



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Tuesday, April 25, 2023

9:00 AM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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If you would like to speak during a public meeting, email your statement or question to info@cmap.illinois.gov at least 24 hours before the meeting. CMAP staff will read aloud submitted comments and allow any others who wish to speak during time scheduled for public comment.

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 9:00 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is being held virtually as permitted by the Governor's Disaster Declaration.

Staff Liaison Brian Daly provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Staff Liaison Daly called roll.

Present: Aaron Durnbaugh, Deborah Stone, Cynthia Kanner, Edith Makra, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, Jack Chan, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Martha Dooley, Mary Nicol, Raed Mansour, Thomas Maillard, Vanessa Ruiz, Chris Young, and Samira Hanessian

Absent: Naomi Davis, Paul May, and Matthew Santagata

Staff Present: Aimee Lee, Alex Ensign, Alexis McAdams, Bill Barnes, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Brian Daly, Carolyn Back, Craig Heither, Elizabeth Scott, Erin Aleman, Isaura Velez, Jaemi Jackson, Jared Patton, Jason Navota, Julie Reschke, Karly Cazzato, Kasia Hart, Kate Evasic, Laura Wilkinson, Leroy Kos, Martin Menninger, Mary Weber, Matthew Marth, Nora Beck, Phoebe Downey, Russell Pietrowiak, Ryan Ehlke, Ryan Thompto, Teri Dixon, Timothy O'Leary,

Others Present: Heidi Lichtenberger, Kaci Crowley, Kristina Murphy, Marisa Krawiec, Mimi Cowan, Zac Adelman, Sa'Rah, Garland and Heather Armstrong

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chair Durnbaugh announced new member Samira Hanessian who is replacing Jennifer Walling. Samira introduced herself.

CMAP Update

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, announced that the governor's disaster declaration will be ending, and the next meeting in July will be held in person with a virtual option available to the public. She shared the 2022 annual report, highlighting the updated greenhouse gas emission inventory. The work related to the carbon reduction program focuses on creating an equitable charging network for electric vehicles and reducing congestion by promoting mass transit alternatives, biking, and walking.

Executive Director Aleman reported on the launch of the second annual State of the Region program. This program brings attention to public sentiment on key issues related to the ONTO 2050 plan's goal of an inclusive and thriving region. A public opinion survey conducted to understand the priorities and experiences of residents in northeastern Illinois. Overall, residents' outlooks maintained consistent from 2022 to 2023, but with increasing concern of the cost of housing, reinforcing how CMAP, as a regional planning agency, can support some of the housing challenges. Executive Director Aleman shared the winners of the Regional Excellence Awards, which were created to recognize achievements and exceptional work done in the region. Pace Suburban Bus received the award for regional resiliency for its zero emissions commitment by 2040 for their fleet and the Village of Oak Park received an award for its Climate Ready Oak Park climate action and resilience plan. The winner of the Visionary Lead Awards was Peter Wallers, Chairman of Engineering Enterprises, for his career focused on water conservation.

Executive Director Aleman provided a brief legislative update, and CMAP's top priority of this session is securing funding to fulfill its obligations in the Regional Planning Act. Senators Ram Villivalam and Don DeWitte have filed Senate Bill 1429 and Representative Marty Moylan and Representative Dan Ugaste filed House Bill 4027. If passed, the bills would appropriate funding for CMAP's work in the state's 2024 budget. Executive Director Aleman asked that the committee provide comments to the House budgeteer Representative Robyn Gabel and Senate budgeteer Elgie Sims about these proposals.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from January 24, 2023

[23-226](#)

Attachments: [01.24.23 Minutes - Draft](#)

A motion was made by Member Thomas Maillard, seconded by Member Martha Dooley, to approve the January 24, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Deborah Stone, Cynthia Kanner, Edith Makra, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, Jack Chan, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Martha Dooley, Mary Nicol, Raed Mansour, Thomas Maillard, Chris Young, and Samira Hanessian

Absent: Naomi Davis, Paul May, and Matthew Santagata

Not Present: Vanessa Ruiz

4.0 New Business

4.01 Regionally Significant Project Evaluation Measures

[23-196](#)

Attachments: [TPAT Presentation](#)

Martin Menninger, Program Lead in Regional Policy and Implementation, introduced CMAP's Transportation Project Analysis Tool (TPAT). Program Lead Menninger reported that the short-term focus of this tool is to

make Regionally Significant Project (RSPs) evaluation data more accessible. There are currently 71 RSPs that are federally mandated to be evaluated to ensure they align with CMAP's plan. They include things like reconstruction expressways, extending transit lines, and major overhauls or expansion of roadway arterials. CMAP uses the RSP Benefits Report that is in a pdf and not easily accessible. The goal is to make it easier for CMAP to generate the data, ensure that the correct data is generated, and that the data is accessible to project sponsors and key stakeholders. Program Lead Menninger shared the four phases of this project: the CMAP Peer Literature Review is completed, Partner Outreach is ongoing, the Automation and Visualization Development phase will occur in the summer, and Project Comparison Framework will occur in the fall. Program Lead Menninger shared that CMAP has been working with the consultant High Street on the literature review and they grouped the measures that peers use into ten categories.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

Member Marcella Bondie asked about the data sets that CMAP will be evaluating. Program Lead Menninger indicated that CMAP incorporates a variety of data sets but that CMAP is trying to look at things from a regional level as much as possible and where appropriate.

Member Edith Makra asked if climate hazards, vulnerability, and resilience are included in the tool. Program Lead Menninger stated that this data is grouped under the Environment category. CMAP is also working with the vulnerability assessment team to potentially add some additional measures.

