

North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee
Wednesday, December 17, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Skokie Village Hall

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Fred Schattner, Chair, Village of Skokie
Russ Jensen, Village of Glenview
Chris Tomich, Village of Northbrook
Christine Van Dornick, Village of Glencoe
Susan Chen, Village of Winnetka
Brigitte Mayerhofer, Village of Wilmette
Paul Schneider, City of Evanston

Others Present:

Thomas Gill, Thomas Engineering Group
Salvatore Dibernardo, Ciorba Group
Tommy Kraus, Pace
Holly Osttick, CMAP
Steve Mastny, IDOT
Kevin Stallworth, IDOT Local Roads
Erik Cook, Village of Skokie
Kathy Meyerkord, TranSystems
Grace Dysico, TranSystem
Chris Staron, Northwest Municipal Conference

I. Call to Order

Chair Schattner called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. He invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – June 18, 2008

Chair Schattner asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 18, 2008. *On a motion from Mr. Tomich, seconded by Mr. Schneider, the minutes passed unanimously.*

III. Agency Reports

A. IDOT Highway Report

Mr. Mastny presented the committee with *Management Monitoring Schedule* handout. He reported that the only change on the handout is one minor bridge change. He said that IDOT is working on developing the new multi-year program. He said that the program is expected to back-ended and that projects will likely be reshuffled and moved back.

B. Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)

Mr. Schattner reported that Rodney Bettenhausen from Cook County could not attend the meeting. He passed out the handout of the Cook County program.

C. Pace

Mr. Kraus handed out Pace's 2009 budget. He reported that the transit legislation passed at the beginning of 2008 did help Pace regarding operations; however, he noted that fuel costs, reimbursement issues, and free rides for seniors took a toll. He said that the standard fare for Pace will increase \$.25. He said that Pace has worked out an agreement regarding the 7-day CTA pass and use on Pace. He said the pass will be \$5 more if used on Pace and CTA. He reported that van pool ridership has increased 20%. Mr. Kraus also informed the committee that there are still large capital needs for Pace and the other RTA agencies. He said many buses are past their useful life.

D. Illinois Tollway

Mr. Staron reported that Bunny Anderson could not attend the meeting but did forward an update on Tollway construction.

E. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Ms. Ostdick reported that 68% of the Suburban STP's state appropriation has been obligated. She said that they are looking into borrowing from other parts of the state and possibly Chicago. She said that over \$18 million of Advanced Funding requests were submitted and will be considered by the Council of Mayors Executive Committee on January 13th. She distributed a rescissions table that explains when funds are safe from rescissions. She said that the Suburban STP does not look like it will be subject to rescissions if it continues to spend at the current rate. She informed the Committee that there is a Transit-Oriented Development seminar on January 13th.

F. IDOT Local Roads

Mr. Stallworth distributed the IDOT status sheet and went through the report. He noted that some dates have been altered. He reported that the Willow Road project is not estimated to receive design approval until October 2009. Mr. Schattner said that a project with no STP funding appears on the status sheet and he clarified that the Old Orchard Road (02-97-0006) is not using STP funding.

IV. North Shore Council of Mayors FFY 08-13 Surface Transportation Program

A. Current FFY 08-13 North Shore STP Program

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment B is the current North Shore STP, which includes all the approved changes from the last meeting.

B. Proposed Program Changes

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment C reflects two program changes. He said that ENGII and ROW acquisition for Chestnut/Waukegan should be programmed in FFY 2010 because of the project schedule. He said that this movement does not require the Committee's approval because it does not include construction. He also reported that Skokie is removing their LAPP projects from the MYB list as fulfillment of their promise regarding the cost increases from last meeting. Mr. Staron said that the change shifts more funding into an already over programmed FFY 2010.

C. North Shore STP Project Schedules

Mr. Staron presented the North Shore STP project schedules website to the Committee. He reported that he now realizes that some Committee members may have been blocked from accessing the website because of filtering software. He informed the Committee that he would send an electronic copy every month with the regular update so that everyone can view the entire schedule. He said that there is a separate tab for each project. He said that this is a project and program management tool. He said that it will prevent projects from simply moving from one program year to the next without any real explanation. He said that Mr. Stallworth emailed him some of IDOT's estimates on the dates and that those will be helpful in keeping IDOT, the project sponsor, and himself on the same page. Mr. Tomich asked what purpose the schedule tracking serves. Mr. Staron responded that last year multiple projects were delayed and had to move into FFY 2009. He said that if the Council can more accurately track a project's progress, it will be able to move projects and seek available funding when possible.

