

## MPO POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Thursday, March 9, 2023

9:30 AM

**Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.**

**<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89888814630>**

**Meeting ID: 898 8881 4630**

**One tap mobile  
+13126266799,,89888814630# US (Chicago)**

**If you would like to speak during a public meeting, email your statement or question at least 24 hours before the meeting to [info@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov). 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](mailto:info@cmap.illinois.gov)) or phone (312-454-0400).**

#### **1.0 Call to Order and Introductions**

Vice-Chair Killen called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is held virtually as permitted by the Governor's disaster proclamation.

**Present:** IDOT Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 2, CTA Representative, Cook Co Representative, CoM Representative, DuPage Co Representative, Tollway Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative, and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** CMAP Representative 1

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, and Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FTA Representative

Holly Bienemann served as IDOT Representative; Gia Biagi served as CDOT Representative, Matt Brolley served as CMAP 2 Representative, Michael Connelly served as CTA Representative, Jennifer Sis Killen served as Cook County Representative, Jeff Schielke served as CoM Representative, Chris Snyder served as DuPage County Representative, John Donovan served as FHWA Representative, Rocco Zuccherro served as Tollway Representative, Corinne Pierog served as Kane County Representative, Scott Gengler served as Kendall County Representative, Kevin Carrier served as Lake County Representative, Scott Hennings served as McHenry County Representative, Lynette Ciaverella served as Metra Representative, Melinda Metzger served as Pace Representative, Leanne Redden served as RTA Representative, Elaine Bottomley served as Will County Representative, and Lindsey Douglas served as Class I Railroads Representative

**Staff present:** Laurent Ahiablame, Erin Aleman, Bill Barnes, Victoria Barrett, Michael Brown, Julie Burros, John Carpenter, Karly Cazzato, Michael Collins, Daniel Comeaux, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs,

Phoebe Downey, Ryan Ehlke, Alex Ensign, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Jane Grover, Jon Haadsma, Kasia Hart, Craig Heither, Tricia Hyland, Aimee Lee, Tony Manno, Matthew Marth, Amy McEwan, Nikolas Merten, Jason Navota, Stephane Phifer, Russell Pietrowiak, Katie Piotrowska, Elizabeth Scott, Leo Torres, Jennie Vana, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Piotr Wietrzak, Laura Wilkison

**Others present:** Doug Anderson, Garland Armstrong, Kevin Bueso, Anthony Cefali, Eric Czarnota, Doug DeLille, Jesse Elam, Jackie Forbes, Brandon Geber, Thomas Guerriero, Scott Hennings, Neil James, Peter Kersent, Daniel Knickelbein, David Kralik, Gretchen Knowlton, Bill Lachman, Jill Leary, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Melissa Meyer, Mary Nicol, Kelsey Passi, Jada Porter, Leslie Rauer, Gordon Smith, Tina F Smith, Joe Surdam, Kyle Whitehead

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no changes to the agenda or announcements.

## 3.0 Approval of Minutes

### 3.01 Minutes from January 12, 2023

[23-138](#)

**Attachments:** [MPO Policy Committee 01.12.23 Minutes](#)

*A motion was made by CoM Representative Jeff Schielke, seconded by Tollway Representative Rocco Zucchero, to approve the January 12, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** IDOT Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 2, CTA Representative, Cook Co Representative, CoM Representative, DuPage Co Representative, Tollway Representative, Kane Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** CMAP Representative 1

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative and Class I Railroads Representative

**Not Present:** Kendall Co Representative

**Absent (NV):** FTA Representative

## 4.0 Updates

### 4.01 Executive Director's report

[23-141](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported that the Governor is rescinding the state's disaster declaration after May 11, 2023, requiring public bodies to return to having a physical quorum. Virtual attendance will only be permitted when a member meets the conditions outlined in the Open Meetings Act and CMAP's by-laws and requires the approval of the majority of the physical quorum in attendance.

Executive Director Aleman provided an update of her trip for the National Association of Regional Councils conference in Washington, DC where she met with congressional delegates and shared CMAP's IJA priority project booklet. Executive Director Aleman reported on a \$5 million grant for CMAP's Safe Streets and Roads for All program, the deadline for the Call for Projects, the Socioeconomic survey forecast and the State of the Region.

*The Executive Director's report was received and filed.*

#### **4.02 CMAP Board report**

[23-139](#)

Member Leanne Redden reported that the Board met in January and February and approved roadway safety performance targets for 2023 and support for IDOT's highway safety targets, the 2023 federal and state advocacy agenda, and the comprehensive budget for FY 2024. The Board received the Climate Committee's summary report for the 2022 calendar year work plan and its objectives for 2023, and a legislative update on efforts to secure funding for the implementation of the Regional Planning Action. The Board did not meet on March 8 and is looking to reschedule their meeting.

