



REGIONAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Thursday, April 27, 2023

9:00 AM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87292215336?pwd=UHJRU3RKOFICNU5YeVgxa1VxMG1Xdz09>

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Meeting ID: 872 9221 5336

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87292215336# US (Chicago)

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 Tucker called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is being held virtually as permitted by the Governor's Disaster Declaration.

Elizabeth Ginsberg provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform and called the roll.

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Present: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Michael Meyers, Peter Creticos, and Tiffany McDowell

Absent: Adam Ballard, Caitlin Ritter, Darnell Shields, Dionne Baux, Jennifer Tammen, Olatunji Oboi Reed, Shannon McGhee, and Josh Potter

Ex-Officio: Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

Staff Present: Dominick Argumedo, Bill Barnes, Julie Burros, Brian Daly, Teri Dixon, Ryan Ehlke, Alex Ensign, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Jon Haadsma, Kasia Hart, Craig Heither, Aimee Lee, Tony Manno, Martin Menninger, Jason Navota, Stephane Phifer, Katie Piotrowska, Katie Reigstad, Elizabeth Scott, Laura Wilkinson, Anna Williams

Others Present: Mimi Cowan, John Donovan, Paula Hewson, Garland Armstrong

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chair Tucker announced that John Furr accepted a position as Chief Data Ecosystem Officer at Strata Education Network in Washington, D.C. and has therefore stepped down from the committee. There are two vacancies on the committee.

Chair Tucker requested to move item 4.05 to the next meeting on July 27, 2023. The general consensus was to move it.

CMAP update

Deputy of Planning, Stephane Phifer, provided updates on behalf of Executive Director, Erin Aleman. Deputy Phifer announced that the disaster declaration will be ending, and the next meeting in July will be held in-person with a virtual option available for the public. She shared the 2022 annual report, highlighting the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership. Collaboration among the seven counties and the City of Chicago are driving inclusive growth and advancing equity across the region. Deputy Phifer announced 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, resident's outlooks maintained consistent from 2022 to 2023, but with increasing concern of the cost of housing. Deputy Phifer shared an update on the Regional Excellence Awards aimed to recognize achievements and exceptional work in the region. The recipients of the Equity with Impact Award were the Auburn Gresham Healthy Lifestyle Hub, a major redevelopment project addressing community gaps in healthcare, healthy food options, banking and education on Chicago's South Side and the Blue Haven Development in Aurora, which transformed a blighted health facility into a mixed-use development, delivering essential services and amenities to the residents of different ages and abilities.

Deputy Phifer 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 Representatives Marty Moylan and Dan Ugaste filed House Bill 4027. If passed, the bills would appropriate funding for CMAP's work in the state's 2024 budget. Deputy Phifer asked that the committee provide comments to the House budgeteer Representative Robin Gable and Senate budgeteer LG Sims about these proposals.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from January 26, 2023

[23-224](#)

Attachments: [DRAFT Regional Economy Committee Minutes 01.26.2023](#)

A motion was made by Kevin Kramer, seconded by Kim Porter, that the agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Michael Meyers, and Tiffany McDowell

Absent: Adam Ballard, Caitlin Ritter, Darnell Shields, Dionne Baux, Jennifer Tammen, Olatunji Oboi Reed, Shannon McGhee, and Josh Potter

Not Present: Peter Creticos

Ex-Officio: Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

4.0 New Business

4.01 CMAP's proposed strategic direction

[23-218](#)

Attachments: [CMAP'S Proposed Strategic Direction](#)

Director of Strategic Alignment and Innovation, Alex Ensign, presented an overview of CMAP's proposed Strategic Direction and Program Development. CMAP spent the past 9 months incorporating feedback from committees and held a series of 10 workshops with staff to finalize Five-Year Plan. This now begins an agency-wide process of developing multi-year programs for all work aligned with the Strategic Direction, allowing CMAP to be more strategic in its annual work plans. FY2024 work plan has already been aligned to focus on areas of transportation, regional economic competitiveness, and climate to build on in FY2025. Director Ensign provided 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.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

CMAP's proposed strategic direction was discussed.

