



REGIONAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Thursday, September 19, 2024

9:30 AM

**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 September 18, 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/86025572884?pwd=o9GTZH7g46UUGjJPH8zPnpa3OyEH9F.1>

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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.

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1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Vice-Chair Kim Porter called the meeting to order at 9:44 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is being recorded and provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Principal Planner Tony Manno called the roll.

Present: Kim Porter, Caitlin Ritter, Dionne Baux, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Michael Horsting, Tara Orbon, and Traci Sanders

Absent: Bob Tucker, Adam Ballard, Darnell Shields, Kevin Kramer, Peter Creticos, and Josh Potter

Staff Present: Aimee Lee, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Craig Heither, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Enrique Castillo, Isaura Velez, Karly Cazzato, Katie Reigstad, Laura Wilkison, Matt Marth, Mike Sobczak, Teri Dixon, Tony Manno, Alexis McAdams, Carlos Lopez, George Rivera, and Jennie Vana,

Others Present: Jeffrey K. Yoshihara, Leslie Rauer (SSMMA), and P. Burke

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No requests for changes to the agenda were made.

2.01 CMAP Updates

Michael Brown, Interim Deputy of Planning, provided an update on the new set of community data snapshots. The data snapshots summary includes demographics, housing, employment, transportation habits and other key details for the regions 284 municipalities, 77 Chicago community areas and 7 counties. Interim Deputy Brown noted that this year's update includes new data on people with disabilities, land use and employment characteristics.

Interim Deputy Brown gave an update on the Senate Transportation Committee hearings on Transit Reform. He highlighted that Speaker Welsh announced the formation of a working group focused on public transit and that CMAP will provide the group with resources from the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART).

Interim Deputy Brown reported the household travel survey, also known as My Daily Travel, will begin in the fall. The survey helps CMAP understand how local roads, highways, public transit, bike lands, and sidewalks are being used and how they can be improved to make travel better. It was noted the survey is by invitation only and the expectation is that 4,000 households will respond. In preparation of the survey's launch, CMAP has collaborated with municipalities, partners and counties to validate efforts. The survey will run through Spring 2025.

An update on CMAP partnering with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to improve the I-290 Blue Line Corridor was shared. The CMAP Board approved a contract for a consultant to establish the day-to-day operations of a corridor development office that would improve coordination, long term planning and implementation. The partnership of IDOT, CTA and CMAP outlines a unified vision and guiding principles to improve mobility and enhance safety and accessibility. Interim Deputy Brown noted that IDOT is contributing to \$6.25 million; CTA contributing \$3.5 million, and CMAP contributing \$1.25 million to provide strategic support towards program visioning, coordinating and sequencing projects, developing

funding plans, supporting coordination with federal partners and strategic communication.

Interim Deputy Brown announced that the next call for transportation projects will be open on October 21, 2024. Noting that CMAP facilitates four federal funding programs to distribute funds for eligible projects application, they include the Carbon Reduction Program; The Congestion, Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program; The Surface Transportation Program Shared Fund; and The Transportation Alternatives Program

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Regional Economy Committee Draft Minutes from April 25, 2024

[24-397](#)

Attachments: [Draft April 25, 2024 minutes](#)

The members identified minor scrivener errors to the attendance of the April 25, 2024 meeting.

(Member Dionne Baux arrived 9:52 am)

A motion was made by Marisa Lewis, seconded by Shannon McGhee, to approve the April 25, 2024, meeting minutes as revised. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Kim Porter, Caitlin Ritter, Dionne Baux, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Michael Horsting, Tara Orbon, and Traci Sanders

Absent: Bob Tucker, Adam Ballard, Darnell Shields, Kevin Kramer, Peter Creticos, and Josh Potter

4.0 New Business

4.01 Update to Committee Bylaws

[24-391](#)

Attachments: [Bylaw proposed amendments](#)
[Bylaws memo Sept 2024](#)

An update to the Committee Bylaws was presented by Tony Manno, Principal of Planning, noting the proposed amendments would achieve efficiency and flexibility and transparency goals. The amendments include modifying members to an agency-based membership and the establishment of formal meetings and informal workshops

A motion was made by Kendra Freeman, seconded by Caitlin Ritter, that the agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Kim Porter, Caitlin Ritter, Dionne Baux, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Michael Horsting, Tara Orbon, and Traci Sanders

Absent: Bob Tucker, Adam Ballard, Darnell Shields, Kevin Kramer, Peter Creticos, and Josh Potter

4.02 Fiscal year 2025 Meeting Schedule

[24-392](#)

Attachments: [FY2025 REC Meeting Dates Memo](#)

Tony Manno, Principal of Planning, reported the next three proposed dates are for workshops. The workshops are scheduled for November 14, 2024, January 23, 2025, and April 24, 2025. The next formal meeting scheduled for in person quorum requirement is May 22, 2025. Principal Manno sought feedback from the committee.

