

COUNCIL OF MAYORS

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Tuesday, January 17, 2023

9:30 AM

1.0 Call To Order

Representing agencies present:

Central Council of Mayors: President Alice Gallagher, Western Springs

Kane Council of Mayors: Mayor Jeffery Schielke, Batavia

North Central Council of Mayors: President Jeffrey Sherwin, Northlake

North Shore Council of Mayors: Mayor George Van Dusen, Skokie

Northwest Council of Mayors: President Karen Darch, Barrington

Northwest Council of Mayors: President Thomas Hayes, Arlington Heights

South Council of Mayors: President Michael Einhorn, Crete

South Council of Mayors: President Bob Kolosh, Thornton

Southwest Council of Mayors: President Mary Werner, Worth

Will Council of Mayors: Mayor Terry Kernc, Diamond

Staff present: Laurent Ahiablame, Bill Barnes, Victoria Barrett, Lindsay Bayley, Lily Brack, Jonathan Burch, Julie Burros, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Phoebe Downey, Austen Edwards, Doug Ferguson, Elizabeth Ginsburg, Jon Haadsma, Michael Kray, Aimee Lee, Jen Maddux, Linda Mastandrea, Amy McEwan, Tim McMahon, Cole Neder, Jared Patton, Stephane Phifer, Russell Pietrowiak, Elizabeth Scott, Sarah Stolpe, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Mary Weber, Laura Wilkison

Others present: Leonard Cannata, Kaci Crowley, Eric Czarnota, John Donovan, Jackie Forbes, Michael Fricano, Kendra Johnson, Mike Klemens, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Joe Pisano, Jada Porter, Leslie Rauer, Joe Surdham, Freddie Vasquez, Jazmin Vega

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Minutes from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee, September 13, 2022

[23-055](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Approval of minutes from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting on September 13, 2022.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [Council of Mayors minutes 2022.09.13](#)

A motion to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2022 meeting was made by President Hayes and seconded by Mayor Van Dusen. The motion was approved.

3.0 Updates

3.01 CMAP update

[23-004](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP leadership will provide an update on agency activities.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

Attachments: [2023 IJA Priority Projects for Northeastern Illinois](#)

CMAP Deputy Executive Director Amy McEwan began her update by discussing the IJA priority booklet, which highlights 24 transportation projects that have been identified as regional priorities. In the next month, CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman will be traveling to Washington D.C. to meet with the region's congressional representatives and will use the booklet to guide her conversations. Ms. McEwan encouraged council members to use the booklet in their conversations with federal officials and offered to provide print copies, if needed. The booklet will be updated annually to ensure it remains relevant.

Ms. McEwan then highlighted key topics on the Council of Mayors Executive Committee agenda and provided context for how they relate to the agency's ongoing work.

There were no questions.

3.02 STP Project Selection Committee update and STP Shared Fund, CMAQ, Carbon Reduction Program, and Local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) call for projects

[23-006](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on activities of the STP Project Selection Committee and the upcoming call for STP Shared Fund, CMAQ, Carbon Reduction Program, and Local Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP-L) projects.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Analyst Kama Dobbs provided an update on the recent work of the STP Project Selection Committee. The committee has met twice since the last meeting of the Council of Mayors Executive Committee: on November 3rd and December 1st. At the November meeting, the final shared fund project selection methodology was approved. The new methodology relaxes the phase 1 engineering requirement, adds commuter rail yards and terminals to the transit station project category, establishes minimum need thresholds, replaces the green infrastructure planning factor with a resilience planning factor, and makes minor changes to the allocation of subregional priority points.

At the December meeting, staff proposed several changes to the region's active program management policies, including a change in the timeline to seek MPO policy committee approval in June, rather than October.

Ms. Dobbs then explained that the STP Shared Fund Call for Projects will be held simultaneously with the CMAQ, TAP, and Carbon Reduction Calls for Projects. That Call opens on January 17 and closes on March 10. Ms. Dobbs encouraged local agency sponsors to complete their applications by February 24 to ensure there is sufficient time to add any missing information before the final deadline. All information related to the Call, including FAQs, will be posted on CMAP's website.

