

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
Thursday, February 26, 2009
9:00 a.m.
Oakton Community College
1616 East Golf Road
Des Plaines, IL 60016

Members Present:

Kerry Cummings, Co-Chair, President, Village of Glenview
Ken Nelson, Co-Chair, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows
Jeff Berman, Trustee, Village of Buffalo Grove
Mike Janonis, Village Manager, Village of Mount Prospect
Al Larson, President, Village of Schaumburg
Darren Monico, Assistant Director of Engineering and Building, Village of Barrington
Arlene J. Mulder, Mayor, Village of Arlington Heights
Tim Oakley, Director of Engineering, City of Des Plaines
Louella Preston, Trustee, Village of Niles

Others Present:

Steve Berez, Village of Lincolnwood
Dru Garcia, Village of Wheeling
Mike Hankey, Village of Hoffman Estates
Bob Israel, Mactec
June Johnson, Village of Schaumburg
Don Kopec, CMAP
Rick Mack, Metra
Steve Mastny, IDOT
Brigitte Mayerhofer, Village of Wilmette
Tim Merrihew, Village of Wheeling
Mike Pagones, Village of Arlington Heights
Brian Plum, TCC
Andy Plummer, RTA
Paula Trigg, Lake County DOT
Chris Staron, NWMC
Mike Walczak, NWMC
Larry Widmer, NWMC

I. Call to Order

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Approval of the January 29, 2009 meeting minutes

The January 29, 2009 meeting minutes were unanimously approved on a motion from Trustee Preston, seconded by President Cummings.

III. Developments of Regional Importance

Mr. Walczak introduced Mr. Kopec from CMAP and informed the committee that the draft DRI document has changed dramatically from the previous draft the committee reviewed. Mr. Kopec said that CMAP received extensive comments on the original draft DRI process. He noted that the new draft is similar to the Urban Land Institute (ULI) DRI proposal. He reported that the process and means for requesting a DRI remained relatively the same in the new draft. He said a municipality, county, CMAP Board Member, CMAP Executive Director, majority vote of a CMAP Coordinating Committee, or the public or private project sponsor may submit a project for DRI review. He reported that there are three thresholds, of which a project must meet two to be considered a DRI: 1) The project is estimated to generate or divert greater than 50,000 auto vehicle trips per day, 2) the project is estimated to create a net discharge greater than 5 million gallons effluent per day, or 3) the project includes greater than 500 acres of impervious paved surfaces and rooftops. Mr. Kopec explained that the thresholds are designed to capture the projects with true regional impacts. He reported that the CMAP Board must certify that a project is a DRI and then the CMAP staff produces a report regarding the projects impacts.

Mr. Oakley asked what type of project would meet these thresholds. Mr. Kopec said the vehicle trips threshold is higher than the traffic counts on Golf Rd. and the impervious surface threshold is nearly one square mile. Mayor Mulder asked when a DRI review will be initiated. Mr. Kopec responded that a zoning change is the action that triggers a DRI review because CMAP wants to examine projects early in the developmental process. President Larson noted that under these thresholds, Woodfield Mall would not have been a DRI. Trustee Berman asked if a local resident can request a DRI review. Mr. Kopec responded that a local resident would have to go through the CMAP channels identified in the draft to initiate a review. President Cummings asked if the cumulative traffic from a series of developments could trigger a DRI review. Mr. Kopec said that it is unlikely that the cumulative traffic could trigger a DRI. President Larson asked if the proposed 2016 Olympics might reach the thresholds outlined. Mr. Kopec responded that the Olympics might meet the thresholds. Mayor Mulder asked how CMAP will differentiate between one-time events, like a sporting event or concert, and permanent impacts. President Cummings noted that the Olympics will have a significant permanent effect despite the limited duration of the actual event. Trustee Present asked if a third airport will qualify as a DRI, and Mr. Kopec responded that it likely will. Trustee Berman asked if the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) is a DRI based on this draft. Mr. Kopec said he is not sure if it would meet two of the three criteria. Mr. Walczak asked how projects included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) will be examined. Mr. Kopec said there is nothing in the draft that exempts RTP projects. He also said that CMAP wants the DRI process to add value. Chair Nelson said that the process may provide regional insights into the big picture.

