- 3 change project actions
- 98 line-item changes
- 23 new projects

Additionally, Ms. Ostdick stated there were two projects in the TIP change attachment that additionally require Executive Committee advanced funding approval. Those TIP changes will not occur until the projects

receive Executive Committee approval. On a motion by Mr. Osborn and seconded by Mr. Rickert the TIP changes were approved. The Executive Committee officers, who had been empowered to act on behalf of the Executive Committee, approved the advance funding request subsequent to the TC meeting.

## **6.0 CMAQ (Patronsky)**

Mr. Patronsky introduced the proposed CMAQ program for FY 2008, which was being recommended to the Transportation Committee by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee.

Mr. Patronsky noted that an estimated \$53.9 million will be available for funding projects for FY 2008, taking into account a rescission that was finalized after the CMAP Project Selection Committee met. The recommended program consists of 72 projects representing just over \$54.8 million in funding. He said staff will recommend how to address the over programming at the September Project Selection Committee meeting.

Mr. Patronsky continued that the FY 2008 funds programmed are for those project phases that can be obligated in 2008; the program also commits \$28 million in funds for FY 2009 and \$29.8 million in funds for FY 2010 and beyond for future phases of these same projects.

He noted that the proposed program includes engineering for the city of Chicago's Bloomingdale trail. He said that, while it is likely the City will apply for additional CMAQ funding, the project is too big for CMAQ alone and the City is committed to include other funds for construction. He commented that there are other large bicycle projects that will be examined in the same regard.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Transportation Committee agrees, the proposed program will be released for public comment and review beginning July 30th, extending through August 28th. Following this, it will be considered and revised if necessary by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee and will return to the Programming Coordinating Committee, Transportation Committee and CMAP Board for final review and recommendation to the Policy Committee at its October meeting.

Ms. Metzger stated that she noticed that Bicycle and Pedestrian projects received a general increase in overall dollars compared to previous years. She showed concern that although it is great that bicycle and pedestrian

projects are receiving more support, it appears that the increase has affected the transit projects. Ms. Hamilton said the city of Chicago gets a significant amount of transit funding for transit, but those projects often take longer. Mr. Pitstick agreed, adding that we're not programming only the \$55 million; we're programming \$100 million. In looking at what's programmed, it's important to look at the total amount, not just what is funded for FY 08. He also noted that the measures used for CMAQ need to be re-evaluated. Mr. Neufeld asked when that discussion and strategy development occur. Mr. Groner said that moving forward, the TC is the appropriate place for the discussion. Mr. Neufeld said the bicycle and pedestrian community has worked on this program and we should work together to build the program back to what is has been in the past. Mr. Groner agreed that overall, CMAQ money has decreased and all project types have received a decrease in funding. It was also noted that there is no pre-set split between project types or implementers.

Following a motion by Ms. Hamilton and seconded by Ms. Trigg, the proposed program of CMAQ projects for FY 2008, with FY 2009 through 2012 commitments, was released for public review and comment. Ms. Metzger abstained from voting.

## **7.0 Regional Comprehensive Plan**

### **7.1 Presentation on Regional Comprehensive Plan Development Process (Dean)**

Mr. Dean provided the committee with a presentation on the Regional Comprehensive Plan development process. The presentation focused on the scenario evaluation and selection process, which will be the central part of the preparation of the plan. Several alternative future scenarios will be constructed, and then will be evaluated based on indicators that are tied to the regional vision. Mr. Dean emphasized that the construction of scenarios and the identification of indicators would occur in late 2007 and 2008, with considerable participation by the working committees. A major public involvement process will occur in 2009 to inform the selection of the preferred scenario, which will guide the plan recommendations. The Committee requested that the issue be discussed further at the August Transportation Committee meeting.