The committee asked how the format of the workshop would differ from a meeting. Principal Manno

stated workshops will still be open to the public and a quorum would not be needed as there will be no items to approve.

A motion was made by Tiffany McDowell, seconded by Traci Sanders, that the agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Kim Porter, Caitlin Ritter, Dionne Baux, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Michael Horsting, Tara Orbon, and Traci Sanders

Absent: Bob Tucker, Adam Ballard, Darnell Shields, Kevin Kramer, Peter Creticos, and Josh Potter

4.03 Regional Transportation Plan

[24-399](#)

Attachments: [Plan inventory for the 2026 Regional Transportation Plan](#)

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 consider 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. Policy Analyst Reschke sought feedback from the committee.

Discussion occurred regarding the need for a standalone plan and how communities can use this RTP to update local plans, specifically pertaining to transportation and land use.

4.04 Socioeconomic Forecast

[24-394](#)

Alex Bahls, Senior Research Analyst of the Analysis and Program Division and Project Manager for the socioeconomic forecast, provided background and overview of the forecast. Senior Research Analyst Bahls shared that the forecast is a federally required part of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). It's goal is to forecast transportation and land use conditions to a 20-year planning horizon. The two elements of the forecast include the regional forecast that focuses on the number of people, households and jobs in the seven-county region through the year 2050, and the second component of the forecast is to reflect jobs and households throughout the region to the census block of municipalities based on current knowledge, policy considerations, and stakeholder input.

Senior Research Analyst Bahls shared how the forecast is used in the Regional Transportation Plan. It is used for the financial planning process, the scenario planning process, the travel modeling, and helping stakeholder engagement. The regional forecast reflects the three major components of

population change: the number of births; the number of deaths; and the number of people moving in or out of the region. The forecast also tracks the number of jobs in the region. Senior Research Analyst Bahls noted that tracking migration and jobs are the most variable and difficult part of the process to estimate.

The next steps of the Socioeconomic forecast were shared, CMAP will be reviewing the regional forecast results, meeting with local advisory group, working with consultant, UrbanSim, on the local forecast and developing the Vision plan with scenario planning. Senior Research Analyst Bahls sought feedback from the committee. Member Caitlin Ritter shared the comment that forecasting is a snapshot of the past under the assumption that the trend's going to continue in the future, but noted there was no mention of climate migration, particularly state to state. She shared that experts on climate migration would be ideal to have. Senior Research Analyst Bahls shared that consultant Moody's will be including climate migration in the modeling they are providing.

Discussion ensued regarding what areas of the region that are impacted by climate migration.

4.05 Regional Climate Action Planning

[24-401](#)

This agenda item was postponed to the workshop in November. Principal Manno shared it should be a robust conversation.

4.06 Legislative update

[24-305](#)

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 Bill (BIMP). Specialist Gougis shared that the Regional Planning Act (RPA) Modernization Bill passed in both house and senate with unanimous support and signed into law by the governor. An update on the RPA Appropriation Bill was given. The bill would appropriate \$5 million dollars to CMAP to help fulfill the obligations established in CMAP's enabling statute. The bill 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.

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 to a total of \$225 million. It also calls for a \$50 million transfer from the leaking underground storage tank fund (UST) to be transferred to the Public Transportation Fund. Both the \$75 million and \$50 million transfer are one time transfers to occur only in FY25 but sets a precedent for similar transfers in the future. It was noted that this does not address the transportation agencies' long-term operating and capital needs.

A legislative update was provided.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Member Kendra Freeman with the Metropolitan Planning Council shared an update on their new CEO, Dan Lurie. He is formally with the Mayor's Policy Office under Mayor Lightfoot. He officially starts September 30th.

Member Dionne Baux shared Mainstreet America has a new CEO, Aaron Barnes. Member Baux also shared their promotion to Chief Programs Officer.

6.0 Other Business

No other business was presented before the committee.

7.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

Jeffrey K. Yoshihara asked in the zoom chat, "Given the discussion about utilizing the existing transit system for transit oriented development and multi modal hubs, how much consideration has been given to expanding the current transit system and greenway system both locally and across the region to spur economic development?"

Analyst Julie Reschke shared a preliminary answer that the RTP will consider both options. She said it is important to preserve existing transportation system as a historical region with infrastructure. Additionally, Analyst Reschke can follow up for further questions.

8.0 Next Meeting

The Regional Economy Committee will be hosting a fully virtual workshop on Thursday, November 14, 2024 at 1:00 pm.

9.0 Adjournment

Vice Chair Porter adjourned the meeting 10:47 am.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.