There were no questions.

3.03 ADA planning update[23-007](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide a brief update on the agency's ADA planning efforts.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Principal Linda Mastandrea provided an update on CMAP's work to support ADA transition planning. CMAP will be hosting its first ADA transition planning workshop on January 18 and future trainings are being planned for the coming months. These workshops will be held in numerous locations throughout the region, and may include a hybrid format in the future.

Ms. Mastandrea then announced that CMAP is undertaking a partnership with the University of Illinois-Chicago to study the economic benefits of improving accessibility. Next, Ms. Mastandrea explained that staff has been traveling throughout the region to discuss CMAP's work and the importance of advancing accessibility. Finally, Ms. Mastandrea highlighted that, for the first time, the most recent Local Planning Call for Projects included ADA transition plans as a permitted project type.

Chair Schielke emphasized that this is a critical topic and thanked staff for their work.

3.04 Transportation safety update[23-013](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide a brief update on the agency's ongoing transportation safety work.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Planner Victoria Barrett provided an overview of recent trends in transportation safety. Ms. Barrett began her update by discussing CMAP's recently announced Safe Travel for All Roadmap (STAR), which is a five-year effort to improve traffic safety through data analysis, policy recommendation, local and regional planning, and project implementation. Ms. Barrett concluded her remarks by outlining CMAP's grant proposal for the newly created Safe Streets and Roads for All program, which focusses on county-based safety plans.

President Einhorn raised concerns about enforcement and specifically highlighted a 2019 state law (65ILCS5-11-12) as a barrier to traffic law enforcement. President Hayes asked if there was any analysis as to why the Chicago region's traffic fatality rates are so much higher than the national average. President Einhorn pointed to the passage of the enforcement law in 2019. Ms. Barrett first addressed enforcement, explaining that it is critical to consider enforcement, education, and design holistically to encourage good behavior. Ms. Barrett then addressed the disparity between local and national fatality rates, saying that there is no single cause, though speeding is believed to be a major factor. During the pandemic, congestion levels drastically decreased, leading to higher speeds throughout the region. Ms. Barrett also highlighted that many crash reports cite multiple factors, such as speed and distraction or impairment.

Chair Schielke then shared his experience with an increase in collisions in his community, including a crashing involving a school bus. Many of these incidents included drugs and alcohol. President Einhorn asked if CMAP should be advocating the change state laws. Chair Schielke said this is something that should be addressed with staff and in future meetings.

3.05 Local Government Network update[23-008](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on recent and upcoming Local Government Network initiatives.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Planner Lily Brack provided an overview of recent actions taken by the Local Government Network. The Network recently completed its 16th initiative, which focused on CMAP's ADA workshops. In the coming weeks, the network will share municipal-level greenhouse gas emission summaries, invite staff to attend a CMAP Talks webinar discussing climate action planning, and highlight the Call for Projects.

There were no questions.

3.06 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads update

[23-048](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: IDOT Local Road Staff will provide an update.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Planner Russel Pietrowiak provided an update on behalf of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads. The next letting will be on January 20 and will include 16 local projects and 12 IDOT projects, which is the same as last January's letting. The upcoming March and April letterings are typically the largest of the year and IDOT is exploring options for expediting reviews and approvals for these lettings.

3.07 Government Affairs update

[23-009](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on recent legislation relevant to the agency's work.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

Attachments: [CMAP AdvocacyAgenda](#)

CMAP Intergovernmental Affairs Senior Tim McMahon provided an overview of CMAP's advocacy agenda, which includes state and federal policy priorities for transportation, climate, and the economy. The agenda will go to the CMAP Board for approval on January 19th and will be used to guide discussions with the region's congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. at the end of the month.