### **7.2 Regional Vision Development (Dean)**

Mr. Dean referred committee members to the memo on regional vision development that had been included in the meeting materials. He stated that staff had grouped the goals identified by the committee into major themes, which would form the basis for the regional vision. The working committees' discussion of major themes will culminate in the visioning workshop on September 12, where CMAP's committees, Board members, members of the MPO, and other groups will discuss the work conducted to date and how this will result in a regional vision.

### 7.3 Regional Snapshot Report on Sustainability (Elam)

Mr. Elam introduced the Sustainability Snapshot report that he and other CMAP staff are developing. It is meant to explore the issue of sustainability in greater detail to provide background for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Elam said the report would focus on defining the term (a combination of the "3E" definition of meeting environment, equity, and economic goals simultaneously and the definition involving preserving goods for future generations), developing indicators for sustainability, and addressing the three cross-cutting sustainability issues of climate change, energy and natural resource use, and governance. Mr. Elam concluded his presentation and requested committee feedback on three items: definition of sustainability, identification of major cross-cutting issues and use of evaluation measures or indicators to measure sustainability. Committee members asked that the power point presentation be emailed to them and promised to provide feedback. Mr. Elam's address is [jelam@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:jelam@cmap.illinois.gov). Ms. Snorden asked about the timeline for the process. Mr. Elam said he expected to have a draft by the end of August.

### 8.0 Regional Planning Act (Leary)

Ms. Leary stated that Senate Bill 1201 is currently awaiting the Governor's signature. She encouraged CMAP partners to write the Governor in support of the legislation. She continued to state that CMAP is assisting in identifying a viable trailer bill to add the agreed upon amendment to add two Governor's appointments to the Board and name the collar county board designee to the Wastewater Committee as the permanent vice-chair of the committee.

Ms. Leary continued, reporting that internal agency activity included Ron Thomas leaving the agency at the end of July. She stated staff is undergoing a slight restructuring including going from six administrative groups to five and there will be a new group focusing on Community & Technical Assistance. She stated this group will be headed by Bola Delano. Additionally, Don Kopec will oversee Planning and Programming while Research and Analysis, External Relations, and Finance and Administration remain largely intact.

#### **9.0 Integration & Innovation Summit II (Dean)**

Mr. Dean distributed a postcard outlining the next Integration & Innovation Summit which will be proposed to be held in October 2007. CMAP is developing a "Climate Change Regional Program Strategy" based on the creation of an educational and outreach program to assist communities in the region with understanding the issues that climate change may bring to their communities, and to connect with the larger great lakes region on issues of broader regional significance that will impact northeastern Illinois.

#### **10.0 Public Comment**

Ms. Metzger said she had a delayed reaction to Ms. Leary's comment on not replacing Ron Thomas. She said that this lends credence to those concerned about the worst case scenario for CMAP. The big fear was that transportation would dominate land use and NIPC's purview would be diminished. Mr. Kopec replied, saying there is not a "transportation area" and a "land use area" at the agency. Ms. Metzger said all of the remaining deputies are transportation people and it is a perception problem. Mr. Kopec reviewed the Deputy Executive Directors and their areas: Mr. Kopec is responsible for planning and programming, Ms. Delano for community and technical assistance, Mr. Wies for Research and Analysis, Mr. Smith for External Relations and Ms. Dowdle for Finance and Administration. Ms. Hamilton said folks have been very impressed with how CMAP has reached out. Mr. Groner noted that water resources had been one of the main items discussed by the programming coordinating committee.

Ms. Snorden noted that in Mr. Dean's presentation he said the Regional Comprehensive Plan will be adopted by both the MPO Policy Committee and the CMAP Board—when will they one? Mr. Groner said we don't know yet. The Policy Committee still has responsibility and authority for

approval of federally required products. The issue is being looked at to determine how/when/if it will be done. Mr. Groner said one of the things to examine is if the Board and Policy Committee combined, what that group would look like. Mr. Kopec said everyone recognizes a single board is the way to go but existing state and federal legislation define composition of each and there is no set time line. Mr. Groner re-iterated that the TC is a subcommittee of both the CMAP Coordinating Committees and the MPO and we report to the MPO which has not changed. Ms. Snorden said it is important that we be clear about the roles of all of the committees.

