



## CLIMATE COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

9:00 AM

Please join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89948301304?pwd=QjhQdzJ1T09DZ2gvNlJsZHNnMEx0dz09>

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

## 1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Durnbaugh called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Staff Liaison Daly provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Staff Liaison Daly called roll.

**Present:** Aaron Durnbaugh, Edith Makra, Elena Grossman, Elizabeth Kocs, Jack Chan, Jen Walling, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Raed Mansour, Thomas Maillard, Vanessa Ruiz, Matthew Santagata, and Chris Young

**Absent:** Deborah Stone, Cynthia Kanner, Martha Dooley, Mary Nicol, Naomi Davis, and Paul May

Staff Present: Alexandra Ensign, Amy McEwan, Blanca Vela - Schneider, Brian Daly. Craig Heither, Dominick Argumedo, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Isaura Velez, Jaemi Jackson, Jared Patton, Jason Navota, John Carpenter, Jennie Vana, Karly Cazzato, Kasia Hart, Kate Evasic, Laura Wilkison, Leroy Kos, Linda Mastrandrea, Nora Beck, Ryan Ehlke, Stephanie Phifer, Teri Dixon, Tricia Hyland, William Barnes

Others Present: David Powell, John Donovan, Heidi Lichtenberger, Ivy Klee, Joe Surdam, Kaci Crowley, Kris Murphy, Michael Fricano, Robert Israel, Sam Bingham, Samira Hanessian, La'Vonne Maston-Fisher

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

### 2.01 Requests for agenda changes

[23-049](#)

There were no changes to agenda.

## 2.02 Executive Director's announcements

[23-050](#)

Amy McEwan, Deputy Executive Director, shared updates on behalf of Executive Director Erin Aleman, who is attending the NARC conference in Washington, DC.

Deputy Executive Director McEwan thanked the members for their contributions to the region and work that CMAP does on behalf of the region.

Deputy Executive Director McEwan reported that today's meeting will review the committee's workplan for the year with the goal of optimizing the four meetings scheduled per year.

Deputy Executive Director McEwan shared that there will be updates on the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, a multi-year project seeking to understand the transportation system's vulnerability to climate change and identify strategies to build resilience in the seven-county region. This is an investment plan for priority projects based on results of assessment to the risk of our system to weather events and natural disasters. She stressed the importance of meeting the minimum elements of the U.S. Department of Transportation's requirements of the Resilience Improvement Plan.

Deputy Executive Director McEwan discussed mobility recovery efforts that are moving forward through the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). The Illinois General Assembly has mandated that CMAP consider the long-term financial viability of the transit system and consider recommendations that would ensure a thriving and sustainable transit system. The final report is due to the Illinois Legislature in January, 2024 and Laura Wilkison will lead the project.

## 3.0 Approval of Minutes

### 3.01 Minutes from November 29, 2022

[23-065](#)

**Attachments:** [DRAFT Climate Committee Minutes 11.29.2022](#)

*A motion was made by Member Thomas Maillard, seconded by Member Jack Chan, to approve the November 29, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:*

**Aye:** Aaron Durnbaugh, Edith Makra, Elizabeth Kocs, Jack Chan, Jen Walling, Marcella Bondie Keenan, Raed Mansour, Thomas Maillard, Matthew Santagata, and Chris Young

**Absent:** Deborah Stone, Cynthia Kanner, Martha Dooley, Mary Nicol, Naomi Davis, and Paul May

**Not Present:** Elena Grossman, and Vanessa Ruiz

## 4.0 New Business

### 4.01 Climate Committee Workplan

[23-056](#)

Interim Deputy for Regional Policy and Implementation (RPI) Bill Barnes shared comments following a presentation by Staff Liaison Brian Daly on the 2023 Climate Committee workplan that was discussed in November.

Staff Liaison Brian Daly reported the existing structure of meetings will continue with each quarterly meeting having a theme related to components of CMAP's strategic vision on climate work. The first meeting will be an overview of the overall workplan; the second quarter will focus on mitigation; the third quarter in July will discuss resilience; and the fourth quarter will focus on water. Staff Liaison Daly states that these themes are not meant to be rigid, and work will continue to be shared and discussed when timely and as needed.

Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes discussed the evolving role of the committee and engagement. CMAP recognizes the professional and personal experience and knowledge that members possess and want to engage the members in prioritizing areas of focus in Fiscal Year 2024. In order to maximize member discussion and engagement, staff will share questions in advance of the meeting.

(Vanessa Ruiz arrived at 9:28 AM and was not present for the meeting minutes)

*The agenda item was presented.*

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

[23-053](#)

Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes reviewed transit's crucial role in enabling mobility, fostering a vibrant and connected regional economy, and mitigating and adapting to climate change. The transit system is at a fiscal cliff due to multiple factors including a decrease in ridership levels and revenue during the pandemic. A budget shortfall of \$730 million is predicted in 2026 when federal funding stops which will have consequences for mobility and economic vitality that could cause irreparable damage to the transit system.

The Illinois General Assembly mandated that CMAP focus on the long-term financial viability of transit. The PART Steering Committee that was created to aid this effort held its first meeting on January 18th. The deadline for CMAP's comprehensive report of recommendations is January 1, 2024. The report is scheduled to be approved by the MPO Policy Committee and CMAP Board at their October 2023 joint meeting and will be presented to legislature by January, 2024. Principles that the PART Steering Committee will be using to guide their recommendations were shared.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

Chair Durnbaugh asked if the financial exposure of fossil fuels is being studied to inform new revenue, expense control, and risk mitigation. Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes indicated that this is not within the scope of CMAP's work but would be within the purview of the transit agencies themselves. A possible solution could be to buy fuel through a bulk contract to reduce the overall cost. Currently the biggest cost for transit agencies is labor.

