



REGIONAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Thursday, January 26, 2023

9:00 AM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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

Meeting ID: 872 9221 5336 Passcode: 548426

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,87292215336#,,,,*548426# 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. 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 9:05 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is being held virtually as permitted by the Governor's Disaster Declaration. He requested Elizabeth Ginsberg call the roll.

Present: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Adam Ballard, Joan Fox, Jonathan Furr, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Tiffany McDowell, and Josh Potter

Absent: Caitlin Ritter, Darnell Shields, Dionne Baux, Jennifer Tammen, Michael Meyers, Olatunji Oboi Reed, and Shannon McGhee

Ex-Officio: Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

Staff present: Aimee Lee, Alexandra Ensign, Amy McEwan, Austen Edwards, Brian Daly, Carlos Lopez, Craig Heither, Daniel Comeaux, Dominick Argumendo, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Erin Aleman, Isaura Velez, Jaemi Jackson, John Carpenter, Jennie Vana, Karly Cazzatto, Julie Burros, Laurent Ahiablame, Leroy Kos, Mary Weber, Michael Brown, Michael Kray, Phoebe Downey, Ryan Ehlke, Stephane Phifer, Teri Dixon, Tony Manno, Victoria Barrett

Others Present: Len Becker, Patrick Burke, Garland and Heather Armstrong

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

2.01 Requests for agenda changes [23-046](#)

Chair Tucker requested to move item 4.03 ahead of item 4.02. The general consensus was to move it.

Chair Tucker remarked that Veronica Gonzalez has stepped down from the committee. He also remarked on the committee's new liaison, Elizabeth Ginsberg. Elizabeth Ginsberg introduced herself.

2.02 Executive Director's announcements [23-047](#)

Erin Aleman, Executive Director, thanked the committee for their input and helping CMAP develop its projects, programs and work plans that execute the ON TO 2050 plan. The Executive Director's report included updates from attending the NARC conference in Washington, D.C., the IJA Priority Project booklets, recent meetings with the region's delegates, and the Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership. She reported that the agenda includes discussion on the committee's work plan, noting that the committee's expertise will help influence the work and decisions at CMAP. There will be an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). The General Assembly has mandated that CMAP look at the long-term financial viability of the operating system of transit and has requested CMAP come up with recommendations.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from November 21, 2022 meeting [23-075](#)

Attachments: [DRAFT Regional Economy Committee Minutes 11.21.2022](#)

A motion was made by Kevin Kramer, seconded by Marisa Lewis, to approve the November 21, 2022 minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Adam Ballard, Joan Fox, Jonathan Furr, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Tiffany McDowell, and Josh Potter

Absent: Caitlin Ritter, Darnell Shields, Dionne Baux, Jennifer Tammen, Michael Meyers, Olatunji Oboi Reed, and Shannon McGhee

Ex-Officio: Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

4.0 New Business

4.01 Regional Economy Committee Workplan [23-071](#)

Attachments: [2023 RegEconomy Committee Workplan](#)

Stephanie Phifer, CMAP Deputy of Planning, acknowledged the committee's commitment to provide their expertise on how to navigate the region's economic challenges. Stephanie introduced the 2023 Regional Economy Committee Workplan and discussed a new strategy designed to provide more opportunities for meaningful discussions during committee meetings.

A motion was made by Joan Fox, seconded by Kevin Kramer, to approve the Regional Economy Committee Workplan. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Adam Ballard, Joan Fox, Jonathan Furr, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Tiffany McDowell, and Josh Potter

Absent: Caitlin Ritter, Darnell Shields, Dionne Baux, Jennifer Tammen, Michael Meyers, Olatunji Oboi Reed, and Shannon McGhee

Ex-Officio: Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

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

[23-072](#)

CMAP Staff Member Daniel Comeaux provided an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). CMAP is working to develop recommendations about the region's transit system and the role it plays in the region's mobility, economy, climate and more. With an anticipated budget gap of \$732 million in 2026, there is a need to set the transit system up for success as federal aid expires. The Illinois General Assembly has mandated that CMAP look at the long-term financial viability of transit. Staff will engage with the committees, the MPO Policy Committee, and CMAP Board on the work occurring on the PART project. The final draft of the report will come to the joint meeting of the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee on October 11, 2023.

