



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Thursday, July 25, 2024

1:00 PM

**Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607**

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov until July 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89759069337?pwd=BpylnaSJHAKGLaFDvakMQjhxtAG4Z.1>

CMAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to info@cmap.illinois.gov at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the

Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAP's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>. If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Durnbaugh called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm and reminded the audience that the meeting is being recorded and provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Principal Nora Beck called the roll.

Present: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Emily Reusswig, Vanessa Ruiz, Matthew Santagata, Ryan Wilson, and Stefan Schaffer

Absent: Deborah Stone, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, and Thomas Maillard

Noting a physical quorum of the Committee, Chair Durnbaugh announced a request from Member Vanessa Ruiz received to participate remotely in compliance with Open Meetings Act requirements. A vote is needed to approve her virtual attendance.

A motion was made by Member Edith Makra, seconded by Member Mary Nichol, to allow Vanessa Ruiz to participate in compliance with the Open Meetings Act. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Ethan Kimbrel, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Emily Reusswig, Matthew Santagata, Ryan Wilson, and Stefan Schaffer

Absent: Deborah Stone, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, and Thomas Maillard

Not Present: Samira Hanessian, and Vanessa Ruiz

Chair Durnbaugh requested the secretary note that the virtual participants are present and able to participate in the meeting.

Staff Present: Nora Beck, Bill Barnes, Julie Reschke, Michael Collins, Jared Patton, Kesley Pudlock, Ryan Gougis, Ryan Thompto, Lawrence Landfair, Joan Smedinghoff, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Isaura Velez, Elizabeth Scott, Holly Hudson, Jesse Altman, Karly Cazzato, Lee Skuby, Michael Brown, Mike Sobczak, Mitch Hirst, Teri Dixon

Others Present: Alex Cannon, Cheryl Watson, Danielle Gallet, Joe Surdam, John Paul Jones, Kate DeMuro, Kristina Murphy, Lawrence Friedman, Lena Guerro Reynolds, Michael Sewall, qy, Sen Bal

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

2.01 Requests for agenda changes

There were no changes to the agenda.

2.02 CMAP Updates

Bill Barnes, Deputy of Regional Policy and Implementation, shared that the Illinois Regional Planning Act Modernization Bill passed both chambers and awaits signature from the governor. Deputy Barnes shared that the bill would make changes to CMAP's enabling statute that allows for timely decisions at the board level. He indicated that changes in the legislation will not affect the Climate Committee's proposed bylaws changes being considered by the committee today. Deputy Barnes shared the CMAP Board is on hiatus and the next meeting will be held in September. The CMAP Board recently reviewed Executive Director Erin Aleman's performance review and approved a five -year contract renewal. The board also received and filed the Fiscal Year 2023 financial audit.

Deputy Barnes shared that CMAP, in partnership with the RTA, received 122 applications and awarded technical assistance grants to 30 projects this year. Deputy Barnes shared an overview of the Technical Assistance Program noting that they are grants issued by CMAP for planning and implementation work, ranging from ADA evaluations, bike-pedestrian work, and other grant readiness work that support under-resourced communities, such as Watershed Planning work.

Deputy Barnes shared that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency received over \$430 million in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction and mitigation funding through the UESPA's Carbon Pollution Reduction Grant Program. This program funds the climate action planning work happening in the region. The funding awarded to the state is the third largest of the 25 awarded. Deputy Barnes highlighted the plans for this grant, noting that additional information will be provided later in the agenda. Deputy Barnes noted that the IPA sought funding to create and expand the Equitable Climate Workforce Training opportunities building on momentum from the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act.

Deputy Barnes shared an update on CMAP's new website redesign, noting a new climate and natural resources page, a robust events calendar to encourage engagement and embedded tools such as the Community Data Snapshots Visualization Tool and the Job Quality and Access Tool. Deputy Barnes shared that CMAP has just completed its 16th annual Future Leaders in Planning (FLIP) summer program for high school students in Northeastern Illinois and provided an overview of the program, noting 23 students received lessons on the Climate Action Plan.

Deputy Barnes welcomed 5 new members to the Climate Committee, former CMAP board member and current Senior Director of Strategy Planning and Operations at Natural Resources Defense Council Stefan Schaeffer, Water Resources Specialist with McHenry County Planning and Development Entity Scott Kikendall, Director at Metropolitan Planning Council Ryan Wilson, Vice President of Conservation and Policy at Openlands Emily Reusswig and Sustainability Programs Manager at Lake County Administrator Office Robin Grooms. Deputy Barnes shared that longtime committee member Deborah Stone has tendered her resignation from Cook County, effective the end of August and will be departing the Climate Committee.

(Samira Hannessian entered the meeting at 1:16 pm.)