*The CMAP Board report was received and filed.*

#### **4.03 Council of Mayors' report**

[23-140](#)

Member Jeff Schielke reported that the Council of Mayors met on January 17 and received updates to CMAP's activities, the STP Project Selection Committee projects, transportation safety, IDOT's local roads, and legislative efforts. The committee was updated on the ADA transition planning team's outreach efforts and conducting workshops on ADA planning throughout the region. The committee also received a presentation regarding the plan of action for regional transit (PART), a report on the local planning call for projects, and an overview of the municipal survey.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2023. He reported that all public body committees will return to in-person meetings and must comply with the Open Meetings Act. Staff is in preparing for hybrid participation to allow the public to participate remotely. Member Schielke noted that he has received a lot of inquiry and interest regarding the plan for regional transit.

(Member Scott Gengler, Kendall Co Representative, arrived at 9:47 a.m.)

*The Council of Mayors' report was received and filed.*

#### **5.0 Other Items for Approval**

##### **5.01 FY 2024 Unified Work Program (UWP) budget**

[23-119](#)

**Attachments:** [Transportation Committee FY2024 UWP Budget Memo 2.17.2023](#)  
[FY2024 UWP budget](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, Alex Ensign, Director of Strategic Alignment, Aimee Lee, Research, Analysis, and Programming Deputy, provided a presentation of the FY 2024 UWP budget. Executive Director Aleman reported that the annual work and budget begins with receiving the federal mark from IDOT for its next year's budget. CMAP develops work plan items for the upcoming fiscal year in alignment with CMAP's strategic direction. The comprehensive budget and work plan was presented and approved by the Board at its February meeting and preliminary documentation was submitted to IDOT for consideration. IDOT may request adjustments to CMAP's budget and the budget is expected to be finalized in May or June. Executive Director Aleman reported that CMAP has worked with its partners throughout the region to capitalize on funding opportunities and to develop funding resources through a wide array of funds and programs.

Much of CMAP's funding comes from the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). About \$6.3 million of funding goes to Unified Work Program (UWP) partner agencies. The other portion of the budget of those federal dollars are used to support the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) required functions and management of federal required plans including the Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(MTP), the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and the administration of the UWP. This funding also supports the programming of federal funds for the Surface Transportation Program (STP), Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) Program, Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), and the new Carbon Reduction Program.

The region's required 20% match is \$1.6 million of CMAP's budget and local contributions will incrementally increase over the next five years to build a more sustainable revenue source. The budget also aligns with CMAP's strategic direction in three focus areas: transportation, climate, and regional economy.

Director Ensign reported that the MPO Policy Committee is asked to consider approval of the UWP portion of the budget totaling \$31,157,952 of which \$24.9 million will go to CMAP to fund its core MPO activities. This amount includes an additional \$1.5 million from IDOT that was provided to CMAP in January 2023 from previously unspent planning funds. Director Ensign reviewed the distribution of the UWP budget.

Director Ensign noted that the budget only includes core funding and does not include a competitive program because the competitive program was paused in FY 2024 to allow for improvements to the core and competitive framework and support for the UWP Committee. It will be reinstated in the future.

Director Ensign reviewed projects that align with CMAP's Strategic Direction in climate, regional economy and transportation. Deputy Lee reviewed core functions managed or supported by the Research, Analysis, and Programming division. Work includes managing the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), performing the associated conformity and analysis, and collaborating with partner agencies to support new and existing funding through the TIP. The division will focus on making improvements to the UWP Program that will support a more predictable and comprehensive core and competitive funding process. The division will also evaluate and analyze strategies that could streamline project implementation.

Discussion ensued regarding the advancement of the ADA initiative and partnerships.

*A motion was made by CDOT Representative Biagi, seconded by CoM Representative Schielke, that the FY 2024 UWP budget be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** IDOT Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 2, CTA Representative, Cook Co Representative, CoM Representative, DuPage Co Representative, Tollway Representative, Kane Co Representative, Kendall Co Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** CMAP Representative 1

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative and Class I Railroads Representative

**Absent (NV):** FTA Representative

## 6.0 Information Items

### 6.01 Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART) report update

[23-120](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, reported that CMAP's work looks at some of the equity implications and how low-income households rely on the transit system to move about the region for daily activities. Transit provides mobility for riders and non-riders, fosters a vibrant and connected regional

economy, and enables the region to mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Member Leanne Redden discussed the RTA's 5-year strategic plan, titled Transit is the Answer, that was adopted by RTA's board in February. Member Redden reviewed its advocacy agenda, noting that it relies on a secured increase in funding for transit operations that is less dependent on fares. She reviewed RTA's action agenda. RTA's actions for success includes taking affirmative steps forward to secure increased funding for transit operations, delivering a set of new regional transit initiatives to improve the system for riders, and developing the three regional action plans to program investments that support a thriving economy.