**11.0 Next Meeting**

Mr. Groner stated the next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cook County room.

**12.0 Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Rickert and seconded by Mr. Ferrari the meeting was adjourned.

**Transportation Committee Members**

- |                       |                    |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ___ Vanessa Adams *** | ___ Clarita Lao    | ___ Jeffrey Sriver |
| ___ John DeLaurentiis | ___ Paul Losos     | ___ Steve Strains  |
| ___ Chris DiPalma *** | ___ Mike           | ___ Vonu Thakuriah |
|                       | ___ McLaughlin     |                    |
| ___ Rocky Donahue     | ___ Jan Metzger    | ___ Chuck Tokarski |
| ___ Neil Ferrari      | ___ Arlene Mulder  | ___ Paula Trigg    |
| ___ Bruce Gould       | ___ Randy Neufeld  | ___ Mary Wells     |
| ___ Rupert Graham Jr  | ___ Jason Osborn   | ___ Ken Yunker     |
| ___ Jack Groner *     | ___ Thomas Rickert | ___ Tom Zapler     |
| ___ Luann Hamilton**  | ___ Mike Rogers    |                    |
| ___ Fran Klaas        | ___ Joe Schofer    |                    |
| ___ Don Kopec         | ___ Dick Smith     |                    |
| *Chair                | **Vice-Chair       | ***Non-voting      |

## CMAP Structure

### Policy

- CMAP Board
- MPO Policy Committee
- CMAP Executive Committee

### Advisory

- Citizens' Advisory Committee
- Council of Mayors
- Counties

### Coordinating

- Planning
- Programming

### Working Committees

- Economic & Community Development
- Environment & Natural Resources
- Housing
- Human Services
- Land Use
- Transportation

### Other Groups

- Advanced Technology Task Force
- Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force
- CMAQ Project Selection Committee
- Intermodal Advisory Task Force
- Public – Private Initiatives Task Force
- Regional Water Supply Planning Group
- Unified Work Program Committee
- Wastewater Committee

## CATS Structure

- Policy Committee
- Council of Mayors
- Work Program Committee
- Other Committees & Task Forces

## CATS Committee & Task Force

Advanced Technology Task Force  
Air Quality & Transportation Management Task Force  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force  
CMAQ Project Selection Committee  
Community Mobility Task Force  
Intermodal Advisory Task Force  
Management & Operations Committee  
Private Providers Task Force  
Public Involvement Task Force  
Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Committee  
TIP Procedures Committee  
Task Force for Seniors & People with Disabilities  
Unified Work Program Committee

## NIPC Structure

- Commission & Executive Committee
- Planning Committee
- Water Resources Committee
- Finance Committee & sub-committee

***CATS Policy Committee → MPO Policy Committee***

***Council of Mayors → Council of Mayors***

***Work Program Committee → Transportation Committee***

***CATS Committee or Other Groups → CMAP Other Groups***

CMAQ Project Selection Committee → CMAQ Project Selection Committee

Unified Work Program Committee → Unified Work Program Committee

***CATS Task Force → CMAP Other Groups***

Advanced Technology Task Force

Bicycle & Pedestrian Task Force

Intermodal Advisory Task Force

Public - Private Initiatives Task Force

***CATS groups incorporated into other groups or dissolved***

Air Quality & Transportation Management Task Force

Community Mobility Task Force

Management & Operations Committee

Public Involvement Task Force

Task Force for Seniors & People with Disabilities

TIP Procedures Committee

***NIPC Committee → CMAP Committee***

Planning Committee → Land Use Working Committee

Water Resources Committee → Wastewater Committee

***NIPC Committees incorporated into other committees or dissolved***

Commission & Executive Committee

Finance Committee & sub-committee