Member Marcella Bondie Keenan commented that public confidence is key as is reliability of service. She supported the ADA accessibility goals. She also commented that the federal priority for fleet electrification can help with availability of funds.

Member Thomas Maillard commented on the need of capital investments to address lapses in providing basic amenities to retain RTA ridership citing the lack of bus shelters and heat lamps in Waukegan. Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes stated that not all capital needs can be solved, but to the extent that the project identifies improvements that can increase ridership, they are not off the table.

Member Chris Young asked whether the shift to remote work created a barrier to returning to pre-pandemic riding habits.

Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes reported that while the study of trends in hybrid and remote work continues, there has been an impact to ridership due to a remote working environment. This is a challenge that transit agencies are evaluating.

Chair Durnbaugh asked if large employer commuter programs can be packaged into a legislative recommendation.

Interim Deputy for RPI Bill Barnes indicated that it is unknown if it can be packaged into a legislative recommendation, but every funding solution is on the table now.

*The agenda item was discussed.*

#### **4.03 Transportation resilience planning**

[23-054](#)

Senior Planner of Regional Policy and Implementation Kate Evasic provided a presentation on the multi-year Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan Project. She shared a timeline of prior resilience work that helped to inform ONTO 2050, which included recommendations on planning for climate change and protecting people and assets from flooding, with a strong emphasis on increasing resilience of transportation systems.

Senior Planner Evasic shared a recent project that focuses on transportation resilience work with the Central Council of Mayors. Through the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, CMAP contracted Gewalt Hamilton Associates to work with the Central Council to develop a transportation resilience plan that was focused on flooding. Kate reported that the goal of the project is to develop a plan that reduced the flood risk of the transportation system in the Central Council of Mayors region. The objectives of this plan are to assess the vulnerability of the system to flooding, identify where flooding issues coincide with known transportation priorities, engage communities and partners involved in transportation and stormwater flood mitigation decision making, develop a plan to outline priorities and policies and other areas for this study, and leverage and guide the work and coordinate investment decisions in the region. Currently, the project has 21 project locations and high-level project summaries have been developed that can be used to seek grant funding.

The plan was adopted by the Central Council in December 2022 with next steps of pursuing priority projects and engaging communities in the project process, using flood vulnerability scores to inform project selection for the STP Shared Fund, and convening stakeholders to discuss detour route planning and coordination with the council. This project will be divided into two phases. The first phase is to conduct the vulnerability assessment; this will take place between March 2023 to June 2024. The second phase is to develop the Resilience Improvement Plan, which is currently scheduled to begin in April 2024 and be completed by June 2025.

The regional assessment will look at many types of natural hazards, not just flooding, to understand which assets and hazards to assess further. They will identify priority locations for resilience/adaptation investments. The expectation is that the assessment will evaluate vulnerability of roadway and transit systems. Phase 2 Plan is to ensure the region is eligible and competitive for Protect program discretionary grants and other funding programs such as FEMA's BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) Program.

Member Marcella Bondie Keenan asked what community groups are included in the project. Kate replied that, at a minimum, community groups that are part of the Community Alliance for Regional Equity (CARE) program are included. There may be opportunity to have focus groups or community interviews with groups that are interested in participating. Public meetings might also be an option.

Member Edith Makra commented that Councils of Government (COGs) and Transportation Committees would be good stakeholders for this project. She encouraged engagement with municipal commissions, transportation commissions and sustainability commissions and traffic safety commissions for additional citizen involvement beyond working with municipal staff to ensure diversity.

Chair Durnbaugh asked what transportation infrastructure is included in the scope of the project.

Senior Planner Evasic replied that transit and bike-ped within the right-of-way are included.

Chair Durnbaugh requested that members send any feedback regarding this project to Senior Planner Evasic.

*The agenda item was presented.*

## **5.0 Committee Member Updates**

Member Marcella Bondie Keenan shared that Oak Park gave staff direction to move forward with an all-electric requirement for new construction as well as a benchmarking policy.

## **6.0 Other Business**

Staff liaison Brian Daly addressed comments in the chat. Bob Israel commented in the chat that at the last Climate Committee meeting. He spoke of the idea of sponsoring municipalities to generate their own Climate Action Plans (CAP) in support of the regional CAP. Northbrook beat its estimates by creating a CAP. Bob asked if anyone could help him see if there are avenues through this group to do this. Member Edith Makra provided a link to the adaptation section of the regional CAP starting on page 44 that's relevant to Senior Planner Evasic's presentation. CMAP Deputy of Communications and Engagement Jennie Vana provided some context on CMAP's distribution lists and climate newsletters and said that other opportunities are being explored to leverage partner recurrences.

## **7.0 Public Comment**

Public comment was received from Garland Armstrong requesting that the ADA community get involved in climate work. He also suggested the use of translators to help the ADA community. Heather Armstrong commented that Illinois should reinstitute the glass and plastic bottle recycling program that provides a financial incentive to recycle, and helps eliminate litter

**8.0 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023.

**9.0 Adjournment**

Chair Durnbaugh adjourned the meeting at 10:38 am.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.