Mayor Darch expressed support for including language related to increasing state disbursements to local governments and asked for clarification about a recommendation to reform disbursement criteria to reduce disparities between municipalities. Mr. McMahon explained that the recommendation was included in the previous agenda and reflects best practices. Mr. McMahon offered to connect Mayor Darch with CMAP's state policy staff for additional information. President Einhorn then raised concern about a recent change in state tax policy to direct state sales tax for online purchases to the location of the fulfillment center, rather than the location of purchase/delivery. President Sherwin explained that if an item is already on the shelf of a fulfillment center, then the tax revenue is supposed to go to that community, but if the item merely passes through the center, then it should go to the location of the purchaser. President Einhorn outlined the ways in which he has been working to raise awareness on the issue. President Gallagher asked for additional information on the policy. President Einhorn offered to share some documents and Mr. McMahon said CMAP will look into it come back with information.

Chair Schielke then raised concerns about the impact of electric vehicles on motor fuel tax (MFT) revenue and explained that IDOT is studying the issue and he can provide more information, if there is interest. President Gallagher agreed that MFT is an issue but highlighted that electric vehicle owners pay much higher registration fees than do owners of vehicles with internal combustion engines.

4.0 Information Items

4.01 Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)

[23-011](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an overview of the ongoing collaboration with the RTA to develop a Plan of Action for regional Transit.

ACTION REQUESTED: Discussion

CMAP Principal Policy Analyst Elizabeth Scott summarized CMAP's ongoing work to develop a Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). The PART project is the result of state legislation that mandates that CMAP develop and submit a plan to respond to pandemic-related ridership reductions and the funding implications of those reductions in consultation with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). The primary goal of the project is to ensure the long-term financial viability of the region's transit system and to ensure the system is comprehensive and coordinated, and able to move people comfortably, efficiently, and reliably, while supporting efficient land use and accounting for climate change, historic inequities, and other concerns.

Ms. Scott explained that the final plan will include a wide range of recommendations and must be sent to the legislature by January 1, 2024. The agency has assembled a large steering committee to guide the process and is dedicating significant resources to the project to ensure it accomplishes the state-mandated goals within the allotted time frame.

Chair Schielke expressed support for the project and commended staff for their work. Chair Schielke also cautioned that there may be political hurdles to the work and, as an example, highlighted that RTA was controversial when it was created, but is well liked today.

Mayor Sherwin then stated that getting additional funding for Metra would be difficult if ridership does not return to pre-pandemic levels. Chair Schielke agreed that the politics may be difficult, but highlighted that major projects are moving forward in the region that will rely on transportation projects. President Hayes agreed with the Chair's comments.

4.02 Planning Call for Projects

[23-010](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an overview of the recent Planning Call for projects.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Principal Planner Jonathan Burch provided an overview of CMAP's recent Local Planning Call for Projects. The Call was held jointly with the RTA and closed in October 2022. This year's call focused on advancing the priorities of ON TO 2050 and supporting communities to access state and federal funds. In total, 64 applications were received from 55 applicants and 25 were selected. Mr. Burch then provided an overview of the project types that were selected and invited committee members to provide feedback on the Call itself or the projects it supports.

There were no questions.

4.03 2022 Municipal Survey

[23-012](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an overview of CMAP's recent municipal survey.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Planner Cole Neder provided an overview of CMAP's 2020 Municipal Survey. CMAP has been conducting this survey every other year since 2012. The survey is intended to track the region's progress towards ON TO 2050's goals, and to inform CMAP's policy and technical assistance work. The 2022 survey had a higher response rate than any past municipal survey with consistent numbers throughout the region and across cohorts.

Mr. Neder then provided an overview of the survey's findings, which are grouped into seven topic areas: community development & technical assistance, housing choice & available housing stock, economic development, safe & complete streets, climate resilience & sustainability, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and local government engagement.

There were no questions.

5.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

6.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 18, 2023.

8.0 Adjournment

Chair Schielke adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m..