4.02 Job Access and Quality Assessment Tool Implementation**[23-219](#)****Attachments:** [Job Access and Quality Assessment Memo Follow-Up](#)

Tony Manno, Principal in Planning, reported that CMAP used the feedback it received on the Job Access and Quality Assessment Tool to have the vendor, TIP Strategies, make updates and revisions to the tool. A steering committee will be created and consist of a subset of members of the Regional Economy Committee with the focus of developing an engagement and implementation strategy for sharing the tool with partners throughout the region for economic development decision making.

The most recent data will be incorporated into the tool but there is a need to go beyond job requirements, such as in the nursing field, to identify additional data. Principal Manno shared that a methodology/user guide will be created to help users understand what the tool is and how to use it. There is a plan to redefine some verbiage in the tool for better understanding by users. Principal Manno thanked the committee for providing their feedback. Staff is working through the details of the contract with TIP Strategies and hopes that the additional work can begin before the next fiscal year and be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

The job access and quality assessment tool implementation was discussed.

4.03 Regionally Significant Project Evaluation Measures**[23-220](#)****Attachments:** [Transportation Project Analysis Tool \(TPAT\)](#)

Martin Menninger, Program Lead in Regional Policy and Implementation, introduced CMAP's Transportation Project Analysis Tool (TPAT). Program Lead Menninger reported the short-term focus of the 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 is developing a report called a RSP Benefits Report with each plan update or new long-range plan that produces data and measures for each project. 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 key steps of this project: CMAP Peer Literature Review, Partner Outreach, Automation and Visualization Development and Project Comparison Framework. Martin 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.

(Peter Creticos entered at 9:46 AM)

Regional Significant Project Evaluation measures were discussed.

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

[23-221](#)

Elizabeth Scott, CMAP Principal Policy Analyst, provided an update on the Plan of Action for Regional. Elizabeth Scott provided updates on policies being pursued through summer 2023. She shared that starting in 2025 and into 2026 a billion-dollar operating shortfall will occur in transit funding. The plan to address it has been organized into three streams of work. The first work stream being “The System We Want”. This has the objective of rebuilding the system that Chicago needs and deserves. It focuses on progress on things such as coordinated bus priority infrastructure in the region to evolve ADA Accessibility, operational efficiencies in response to new travel patterns, and to safety, security and cleanliness. The second work stream focuses on “How to Implement It” addressed the practicality of the region and the state allocating funds for transit and how it will be managed between the different entities that compose the transit system, it includes system governance opportunities of other policies that would be helpful. The final work stream, “How to pay it” includes fare integration and affordability on new or modified public revenues, other system generated opportunities such as transit supportive land use and development.

Elizabeth Ginsberg, Senior Analyst in Regional Policy and Implementation and Committee Liaison shared a presentation on sales tax options from SB Friedman Development Advisors that worked on analyzing potential reforms the sales tax as part of the PART effort. They identified three options for future recommendations. Recommendations included adjusting existing sales tax rates by increasing the rate to collect more revenues from the sales tax on goods, the third recommendation would be to broaden sales tax base to new services in the region, potentially the state.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

The Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) report update was discussed.

4.05 Capacity Building program overview

[23-222](#)

The Capacity Building program overview was continued to the July 27, 2023 meeting.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Elizabeth Ginsberg, Senior Analyst in Regional Policy and Implementation and Committee Liaison, shared an update from Member Kendra Freeman that Metropolitan Planning Council (NPC) is having an event to launch their Reconnecting Communities reports.

6.0 Other Business

No other business was brought to the Committee.

7.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong spoke from Des Moines, Iowa. He commented that the disabled community should be prepared to share strategic ideas with state law makers for the upcoming fiscal cliff.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 27, 2023 and will be held in person in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

9.0 Adjournment

Chair Tucker adjourned the meeting at 10:26 am.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.