CMAP Staff Member and Liaison Ginsberg, Senior Policy Analyst, provided an update on the sales tax reform work that is being done as a component of PART. Ginsberg shared that CMAP has contracted with SB Friedman to evaluate costs, benefits, and implications of reforms related to increasing the RTA sales tax and broadening the state and/or the RTA sales tax to include consumer services. SB Friedman's analysis will account for the impacts of cross border competition, different local land use patterns, tax incidence shifts, and racial and regional equity implications of increasing sales tax rates. SB Friedman will work with the PART Steering Committee's financial sustainability discussion group to make recommendations on which services should be taxed and how the reform should be implemented. She asked for input as they work to identify potential sales tax proposals for PART.

Discussion regarding the RTA and state sales tax continued.

The PART report update was provided.

4.03 Job Access and Quality Assessment Data

[23-074](#)

Attachments: [2023.01.26 Job access and quality assessment memo](#)

CMAP Staff Member Tony Manno introduced a new tool on job quality and job access that was made with the help of the consulting firm TIP Strategies. The tool is designed to help the region better understand the local labor force and local industries, and provides an overview of employment and industry trends, as well as an analysis of job quality and accessibility of education required. Manno reported that some committee members had agreed to review the tool and provide feedback to the group.

Member Dr. Tiffany McDowell, Director of the Equity Institute at YWCA Evanston North Shore, commented on the language the tool uses and the challenge users may face. She commented that the tool may be best utilized by people who frequently look at cluster data and therefore have familiarity. She appreciated the opportunity to engage the committee as the tools roll out.

Member Lewis, Board Liaison and Chief Policy Office for the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership, shared with the committee how she used the tool to look at Healthcare Technicians and Healthcare providers and obtain a full picture of the occupation group.

Member Peter Creticos, President and Executive Director of the Institute for Work and the Economy,

stressed the importance of the use of language to avoid misperception of what is and

what is not high quality in a variety of factors. Peter also commented on the tool's blind spots related to job vulnerabilities in certain industries due to automation and remote and independent work.

Member Kramer, Director of Economic Development at the Village of Hoffman Estates, provided feedback on the ability to view industry clusters and break them out by the different counties in the tool. He shared that he thought the tool and the information it provided would be helpful on a local level to help build a story and bring awareness to elected officials, the workforce base, and residents about job quality and access issues. He suggested a task force of members from the Committee take a deeper look into using the tool.

Member Kendra Freeman questioned whether staff have looked into the strategies with the Future of Work Statewide Report and the recommendations from TIP Strategies companion report, how these reports talk to each other, and if there are opportunities for alignment to create momentum for pathways forward through legislative change. Tony Manno stated that could be a next step for the rollout of the tool and agreed to will work with colleagues from CMAP to look at reports and address the future of work and mobility, etc. in the region.

The Job Access and Quality Assessment Data was presented.

5.0 Committee Member Updates

Member Tara Orbon announced the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways is accepting applications for the 2023 Investing in Cook County Transportation Grant Program. The deadline is Friday, March 17, 2023.

Member Michael Horsting reported on RTA's call for projects. There is a public comment period for 6 of the 11 projects that we submitted in Fall of 2022. The Community Planning Program provides funding, technical assistance for transit-oriented planning and implementation initiatives throughout the region with local partners.

6.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

7.0 Public Comment

Garland and Heather Armstrong spoke from Des Moines, Iowa. They commented on the need for Illinois to have a recyclable program again.

8.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 27, 2023.

9.0 Adjournment

Chair Tucker adjourned the meeting at 10:47 am.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.