Mr. Staron reported that he is also working on an online mapping tool for the North Shore projects. He also reported that CMAP is testing an online TIP visualization website.

V. North Shore STP Advanced Funding for FFY 09

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment F shows the status of the FFY 09 advanced funding. He reported that the other councils are responding to the push to spend down the suburban STP balance. He reminded the Committee of Ms. Ostdick's report that there are over \$18 million in advanced funding requests. He said the Council of Mayors Executive Committee will vote on the request on January 13th. He said that the unobligated balance will continue to shrink if the suburban councils spend at the same rate. He said that the Chicago region can look to other parts of the state to borrow funding or Chicago. He said it is unclear what the funding reality will be for the North Shore Council in FFY 10 because push to spend will not exist. He said that this is important because the North Shore Council has such a large negative balance and so is reliant on advanced funding.

Mr. Schneider asked when the next advanced funding request would take place. Mr. Staron responded that as soon as the Lake St. classification change is confirmed, then he will submit the advanced funding request. Ms. Ostdick reported that the current advanced funding request is through the April letting and the Lake St. project is scheduled for the June letting. She said that they would likely process another advanced funding request in late spring. Mr. Schneider asked who the contact at IDOT is for functional classification changes. Mr. Mastny answered that Pam Heurich is the contact for such changes.

VI. North Shore Council of Mayors FFY 08 Annual Report

Mr. Staron reported that as the Committee suggested, the annual report has been updated to follow the FFY. He said that the report include an overview of the Council of Mayors system, a summary of the FFY 08 North Shore STP, North Shore CMAQ projects, regional transportation issues, and the future for the North Shore Council. He reported that the report is available at the NWMC website and he can send separate copies upon request.

VII. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program

Mr. Staron reported that the CMAQ program opened its call for projects on December 8th. He said that there are a number of changes to the application process this year and that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee has been meeting every two weeks to address the unobligated program balance. He reported that the Planning Liaisons will be more involved in the program and monitoring projects. He said that that the applications now contain a milestones schedule and must be submitted to the Planning Liaison by January 23rd, which is two weeks prior to the application deadline at CMAP of February 6th. He said that the Planning Liaison is required to check the application for completeness. He said that he is willing to work and assist municipalities with applications. He said that he will not be able to provide much input if he does not see the application before January 23rd.

Ms. Ostdick added that there is \$39 million in danger of lapsing and that is why the CMAQ Committee has been meeting regularly and why there are changes to the application process. Mr. Schattner said that some projects receive the money and it just sits there.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Schattner asked what people have heard on the federal infrastructure stimulus package. Mr. Tomich said that he heard that money may flow directly to local governments. Ms. Mayerhofer asked what the NWMC is looking for as far as transportation priorities. Mr. Staron responded that the NWMC is updating the Conference's priorities list for a potential capital bill out of Springfield this year. He said that the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus put together a list of ready-to-go projects specifically targeted at the federal stimulus. Mr. Staron said that he does not think that anyone knows what the federal package will look like. He said that

the size, type of projects, and how the money is distributed will have to be worked out the legislation.

Mr. Schattner asked the Committee if they have any concerns regarding CTA's increase on parking prices. He said that it affects Skokie and is frustrating when ridership on the Yellow Line is increasing.

Mr. Staron reported that staff received a briefing from the FHWA on last Friday regarding the Illinois ethics legislation, which becomes active on January 1st. He said that the ethics legislation does not comply with federal regulations because it limits the amount a contractor cannot donate to politician. He reported that the FHWA only recognizes cost and qualifications as acceptable restrictions placed on bids. Consequently, he said that FHWA has told IDOT that they will not authorize projects to be eligible for Federal-aid funding reimbursement. Mr. Staron reported that New Jersey had a similar problem with ethics legislation and attempted to fight the FHWA and ultimately lost and had to exempt federal projects from the law. He said that IDOT is looking into the issue and how it will affect the January letting. He said the legislation needs to be altered to resolve the issue. Mr. Mastny reported that he does not know much about this issue but said that they could defer projects to the March letting. Mr. Staron said that staff will keep the Committee updated.

IX. 2009 Meeting Schedule

Chair Schattner said that the 2009 meeting schedule is attached to the agenda and that the next North Shore Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2009 at the Skokie Village Hall.

X. Adjournment

On a motion from Ms. Mayerhofer, Chair Schattner adjourned the meeting.