

COUNCIL OF MAYORS

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL

Tuesday, July 18, 2023

9:30 AM

1.0 Call To Order

Representing agencies present:

Central Council of Mayors: President Mark Kuchler, La Grange

DuPage Council of Mayors: Mayor Joe Marchese, Darien

DuPage Council of Mayors: President Gary Grasso, Burr Ridge

Kane Council of Mayors: Mayor Jeffery Schielke, Batavia

Lake Council of Mayors: Mayor Leon Rockingham, North Chicago

Lake Council of Mayors: President Glenn Ryback, Wadsworth

North Central Council of Mayors: President Jeffrey Sherwin, Northlake

Northwest Council of Mayors: President Karen Darch, Barrington

Northwest Council of Mayors: President Thomas Hayes, Arlington Heights

Southwest Council of Mayors: President Dave Brady, Bedford Park

Southwest Council of Mayors: President Mary Werner, Worth

South Council of Mayors: President Mike Einhorn, Crete

Staff present: Erin Aleman, Victoria Barrett, Nora Beck, Lily Brack, John Carpenter, Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Doug Ferguson, Jon Haadsma, Kasia Hart, Chad Philips, Russell Pietrowiak, Sarah Stolpe, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Mary Weber, Laura Wilkison

Others present: Jessica Abdelnour, Lenny Cannata, Eric Czarnota, Jackie Forbes, Neil James, Mike Klemens, Daniel Knickelbein, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Joe Surdam

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.01 Minutes from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee, April 18, 2023

[23-350](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Approval of minutes from the Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting on April 18, 2023.

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval

Attachments: [Council of Mayors minutes 2023.04.18](#)

A motion to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2023 meeting was made by Mayor Rockingham and seconded by President Darch. The motion was approved.

3.0 Updates

3.01 CMAP update

[23-355](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: CMAP leadership will provide an update on recent agency actions.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman began her update by summarizing recent outreach and collaboration efforts related to the PART project. As outlined in the legislation, the PART development process is being overseen by a steering committee comprised of business, civic, labor, and environmental organizations. This committee will advance their recommendations to the CMAP Board and the MPO Policy Committee in September, and a final report will be approved in October and sent to the general assembly meeting the legislative deadline.

Ms. Aleman then welcomed Mayor Grasso, who joined the CMAP Board as the DuPage County representative.

3.02 Transportation safety

[23-320](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide a brief update on the agency's ongoing transportation safety work.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Transportation Planner Victoria Barrett provided an update on the agency's ongoing transportation safety work. Ms. Barrett shared information on trends in national and regional traffic fatalities, highlighting CMAP's work to understand how speeding contributes to fatal and series crashes and possible solutions. To improve access to speeding data, CMAP is purchasing extensive third-party speed probe data that will provide insight into how cars are traveling in our region. Ms. Barrett then discussed the Safe System Approach, which is a new way of looking at safety that has been adopted by the FHWA. Lastly, Ms. Barrett provided an update on the \$4.87M Safe Streets and Roads for All planning grant that CMAP was awarded in January 2023 by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

President Darch inquired about the eligibility for the SS4A implementation grant and how the speed data will be used to inform SS4A work. Mayor Einhorn thanked staff for their work, and noted the role enforcement plays in traffic law compliance. Ms. Barrett reiterated that safety is a complex issue and there are many areas that need to be addressed, including roadway design and speed limit policy, to realize change.

3.03 STP Project Selection Committee

[23-321](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on activities of the STP Project Selection Committee.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Analyst Kama Dobbs provided an update on the recent work of the STP Project Selection Committee. The committee met once since the last meeting of the Council of Mayors Executive Committee. At that meeting, staff presented the FFY 2024-2028 STP Shared Fund staff recommended program and the committee approved the start of the public comment period for that program. Ms. Dobbs then provided information on the unobligated balance that the region is building up.

3.04 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads[23-319](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: IDOT Local Road Staff will provide an update.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Senior Analyst Russell Pietrowiak provided a brief update on behalf of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads. Nine projects are targeting the August letting and nine more are targeting the September letting. Mayor Einhorn asked whether IDOT plans perform roadside mowing along the Bishop Ford Freeway. Mayor Brady added that a meeting has been requested with IDOT to discuss an additional light on Archer Avenue, and anything staff could do to expediate a response would be appreciated. Mr. Pietrowiak said the agency would pass along the committee's questions and comments to IDOT.

3.05 ADA planning[23-339](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide a brief update on the agency's ADA planning efforts.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Principal Planner Jaemi Jackson provided an update on the ADA Program. In the next few months, staff will be kicking off the development of public right-of-way transition plans for the communities of Berwyn, Chicago Heights, LaGrange Park, Lemont, and Lincolnwood. Ms. Jackson discussed the Community Transition Plan Approach project and provided an overview of the trainings CMAP will be hosting this fall, one of which will be in partnership with the Capital Development Board. Executive Director Erin Aleman reminded the committee that a few years ago the FHWA noted that the region is in non-compliance with ADA Title II requirements, which could put the region at risk of losing access to federal highway funds. Mayor Einhorn requested information on how to check for compliance.