IV. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Mr. Staron reported that President Obama signed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 on February 17. He said that there are two good resources for understanding the funding mechanisms available to local governments. He said that CMAP has provided regular updates on funding opportunities at its website, www.cmap.illinois.gov, and a letter to local government leaders, which is attached to the agenda. He said that Illinois has launched a recovery website at

www.recovery.illinois.gov, which serves as a portal with links to state agencies with Recovery Act funding authority.

He reported that there is \$27.5 billion for highways and bridges in the Recovery Act. He said that Illinois anticipates receiving \$936 million in highway and bridge funding. He reported that \$28 million is going to transportation enhancements (ITEP), \$627 million to IDOT, and \$281 million to Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs). He said that \$180 of the MPO portion will come to Northeastern Illinois for a likely split between Chicago and the suburban Council of Mayors system. In regards to IDOT's portion of the funding, Mr. Staron reported that IDOT has released a list of projects that can make an April letting and use Recovery Act funding. He said that roughly \$45 million of IDOT funding was designated to projects in NWMC municipalities. He further reported that at Saturday's legislative brunch, Susan Garrett raised questions about the project selection process and is hosting a meeting with Lake Forest Village Manager Bob Kiley in Northbrook to discuss IDOT's project selection procedures.

Mr. Walczak reported that District 1 will receive roughly 45% of the state's discretionary highway funding, which has been the traditional split. He said that CMAP has questioned this split because the funding is supposed to stimulate the economy and Northeastern Illinois is the economic engine of the state.

Mayor Mulder asked how IDOT selected its projects for ARRA funding. Mr. Mastny responded that IDOT focused on shovel ready projects when generating its list. He said that the Recovery Act spending frees up space in the FY 2010 program. Chair Nelson asked how local projects will be considered. Mr. Walczak reported that the suburban Councils will be the local programming agencies. Trustee Preston asked if the existing lists will be used to select projects. Mr. Walczak reported that each Council will have their own selection process and that it will likely include a call for projects. Mr. Kopec noted that CMAP does not want projects that simply replace funding. President Cummings said that many capital projects will not be done unless they receive Recovery Act funding. Trustee Preston noted that she hoped there would be equity in the distribution of funds.

Mr. Kopec reported that IDOT has reported that ITEP will still require a 20% local match for projects. He said that at this time IDOT will likely not issue a new call for projects. He said that the June letting will likely be the earliest letting for local projects. He said that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting will discuss how to track each Council's spending progress.

V. Federal Transportation Authorization

Mr. Walczak reported that the committee approved sending a letter to the Illinois Congressional delegation about the need to do both a short term stimulus and a long term, comprehensive transportation bill at the last meeting. He said that staff has drafted a letter for consideration by the committee.

The committee unanimously approved the letter to the Illinois Congressional delegation.

VI. CN/EJ&E Acquisition Update

Mr. Walczak reported that the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Project (CREATE) totals 78 projects in the region to reduce freight

congestion. He said that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) wants to include continued support for CREATE in its legislative program. Mr. Walczak reported that some dynamics have shifted because of CN's purchase of the EJ&E. He recommended continuing to support CREATE while looking to extend the program for projects along the EJ&E, which support the goals of the CREATE program.

A motion to accept the recommendation was unanimously approved.

VII. CMAP Report

Mr. Walczak reported that the NWMC received three Full Circle applications. He said that staff will work with Carpentersville, Evanston, and Barrington to complete final application to submit to CMAP. Mr. Kopec said that he did not have any additional CMAP announcements.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Plummer said that there is a lot of talk about a state capital bill and that the RTA is going to push for transit to be a big part of the bill.

IX. Next Meeting

Chair Nelson reported that the next meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2009.

X. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion from President Larson, seconded by Mayor Cummings.