



CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

Tuesday, July 25, 2023

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 July 24, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

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CMAF 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 CMAF'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 CMAF 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 9:32 a.m. The meeting is being live-streamed and recorded. Brian Daly, Climate Committee liaison, reported that staff will be providing a building tour of the Old Post Office after the meeting. Public comment will be made available at the end of the meeting.

Present: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Martha Dooley, Samira Hanessian, Cynthia Kanner, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Chris Young

Absent: Deborah Stone, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, Raed Mansour, and Vanessa Ruiz

Staff present: Victoria Barrett, Nora Beck, Karly Cazzato, Brian Daly, Teri Dixon, Phoebe Downey, Maggie Eickhoff, Ryan Ehlke, Alex Ensign, Jon Haadsma, Noah Harris, Kasia Hart, Leroy Kos, Aimee Lee, Amy McEwan, Nikolas Merten, Jason Navota, Chad Phillips, Julie Reschke, Mayra Shuja, Lee Skuby, Joan Smedinghoff

Others present: John Donovan, Drew Duffin, Brian Larson, Dr. Laura MiSweet, Renee Pattern, John Porterfield, Joe Surdam, Steven Vance

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Chair Durnbaugh introduced Bill Barnes, Deputy of Regional Policy and Implementation. Deputy Barnes reported that tours of the Old Post Office will be provided following the meetings. Today's agenda includes presentations on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) report and regional climate action planning.

Deputy Barnes reported on the hiring of Chad Phillips to help support the legislative affairs division. Chad Phillips will work to reconvene the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) working group on developing a list of regional priority projects for competitive grant opportunities.

Deputy Barnes' update included the \$50.6 million budget passed by the General Assembly, information on Public Act 103-53 related to electric vehicle (EV) parking capability in single family residences and multi-family buildings, an executed grant agreement from the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) for the Safe Travel for all Roadmap (STAR) program, the recent submittal of a Regional Infrastructure Accelerator Grant for the 290 Blue Line Corridor Project, and CMAP's involvement in the recent Chicago Mayor's transition.

Deputy Barnes noted the transition of new committee liaisons for the Climate Committee.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from April 25, 2023

[23-351](#)

Attachments: [Climate Committee minutes 04.25.23 - draft](#)

A motion was made by Thomas Maillard, seconded by Martha Dooley, to approve the April 25, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Martha Dooley, Samira Hanessian, Cynthia Kanner, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Paul May, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Chris Young

Absent: Deborah Stone, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Naomi Davis, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, Raed Mansour, and Vanessa Ruiz

4.0 New Business

4.01 Resources for equitable flood resilience, project update

[23-352](#)

Kate Evasic, Senior Planner, provided a presentation of two projects focused on equitable flood resilience. The first project develops an approach to updating the regional flood susceptibility indexes. The second project develops data and guidance to integrate equity into flood resilience investments that can be used by CMAP as well as other local government entities. Funding for these projects was through congressionally-directed spending (CDS) as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Community Project and through the MacArthur Foundation, whose funding provided compensation for community-based organizations (CBOs).

The Flood Susceptibility Index Project began in 2017 when CMAP developed urban and riverine indexes to identify priority areas for stormwater mitigation and resilience planning. Recognizing the value that the indexes provide, staff is working to update the flood susceptibility indexes in December 2023. The flood susceptibility indexes will be updated with improved data inputs, approaches to methodology, and user experience through easier access and guidance. The flood susceptibility index have been used as a screening tool, provide stormwater planning assistance, help prioritize projects and funding, and serve as a repository of flood-related data.

The second project, integrating equity into flood resilience investments, is aimed at planners and engineers to integrate equity approaches into stormwater and flood mitigation investments. The guide identifies key principles, strategies, and best practices as well as highlighting best examples on the national and local levels. The key principles in this project center community voices, prioritize investment, build intentional trust, develop holistic solutions, and develop long-term planning. Strategies in the project include using equity-related data to inform investments, collaborating with community groups to understand on-the-ground conditions, maximizing project benefits, reducing unintended consequences, providing equitable maintenance and operations of infrastructure, and reducing barriers for municipalities to access funds. Next steps include revising and finalizing the equity guide based on stakeholder feedback, updating the regional flood susceptibility indexes, analyzing regional flood susceptibility indexes with equity-related data, and helping partners prioritize and implement best practices.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to tie the flood susceptibility indexes with repetitive loss data through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and individual assistance claims that are made after a federally declared disaster. The committee also discussed how these projects will be integrated with federal and state environmental mapping tools. A geo-database is being compiled that clearly outlines which datasets are being used, notifying people that CMAP is relying on data from these other mapping tools, and providing links to these mapping tools. Senior Planner Evasic noted that a communication plan will be developed in the fall to ensure proper outreach is made to stakeholders. These tools can be used as part of CMAP's technical assistance program. The committee also discussed how future climate impacts will be incorporated into the flood susceptibility indexes.