3.06 Local Government Network[23-318](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on recent and upcoming Local Government Network initiatives.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAP Planner Lily Brack provided an update on the Local Government Network. The Network recently completed its 18th and 19th initiatives, which collected spatial zoning data from communities to help CMAP update its regional zoning database and connected CMAP liaisons with newly elected mayors and village presidents, respectively. The 20th initiative is underway, which focusses on sharing updated Community Data Snapshots with municipal partners. Later this month, the third annual regional tourism challenge will begin, where CMAP staff compete to see who can visit the most communities throughout the region.

3.07 Legislative Affairs

[23-317](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on recent legislation affecting the agency and its work.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAQ Legislative Affairs Director John Carpenter introduced new CMAP staff Chad Philips, who will be responsible for federal legislative efforts and developing relationships with the region's delegation. Mr. Philips provided updates on the IJA working group and priority list of projects and informed the Committee that staff is tracking the congressional appropriation process and any potential impacts that may have on federal programs.

CMAQ Intergovernmental Affairs Senior Kasia Hart then provided a state legislative update. Since the committee last convened, the General Assembly wrapped up their regular session, approving a \$50.6B FY 24 budget. The FY 24 budget increased the LGDF distribution rate from 6.16% to 6.47%, which is projected to increase the allocation to local governments to \$112 million. Ms. Hart highlighted the progress staff has made on their work to secure an appropriation for CMAP to advance non-transportation planning related work and thanked Committee members for their efforts to speak with their legislators on the importance of the issue. Ms. Hart then provided an update on priority transit and transportation bills.

Mayor Einhorn suggested legislative affairs staff work with Victoria Barrett and state legislature to further the transportation safety initiatives.

4.0 Information Items

4.01 Recommended CMAQ, CRP, TAP-L and STP Shared Fund Programs

[23-346](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: On July 13, 2023, the Project Selection Committees for STP and CMAQ/CRP/TAP-L will be meeting to discuss the staff recommended programs for the FFY 2024-2028 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ), Carbon Reduction (CRP), locally programmed Transportation Alternatives (TAP-L) and STP Shared Fund regional transportation funding programs. It is anticipated that the Project Selection Committees will release program recommendations for a Public Comment Period from July 13 to August 11, 2023.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

Attachments: [CoMEC\(memo\) Staff Rec FFY24-28](#)

CMAQ Senior Analyst Doug Ferguson provided an overview of the recommended CMAQ, CRP, TAP-L and STP Shared Fund programs that were released for public comment by the STP and CMAQ Project Selection Committees. 129 applications were received, and staff evaluated the applications according to the methodologies approved by the Project Select Committees to determine eligibility and final scoring. The four proposed programs include 66 different projects with \$593 million in federal funding. Public comment will close on August 11th. Staff will then bring the comments to the Project Selection Committees for their consideration and make any changes to the programs. At the September Transportation Committee meeting the programs must be recommended for approval at the joint MPO Policy Committee and CMAP Board meeting in October.

4.02 Regional Climate Action Planning

[23-344](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on new work kicking off in response to the USEPA's climate pollution reduction grant program.

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAQ Program Lead for Air Quality and Water Resources Nora Beck provided an update on Climate Pollution Reduction Grant-funded climate action plan, which is being created in partnership with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. Ms. Beck provided a brief overview of the ongoing climate crisis, the various impacts it is having on the region, and the disproportionate harm faced by communities of color and low-income areas. Ms. Beck discussed how transportation contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, highlighting regional progress to address these impacts. Ms. Beck then provided an overview of CMAQ's climate mitigation projects, including the regional greenhouse gas inventory, EV infrastructure planning, and housing rehabilitation. Lastly, Ms. Beck discussed the agency's ongoing climate planning work with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The plan will cover the entire Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area and will advance the goals of Justice40, which aims to deliver 40% of the overall benefits of the federal investment to disadvantaged communities. Chair Schielke discussed challenges in Batavia due to a proposed 10 cent bag tax. Mayor Sherwin inquired about the ability of ComEd to support electric vehicles and household appliances, noting that infrastructure needs and EV costs should be considered.

4.03 Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART)

[23-322](#)

PURPOSE & ACTION: Staff will provide an update on recent work related to the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART).

ACTION REQUESTED: Information

CMAQ Senior Director and Policy Advisor Laura Wilkison provided the committee with an update on the Plan of Action for Regional Transit (PART). The plan will consist of three main sections: The system we want, How to implement it, and How to pay for it. Ms. Wilkison reviewed how the transit system is currently funded and discussed potential fare, sales tax and road system revenue options that are being considered. Mayor Sherwin inquired how the operating costs of Metra's extension to Rockford will be paid for. Mayor Einhorn raised concerns about a one size fits all approach. Ms. Wilkison then discussed potential governance structures that are being reviewed, noting that additional detail will be provided at the next meeting. Staff is continuing to conduct stakeholder engagement and drafting white papers that will be published on the PART webpage.

5.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

6.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the public. The amount of time available to speak will be at the chair's discretion.

There was no public comment.

7.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for August 15, 2023.

The next meeting will be August 15, 2023 at CMAQ's office.

8.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06.