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from April 25, 2024

[24-308](#)

Attachments: [Climate Committee minutes 04.25.2024 DRAFT](#)

A motion was made by Edith Makra, seconded by Emily Reusswig, to approve the April 25, 2024 meeting minutes.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Emily Reusswig, Vanessa Ruiz, Matthew Santagata, Ryan Wilson, and Stefan Schaffer

Absent: Deborah Stone, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, and Thomas Maillard

4.0 New Business

4.01 Update to Committee Bylaws

[24-309](#)

Attachments: [Bylaws Memo July 2024](#)
[CLIMATE COMMITTEE Bylaw proposed amendments - 7 24 DRAFT](#)

An update to the Committee Bylaws was presented by Deputy Bill Barnes, noting proposed amendments to achieve efficiency and flexibility and transparency goals. From the flexibility standpoint a proposed amendment allows changing members from individuals to organizations and the creation of formal and informal working workshop meetings to reinforce commitment to transparency in public participation. Deputy Barnes allowed questions.

Member Ryan Wilson asked if the workshops have a location requirement. Deputy Barnes shared that workshops would be hybrid and would not have a location requirement. Member Stefan Schaeffer ask how organization representation impacts existing members terms. Deputy Barnes shared that if amendments pass, Executive Director Erin Aleman will be issuing appointment letters to members respective organizations and the designation can be made appropriately.

Chair Durnbaugh took vote to approve the proposed changes to the Committee bylaws.

A motion was made by Member Paul May, seconded by Jack Chan to adopt the proposed changes.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Emily Reusswig, Vanessa Ruiz, Matthew Santagata, Ryan Wilson, and Stefan Schaffer

Absent: Deborah Stone, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, and Thomas Maillard

4.02 Fiscal Year 2025 Meeting Schedule

[24-311](#)

Attachments: [FY2025 Meeting Dates Memo 2024-07-25](#)

Chair Durnbaugh presented the next two meetings scheduled are for workshops scheduled for October 24, 2024 and February 27, 2025 and the formal action meeting scheduled for in person quorum requirement scheduled for May 22, 2025. Chair Durnbaugh welcomed a motion and a second to approve.

A motion was made by Member Steffan Schaeffer, seconded by Ryan Wilson to approve Fiscal Year 2025 meeting schedule.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Samira Hanessian, Ethan Kimbrel, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Emily Reusswig, Vanessa Ruiz, Matthew Santagata, Ryan Wilson, and Stefan Schaffer

Absent: Deborah Stone, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, and Thomas Maillard

4.03 Legislative Update

[24-312](#)

Attachments: [July Climate Committee Memo Legislative Update](#)

Ryan Gougis, Specialist of Legislative Affairs, provided a legislative update, sharing that the assembly adjourned on May 29th for the Spring 2024 legislative session passing the FY25 budget and the Budget Implementation Act (BIMP). Specialist Gougis shared that the RPA Modernization Bill passed in both house and senate with unanimous support and it's currently with the governor. The Bill is anticipated to be signed into law. An update on the RPA Appropriation Bill was given, sharing that the bill would appropriate \$5 million dollars to CMAP to help fulfill the Regional Planning Act obligations established in CMAP's enabling statue. This was not successful in being incorporated into the FY25 budget, but CMAP staff will continue to work with members of the General Assembly in the Governor's office to advance the appropriation and get funding to support CMAP's work.

A highlight from the FY25 budget was shared, noting that a \$150 million transfer from the road fund to the public transportation fund by \$175 million dollars totaling \$325 million. The RTA act requires the road fund to provide \$150 million to the public transportation fund each year, plus funds for RTA's debt service. The remaining of the PTF's annual funding has historically come from the General Revenue Fund. The FY25 BIMP instead increases the transfer from the road fund to the public transportation fund by only \$75 million, totaling \$225 million, it also calls for a \$50 million transfer from the leaking underground storage tank fund (LUST) to be transferred to the Public Transportation Fund. The LUST fund is funded through a fraction of the motor field tax, but is separate from the road fund. Both the 75 million and 50 million transfer included in the FY25 BIMP are one time transfers to occur only in FY25, however sets a precedent for similar transfers in the future.

The main takeaway is that these transfers do not provide new revenues for transportation, but shift the funding burden from the public transportation fund away from the General Revenue Fund. This does not meet the transportation systems operating in capital needs at a time when additional funds

are needed and when long-term sustainability of existing revenue sources continue to be at risk.

Specialist Gougis shared an update on the Climate Equitable Transportation Act, that includes the Metropolitan Mobility Act. This includes consolidating the RTA and service boards into one entity to manage transit in the region.

A legislative update was provided.

4.04 Regional Climate Action Plan

[24-313](#)

Attachments: [Regional Climate Action Planning Memo 7.25.2024](#)

Jared Patton, Senior Planner of Regional Policy and Implementation shared an update on the CPRG Phase 2 Implementation Grants, noting that the IEPA awarded \$430 million for an expansive project to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions with no grants being awarded to Northeastern Illinois.

Senior Planner Patton provided an overview of CAP's goals being a 50% reduction in GG by 2030 and net zero by 2050. This reflects the federal goals to meet the Paris agreements. This project is being conducted in partnership with Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission. (NIRPC) with a due date of July 2025. The jurisdiction for the project has changed with LaPorte County in Indiana being added to planning area with a focus on implementation.

NIRPC has a three county jurisdiction that includes, Lake, Porter and LaPorte that is now included. Senior Planner Patton shared an updated project timeline to indicate that modeling work has been started with consultants E3 to identify what the best tools are so that recommendations in the plan are meeting the goals of the plan. Senior Planner Patton shared an update on engagement so far, noting that the first meeting for the CAP steering committee was held in June. He shared that engagement is relying on three sector specific working groups made of subject matter experts as well as an equity working group that is going to focus on equity items in the plan. Senior Planner Patton sought feedback from the committee.

Chair Durnabaugh asked if additional participation in the industry working group are needed and if members can help connect with expertise within networks. Planner Patton shared that CMAP is most lacking participation in the private sector and by key industries needed to decarbonize, so large networks within the general Illinois manufacturing community are welcome.

The committee engaged in discussion.

4.05 Regional Transportation Plan

[24-316](#)

Attachments: [20240725 Climate Committee RTP Memo](#)

Julie Reschke, Policy Analyst, provided an update on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP was previously embedded in the ON TO 2050 Plan. It fulfills the federal requirements established for metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), is essential for access to the federal funding, and is due October 2026. As staff prepares the update to the RTP, they are guided by the following questions:

What is the future transportation system we want?; What are the challenges and opportunities to get there?; and How will we achieve the transportation system we want? The RTP must align with federal goals as well as comply with state mandates and should take into account existing plans from transit agencies and local governments. As part of this process, CMAP reviewed approximately 30 plans adopted by federal, state, county, transit, and other agencies to identify common goals, objectives, and strategies. Increased mobility and accessibility, improved safety and security, and preservation of the existing transportation system were a few of the common goals shared by these agencies. The RTP will build on the transportation vision in the ON TO 2050 Plan, last updated in 2022.

The ON TO 2050 Plan includes transportation recommendations on mobility, community, prosperity, environment, and governance. Policy Analyst Reschke identified the goals of the RTP, the work that has taken place and is underway to achieve these goals, and the region's vision for transportation. Next steps include stakeholder engagement, a public survey, an opportunity to submit research, ideas, policy stances, and the creation of an engagement webpage to coordinate future outreach. Discussion ensued regarding ability to implement the plan, preservation of agriculture, the need for more in-depth conversations regarding tradeoffs and competing goals, and involving freight agencies in the discussion.

The agenda items was discussed.

4.06 Environmental Justice Framework

[24-315](#)

Attachments: [240711 EJFramework Climate Memo](#)

Michael Collins, Policy Analyst presented the Environmental Justice Framework project. Noting that this is part of the broader five year effort of establishing a first equity program area which is an attempt to figure out how to put together all the various pieces of work to meet environmental justice framework. Analyst Collins shared the EJ team includes three different divisions at CMAP, including those with skills in statistics and analysis in policy and planning working together. Analyst Collins shared the project timeline is a one year effort to identify future projects and identify gaps in what we could be doing and aren't doing. The project started with a legal review where CMAP staff was consulted across various departments. Analyst Collins shared that the opportunity to talk to external stakeholders are upcoming. He shared that a lunch and learn may be scheduled in the future to gather feedback and develop training. Analyst Collins sought feedback from the committee.

The agenda item was discussed.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Ryan Wilson left the meeting at 2:30 pm

6.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

7.0 Public Comment

Principal Nora Beck shared comments in the zoom chat box during presentations.

Danielle Gallet made comment during the Climate Action Plan Update suggested a private company that could be included in the process for private co representation: Method (soap company); factory is based-in Pullman historic district.

John Paul Jones commented that the Transportation Working Group will need to be broader, along with Building Group. During the overview of the regional transportation plan, John Paul Jones added that relative to job growth when do we factor in the land use like US Steele, Chicago 78, Pullman, Near West, West Loop, Lincoln Park, Redline Extension etc. John Paul Jones stated a statement was submitted through email. Principal Beck apologized and noted the comment was received and she will follow up with John Paul Jones.

8.0 Next Workshop

The Climate Committee will be hosting a fully virtual workshop tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 1 p.m.

9.0 Adjournment

Chair Durnbaugh adjourned the meeting at 2:33 pm.
Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.