A presentation was provided on resources for equitable flood resilience.

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

[23-353](#)

Elizabeth Scott, Principal of Regional Policy Implementation, provided an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) report. Transit agencies are facing a transit fiscal cliff with a budget gap of \$732 million in 2026. Transit plays a crucial role in enabling mobility for riders and non-riders, fostering a vibrant and connected regional economy, and enabling the region to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The General Assembly mandated CMAP look at the long-term financial viability of the transit system and develop considerations and recommendations to bring back to them in January 2024. Some of the funding solutions being explored have potential positive and negative climate impacts. One option under consideration is road pricing for the use of private vehicles on roads.

Principal Scott provided an overview of the work that the PART Steering Committee has undertaken to address the General Assembly's mandate and sought input from the committee regarding financial transit issues. The Climate Committee discussed the need to incentivize motorists instead of penalizing motorists to shift their mode of transit to public transportation, the need for transit agencies to consider how they can reduce their costs and mitigate their footprint on the environment and look for opportunities for businesses to encourage their employees to use public transportation. The Committee discussed the need for revenue models related to freight electrification and tying in road pricing to environmental conditions.

Citing the work of the California Air Resources Board, Principal Scott discussed financializing future carbon policies through a cap-and-investment program. Discussion continued.

A presentation on the PART report update was given and discussed with the Committee.

4.03 Regional climate action planning

[23-354](#)

Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), and Brian Daly, Senior Planner, discussed current regional climate action planning activities and opportunities through the US Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. CMAP and MMC have formulated a work plan that will be led by the MMC. To address the climate crisis and preserve a livable planet, we must reach net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050. Net zero emissions is a more ambitious goal than what is proposed in the ONTO 2050 Plan.

The recent regional GHG emissions inventory shows that GHG emissions are declining but not at a fast enough rate to reach our goals. A net zero GHG emissions is the key to doing the region's part to stop the trend of global warming. Approximately 1/3 of regional GHG emissions come from transportation; the other 2/3 of GHG emissions come from manufacturing, generating electricity, heating and cooling buildings, and other sources.

The Inflation Reduction Act earmarked \$4.6 billion to fund the US EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Project for state and metropolitan area development and implementation of climate action plans (CAP) targeted to reduce GHGs and other harmful air pollution. Edith Makra gave an overview of the formula grant program and indicated that it is focused on mitigation of emissions. She noted the ambitious timelines for the project. The Priority Climate Action Plan will be led by the MMC and is due March 2024. It will focus on the list of near-term, high-priority, implementation-ready measures to reduce GHG pollution. CMAP will lead the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, due the summer of 2025, which will address all significant GHG sources/sinks and sectors and establish near- and long-term GHG emission reduction goals. It will also provide strategies and identify measures to achieve those goals. A status report, led by CMAP, is due the summer of 2027 and will provide a report of implementation of GHG reduction strategies that were included in the

Comprehensive Climate Action Plan. In 2021, the MMC released a Climate Action Plan for the Chicago Region report, but it is limited as it is scaled to municipal action.

Senior Planner Daly reported that CMAP will take the lead on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) which will expand on the Priority Climate Action Plan to address significant GHG sources and sinks. The CCAP will also include an analysis of co-benefits, such as particulate emissions.

Senior Planner Daly also reviewed the CPRG implementation funding process and noted that additional details will be released in the fall. It was noted that CMAP, in partnership with ComEd, and the Respiratory Health Association applied for the Clean Energy to Communities Initiative to ask for advanced modeling support to better understand the scale and extent of strategies for reaching transportation emission reduction goals. If successful, this will also help with the CCAP.

Discussion ensued.

A presentation on regional climate action planning was provided.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Member Cynthia Kanner reported that Prairie State Conservation Coalition, in partnership with other stakeholders, will be holding a conservation policy retreat this summer as well as regional conferences across the state. Member Chris Young, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), reported that IDNR is celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Natural Areas Preservation Act. Member Jack Chan, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District (MWRD), reported on the MWRD's recent adoption of its Climate Action Plan. Member Naomi Davis reported that the Blacks in Green received a \$1.5 million inaugural grant from the Bezos Earth Fund for urban greening.

6.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

7.0 Public Comment

Brian Daly presented written comment from John Paul Jones, President of Sustainable Englewood Initiatives and Nature Trail Consultant with Grow Greater Englewood on CMAP's efforts in revisiting regional flood susceptibility and that an update to the flood susceptibility index will help with Greater Englewood's efforts to remedy stormwater matters. Grow Greater Englewood is working with Morton Arboretum and Chicago Region Trees Initiative on tree canopy planting. Public comments in the chat include John Porterfield sharing specific product and services related crucial for transformation to zero emissions and atmospheric GHG removal and information regarding particulate matter.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. and will be held in person in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

9.0 Adjournment

Chair Durnbaugh adjourned the meeting at 11:27 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider