



REGIONAL ECONOMY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES - FINAL-REVISED

Thursday, April 25, 2024

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 04/24/2024 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86025572884?pwd=o9GTZH7g46UUGjJPH8zPnpa3OyEH9F.1>

CMAP 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 CMAP'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 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 9:32 a.m. and reminded the audience that the meeting is being recorded and provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Principal Planner Tony Manno called the roll.

Present: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Adam Ballard, Caitlin Ritter, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Josh Potter, Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

Absent: Darnell Shields, and Dionne Baux

Noting a physical quorum of the Committee, Chair Tucker announced a request from Member Adam Ballard was received to participate remotely in compliance with Open Meetings Act requirements. A vote is needed to approve his virtual attendance.

A motion was made by Member Kevin Kramer, seconded by Member Joan Fox, to allow Adam Ballard to participate virtually in the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Caitlin Ritter, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Josh Potter, Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

Absent: Darnell Shields, and Dionne Baux

Not Present: Adam Ballard

Chair Bob Tucker asked the secretary to note in minutes that they are present and available to participate in the meeting.

Staff Present: Aimee Lee, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Craig Heither, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Enrique Castillo, Isaura Velez, Karly Cazzato, Katie Reigstad, Laura Wilkison, Matt Marth, Mike Sobczak, Teri Dixon

Others Present: Drew Duffin, Garland Armstrong, P. Burke

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

2.01 Requests for agenda changes

No requests for changes to the agenda were made.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from April 27, 2023

[24-076](#)

Attachments: [Regional Economy Minutes 04.27.23](#)

A motion was made by Member Peter Creticos, seconded by Member Marisa Lewis, to approve the April 27, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Bob Tucker, Kim Porter, Adam Ballard, Caitlin Ritter, Joan Fox, Kendra Freeman, Kevin Kramer, Kristi DeLaurentiis, Marisa Lewis, Peter Creticos, Shannon McGhee, Tiffany McDowell, Josh Potter, Michael Horsting, and Tara Orbon

Absent: Darnell Shields, and Dionne Baux

4.0 CMAP Announcements

4.01 CMAP Update

[24-211](#)

Michael Brown, Interim Deputy of Planning, shared an update on the 2023 annual report that was shared with the CMAP board and communities as required by the Illinois Regional Planning Act. The report highlighted progress on the regions shared vision of the ON TO 2050 Plan goals to make the region is a stronger and more resilient place to live.

The CMAP budget and workplan was introduced to the CMAP board and the MPO Policy committee in January 2024. This is for fiscal year starting July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The Fiscal Year 2025 Workplan and Budget was adopted by the CMAP board in February 2024. Interim Deputy Brown shared that the UWP Budget, that details more information on money granted to partner agencies, was shared with the Transportation committee on March 1, 2024 and approved by the MPO Policy committee on March 14, 2024. CMAP is coordinating with IDOT on the detailed budget and draft agreements for the fiscal year start of July 1, 2024. The Greater Chicagoland Economic Partnership (GCEP) celebrated its first year of regional collaboration in January of 2024. The partnership's 2023 review report is available on CMAP's website. This review highlights impacts, initiatives and collaborations fostered throughout the first year of the partnership. CMAP set this into motion in 2020 at the request of County Board Chairs and the mayor of Chicago to build key recommendations from the city of Chicago's Recovery Task Force report supporting regional collaborative economic development in the region.

Interim Deputy Brown's update included information from the October 2023 joint meeting of CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee approval of the Federal Fiscal 2024 through 2028 STP shared fund, congestion mitigation and air quality improvement, carbon reduction and local transportation alternatives program funds. These total \$593 million in federal transportation funds for 66 projects throughout the region. Interim Deputy Brown shared that CMAP is working to align the committee's 2024 schedule with CMAP's fiscal year starting on July 1st through June 30th, with the next meeting being tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2024.

5.0 Information Items

The agenda item was approved.

5.01 Housing Snapshots

[24-044](#)

Austen Edwards, Senior Policy Analyst, gave an update on new project underway for providing housing data at a community level across the region. Senior Policy Analyst Edwards shared that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provided new footing to MPO's such as CMAP to take a deeper look into housing issues and needs related to the transportation system. Due to federal regulations, CMAP now has more coordination with housing organizations, in particularly funders about the future of housing development. He shared that the IIJA now allows federal transportation funding to be used for some housing work and that priority housing issues varied across communities and local governments. DePaul University's Institute of Housing Studies has been engaged to complete the housing data snapshots in the region, including the seven counties and the 284 municipalities. The goal is to fill gaps by providing more comprehensive housing data on a community level. Senior Policy Analyst Edwards provided examples of data that CMAP currently provides and the goal of providing a more curated data snapshot.

Senior Policy Analyst Edwards sought feedback from the committee.

An update of housing snapshots was presented.

The agenda item was discussed.

5.02 Legislative Update

[24-209](#)

Attachments: [April Regional Economy Committee Memo Legislative Update](#)

Ryan Gougis, Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist, shared that an appropriation bill that would appropriate \$5 million to CMAP to carry out the agency's broader scope of regional planning obligations, as detailed in the Regional Planning Act but never funded, has come out of the House and Senate chambers unanimously. This bill has moved to the appropriations committees in each of the chambers and could serve as a marker for future budget funding. Staff is working to get a subject matter hearing to raise awareness of the need for this legislation and to get it included in a future state budget.

CMAP is following legislative bills related to amendments to the Open Meetings Act. Staff, working with the Illinois Municipal League, has proposed amendments to the Open Meetings Act that would allow greater flexibility for Board members to participate virtually under certain parameters.

A legislative update was provided.

The agenda item was presented.

5.03 Job Access and Quality Tool 2.0 updates

[24-075](#)

Katie Reigstad, Senior Planner, introduced herself as the project manager for the update to the Job Quality and Access Tool. She shared that the tool has been updated based upon feedback from the committee member volunteers. Senior Planner Reigstad provided the committee with a live tour of the tool.

Staff sought feedback from the committee.

An updated to the Job Quality and Access Toll 2.02 was presented.

The agenda item was presented.

6.0 Committee Member Updates

Member Kristi DeLaurentiis shared an updated on the Southland Reactivation Act legislation that was passed in 2022 to take tax exempt parcels and get them back on the tax roll for commercial industrial properties. Member DeLaurentiis also shared that in December 2023 SSMMA hired an environmental justice policy and government affairs specialist from the Harris school to look at the broad agenda around environmental justice concerns.

Member Kevin Kramer shared an update on workforce data center managers.

Member Peter Creticos shared an update on an AI project that is currently under development aimed at building a set of principles and policies that could guide decision makers on implementing and deploying AI in the context of work. He shared that the Institute for Work and Economy Board Member Melody Lewis will be hosting a training session on May 10th via Zoom. Interested members can reach out to him for more information.

Member Kendra Freeman shared that a Clean and Equitable Transportation Act will be introduced to the state legislative body that includes multiples bills, and in particular, a transit bill that addresses the funding appropriations and governance issues. She also shared that in the first week of May a symposium will be held for Water Week that will include a talk about the vision for water in Chicago. Members can register online.

Committee member updates were provided.

7.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

8.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

Garland Armstrong spoke from Des Moines, Iowa advocated for informing the ADA community on climate challenges including fresh drinking water. He also advocated for the use of translation services in providing education materials.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2024 at 9:30 am.

10.0 Adjournment

Chair Tucker adjourned the meeting at 11:04 am.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.