Doug Anderson, RTA Manager of Budget and Analysis, reported that there is an anticipated \$730 million budget shortfall in 2026. The RTA formed a technical working group, consisting of 16 members from the RTA, Service Board Finance and Planning, and CMAP, to discuss a 10-year financial plan for the RTA. The group met multiples times during the spring and summer of 2022 to discuss the transit funding model, scenarios analysis, funding options, and to develop a technical memo. The group recommends seeking a multi-pronged solution to address the future budget deficit and to develop recovery ratio reform.

Manager Anderson reviewed RTA's increased operating expenses and the potential 2026 budget deficit within the current environment. Other regions are experiencing similar shortfalls. RTA believes that inaction, service cuts, and fare increases are not sustainable in addressing the expected financial shortfalls. He reviewed 11 possible revenue options including increase the RTA sales tax, increasing the state motor fuel tax, and implementing congestion pricing. The technical working group also recommended reform to the fare recovery ratio.

Laura Wilkison, Senior Director and Policy Advisor, reminded the committee that the Illinois General Assembly mandated that CMAP review the long-term financial viability of the transit system, consider multiple equitable, environment, and safety factors, and develop a report identifying recommendations for their consideration by January 2024. CMAP is engaging all of its public bodies on the development of this report. She reviewed the roles and responsibilities of CMAP's public bodies and noted that a steering committee was created to guide the process.

CMAP has created three areas of focus for its report: 1) the system we want; 2) how to pay for it; and 3) how to implement it. The three objectives of each of the focus areas was reviewed. Funding themes include the need for stable and diversified funding, accountability, consideration of the regional need and the regional approach, transportation dollars solving transportation problems, funding resolutions being tied to system improvements and implementation reform, and the need to have a suite of solutions. Federal relief funding is helping to address today's gap but is not expected to continue.

Discussion ensued regarding the long-term impact of the pandemic, the data available regarding tax for service, whether funding sources can be used to address other unfunded mandates by the state, what is driving the budget shortfall, growth in suburban areas, whether federal funding opportunities are available, restrictions and limitations in the use of toll funds, RTA sales tax, and priority of programmatic initiatives.

Senior Director Wilkison reviewed next steps in this work.

*The PART report update was discussed.*

## 6.02 Legislative update

[23-142](#)

John Carpenter, Legislative Affairs Director, provided an update on CMAP's legislative efforts. The General Assembly is working toward advancing substantive bills out of committee by tomorrow. CMAP has secured bipartisan sponsorship from Senator Ram Villavalam and Senator Don DeWitt for CMAP's appropriations bill, SB1429. Representatives Ram Moylan and Dan Ugaste have agreed to sponsor the bill in the House. The Bill is still in Legislative Reference Bureau and staff hopes it will move out of that committee next week. Staff is working on a fact sheet for distribution to board and committee members.

The governor has released his FY 2024 budget proposal. A quick review of the budget shows that it is focused on early and higher level education. With the end of federal state COVID-funded services, social services and healthcare services are reaching the same funding crisis as transit agencies.

The IJJA Priority Booklet was finalized and distributed to federal delegation and legislators. A survey will be sent to stakeholders who participated in the process on their experience in developing the booklet. Staff will be looking into convening a small work group to discuss possible changes in the development of the priority booklet including how to bring a more municipal perspective into the conversation.

CMAP staff will be reaching out to the congressional delegation to remind them to coordinate with CMAP on community project funding requests as transportation projects need to be included in the TIP. Deadlines are fast approaching.

*A legislative update was provided.*

## 7.0 Other Business

DuPage County Representative Chris Snyder requested that staff send out an outlook invite for the special meeting of the MPO Policy Committee meeting in September.

Tollway Representative Rocco Zucchero complimented CMAP on their work on the Fines, Fares, and Fee document. The Tollway is looking on establishing focus groups on the findings of that report.

## 8.0 Public Comment

Garland Armstrong, former resident of Illinois, congratulated Melinda Metzger for her 45 years of public service. He thanked CMAP for their efforts on improving ADA accessibility throughout the region and requested that CMAP advocate to bring back the cash for recycling program.

## 9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2023 and will be held in-person in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

## 10.0 Adjournment

*A motion was made by Pace Representative Melinda Metzger, seconded by Metra Representative Lynette Ciaverella, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** IDOT Representative, CDOT Representative, CMAP Representative 2, CTA Representative, Cook Co Representative, DuPage Co Representative, Tollway Representative, Lake Co Representative, McHenry Co Representative, Metra Representative, Pace Representative, RTA Representative and Will Co Representative

**Absent:** CMAP Representative 1

**Non-Voting:** FHWA Representative, Kane Co Representative and Class I Railroads Representative

**Not Present:** CoM Representative and Kendall Co Representative

**Absent (NV):** FTA Representative

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Blanca Vela-Schneider.