(Member Vanessa Ruiz joined the meeting at 9:25 am.)

Member Elizabeth Kocs commented that there might be an opportunity to leverage clean alternative fuels for expressway or arterial projects. Discussion ensued regarding the need to consider lost habitat, drainage, and open space in infrastructure projects.

(Member Deborah Stone left the meeting at 9:29 am.)

In response to a comment in the chat box from the public regarding whether the new tool will be used on the Redefine the Drive project, Program Lead Menninger shared that North Lake Shore Drive Project is currently an arterial RSP and will be tentatively evaluated by the new tool.

Regional Significant Project Evaluation measures were discussed.

4.02 Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) report update

[23-227](#)

Bill Barnes, Deputy for Regional Policy and Implementation, provided an update on the PART report. Deputy Barnes shared transit funding data from 2020 projected out to 2031 of state and regional funding. He reported that transit agencies are facing an operating budget gap of 20 percent and that new operating revenues must be part of the solution and find efficiencies and cost reductions at the transit side as well.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

The PART update was discussed.

4.03 Air Quality (Ozone) Work and Research by the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO).

[23-204](#)

Zac Adelman, Executive Director the Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO), provided a presentation on the air quality work and their ongoing research. He identified current air quality issues in the regional Chicagoland counties and noted that Chicago is designated as a non-attainment area. The implications for being designated as a non-attainment area include residents are breathing polluted air and that the air quality

has contributed to 13,000 deaths per year in the United States. Chicago's non-attainment counties and the 11 counties that stretch from Kenosha County in Wisconsin down to Lake and Porter Counties in Northwest Indiana are going to advance to a more serious status next year, causing the regulatory requirements to become more onerous. Executive Director Adelman shared what can be done and the role LADCO will play in the region from a technical standpoint. LADCO works to help states understand what the causes of ozone and PM pollution are and to recommend solutions to member states.

A presentation on the air quality (ozone) work and research was provided by the LADCO.

4.04 CMAP's proposed strategic direction

[23-052](#)

Attachments: [CMAP Strategic Direction](#)

Alex Ensign, Director of Strategic Alignment and Innovation, presented an overview of CMAP's proposed Strategic Direction and Program Development. She shared that CMAP spent the past 9 months incorporating the feedback from committees and a series of 10 workshops held with staff into the finalized Five-year plan that has been distributed to the board and all other committees. This now begins an agency-wide process of developing multi-year programs for all work aligned with the Strategic Direction. The FY 2024 work plan has already been aligned to focus on areas of transportation, regional economic competitiveness, and climate and will be built upon in FY 2025. Director Ensign provides a work plan for 2023, sharing that from April to the end of June 2023, CMAP will be working with all program managers to develop these multiyear work plans. Moving forward into 2023, July to August, drafts of the annual work plan will be shared with committees for feedback, which allows the agency to bring the climate focus area of the work plan to this committee to hear feedback. This budget and work plan process culminates in the MPO Policy Committee approving the unified work program budget and the board approving the comprehensive work plan and budget in January and February of 2024.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

Chair Durnbaugh asked for clarification on the climate strategic direction. Director Ensign provided clarification on the pathways, one being primarily focused on carbon reduction and tying directly into the carbon reduction program while the other pathway is more broadly looking at emission reduction strategies.

CMAP's proposed strategic direction was discussed.

4.05 Climate mitigation and air quality

[23-228](#)

Nora Beck, Air Quality and Water Resources Program Lead in Planning, presented the discussion on Climate Mitigation and Air Quality. Program Lead Beck shared that she will be drafting a program charter for both air quality and water resources. The MPO responsibilities that included Transportation Conformity are required by the Clean Air Act to ensure that federal funding of an approval of highway and transit projects are consistent with and conform to the air quality goals established by the state air quality implementation plan. In addition, the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program which is responsible for distributing federally funded transportation improvements that are designed to improve air quality and mitigate congestion. Program Lead Beck shared the objective of the Strategic Direction is to reduce the transportation systems' greenhouse gas emissions and how to craft a program charter to reflect these approaches. The implementation efforts relate directly to information sharing, setting reduction targets and outlining strategies.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

Chair Durnbaugh asked what the difference between the priority cap and the comprehensive cap. Program Lead Beck stated that the comprehensive climate action plan is required to cover all sectors of emissions in the region, where the USEPA is recognizing the short time frame Metropolitan regions could just focus on a single

sector. MMC has done work on climate action planning already and in a good position to continue in the priority climate action plan.

Climate mitigation and air quality were discussed.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Chris Young shared the DNR finalized its Agency Climate Action Plan in late February which is an inwardly focusing document looking at the agency's greenhouse gas emissions and operations. Currently, DNR has moved into the implementation phase with teams that are meeting regularly. An action plan was developed in collaboration with about 70 staff members from the agency and the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center at the University of Illinois. They provided facilitation for the meetings and research support.

Chair Durnbaugh shared an update from Loyola, announcing their clean energy contract for 100% of their electricity for all three of their main Chicago area campuses. They will be sourced from Double Black Diamond, which is the largest solar farm in Illinois. Loyola is one of four off takers with two large corporates and the City of Chicago. They have been working on this deal since 2019 and glad it reached finalization in late 2022.

Committee member updates were provided.

6.0 Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

7.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong commented on air quality of RTA, CTA, Metra, and Pace buses to ensure the safety of ADA passengers. Garland also commented on refunding bottles and plastics.

Deputy Director for External Affairs of Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Mimi Cowan shared her email and support for the committee to move forward on issues.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2023 and will be held in person in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

9.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.