

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee
Wednesday, March 18, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Skokie Village Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Fred Schattner, Chair, Village of Skokie
Susan Chen, Village of Winnetka
Patrick Glen, Village of Golf
Russ Jensen, Village of Glenview
Anne Kane, Village of Northfield
Paul Kendzior, Village of Northbrook
Brigitte Mayerhofer, Village of Wilmette
Paul Schneider, City of Evanston
Chris Tomich, Village of Morton Grove
Christine Van Dornick, Village of Glencoe

Others Present:

Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway
John Beissel, Cook County Highway Department
Rodney Bettenhausen, Cook County Highway Department
Erik Cook, Village of Skokie
Mary Donner, Pace
Grace Dysico, TranSystem
Thomas Gill, Thomas Engineering Group
Alex Househ, IDOT
Steve Mastny, IDOT
John Mick, Baxter and Woodman
Omar Nashif, Collins Engineers, Inc.
Holly Ostdick, CMAP
Don Owen, Village of Glenview
Kevin Stallworth, IDOT Local Roads
Chris Staron, Northwest Municipal Conference
Steve Sugg, Ciorba Group

I. Call to Order

Chair Schattner called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. He invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2008

Chair Schattner asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 17, 2008. *On a motion from Ms. Mayerhofer, seconded by Ms. Chen, the minutes passed unanimously.*

III. Agency Reports

A. IDOT Highway Report

Mr. Mastny presented the committee with *Management Monitoring Schedule* handout. He said that the handout is essentially unchanged from December with the exception of ARRA projects. He noted that US-41 (Skokie Blvd.) and Dempster St. are the two projects that have proposed ARRA funding. He said that IDOT anticipates letting these projects in April. He reported that the IL-43 (Waukegan Rd.) resurfacing from Lake Cook Rd. to Willow Rd. has been moved up to April because there was money left in the SFY 09 program.

B. Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)

Mr. Bettehausen distributed a handout with CCHD projects in the North Shore region and reported that any changes from December are in bold. He said that two projects have been added on Winnetka Road, which will likely occur in 2011 unless there is Recovery Act funding available for these projects.

C. Pace

Ms. Donner reported that she is the new Pace representative for the North Shore Council. She reported that overall Pace ridership in 2008 was the highest since 1991. She said that ridership in the North Shore region was actually down in 2008 roughly 3.4% from 2007. She further reported that overall 2009 ridership is down 9% due to the economic downturn and the discontinued acceptance of most CTA passes. He informed the council that Pace anticipates receiving \$33 million from the ARRA, which will be spent on 162 paratransit vehicle, 44 vans, 58 30-foot buses, and 84 maintenance and non-revenue vehicles. He said that newer buses use less fuel and have lower maintenance costs, which will immediately help to reduce operating expenses. Finally, she reported that the blue ribbon commission on paratransit's recommendation to establish two 15-member ADA Advisory Committees was approved by the Pace Board. She said that Pace is distributing applications for both committees.

D. Illinois Tollway

Ms. Anderson reported that the Illinois Tollway is on year four of five in the Congestion Management Plan. She distributed status sheets for the entire Tollway system. She said that the southbound work on the North Tri-State is complete and that the northbound work should be completed in 2010.

E. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Ms. Ostdick reported that the CMAP Board is interested in looking at the allocation of capital funds and that a comprehensive capital plan is the Board's top legislative priority. She further reported that the MPO Policy Committee approved the distribution of ARRA funds among the Councils of Mayors at its last meeting. She said that there are going to be capital plan hearings around the state and that there is one in Northbrook. She reported that IDOT has entered its ARRA projects in the TIP, but that the state still needs to appropriate the funds for the ARRA projects. She also reported that RTA has entered its projects into the TIP. She said that FHWA is holding webinars on ARRA funding and that highlights from the first webinar are available at the CMAP website. In regards to reporting, she said that CMAP has purchased software that can evaluate the economic benefit of projects and that CMAP will work with the councils to fulfill the reporting requirements in the ARRA. Finally, she reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met in early March and approved the ARRA funding and advanced funding requests. She said that the suburban councils have spent nearly all of their federal allotments and will begin to look to borrow from other regions in the state if necessary.

F. IDOT Local Roads

Mr. Stallworth distributed the IDOT status sheet and reported that there have only been a couple of changes since the last meeting. He said that the West Lake Ave. project's design approval has been pushed back to July 1, 2009 because of drainage issues. He said that the Church St. and Crawford Ave. intersection project received Phase I Design Approval on February 17, 2009. He said that the Skokie Blvd. and Golf Rd. intersection project was pushed back to the June letting because of Special Waste and ROW issues. He reported that the Willow Rd. project's Design Approval has been pushed back to September 15, 2009 because of geometric, ROW, and JT issues.

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

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment B shows the North Shore Council's STP program from FFY 2009-2013. He said that all FFY 09 projects have secured advanced funding except the Willow Rd. project. He said that Phase II for the Willow Rd. project will not begin until FFY 10, so the council will have to reprogram it. He said the council's negative balance is projected to grow to over \$7 million or over two years worth of allotments. He said that FFY 10 is significantly over-programmed with three construction projects. He said that many councils are actively spending their funding and as Holly reported, the suburban councils could have a negative balance at the end of the year. He said that this does not mean that the North Shore Council will not be able to advanced fund projects, but it does increase the uncertainty. He said that the suburban councils can possibly borrow from other regions of the state if needed.

V. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

A. Project Selection for ARRA

Mr. Staron summarized the process for the committee. He reported that the North Shore Council had a call from projects from February 25 to March 11 and that he summarized and ranked the projects that were received as seen in Attachment C and D. He reported that after the committee makes a recommendation to the North Shore Council for projects to fund, the North Shore Council will act on the recommendation at its April 15 meeting in conjunction with the NWMC Board meeting. He said that members of the Technical Committee have met twice previously to discuss the potential avenues for distributing the funds based on population, FAU miles, and other options. He said that Attachment F is the proposed program based on rankings, geographic equity, and local priorities. He said the committee needs to recommend funding for projects. He informed the committee that the Overlook Dr. project in Golf has a cost increase that followed the meeting with IDOT. He further reported that the Glencoe, Northbrook, and Winnetka projects are pending an eligibility determination from IDOT and thus he recommended that these projects be conditionally approved. He said this would prevent an unnecessary meeting if they are indeed eligible. He said that Northfield had to drop their pedestrian signal project because the project was too far along. Finally he noted that there is roughly over \$200,00 remaining balance if all projects are funded at 80% and the Northfield project at 100%. He said that CCHD submitted one bridge project through Northfield that scored relatively well.

Ms. Kane noted that the CCHD Winnetka Rd. bridge project scored high and that Northfield's share of the funding is currently the lowest. She advocated for funding the project. Mr. Beissel said that Cook County did not receive any highway funding from the ARRA. He said that CCHD realizes that the County does not have the best reputation currently, but he said that the Winnetka Rd. bridge project is a needed project. He said that CCHD met with FHWA and IDOT and determined that this project could make a late 2009 letting. He said even 50% funding would be enough to move this project up. Mr. Schattner said that funding this project with the balance, which is essentially 50%, might be a good option. Ms. VanDornick asked about the substructure and noted that she doesn't want to have to replace the entire bridge a couple of years after doing deck repairs. Mr. Beissel said that the substructure is good. Ms. Mayerhofer asked what the county's option is if it does not receive ARRA funding. Mr. Beissel responded that the project would likely be pushed to 2011. Mr. Owen asked if the county could handle the 50% local match. Mr. Beissel responded that it could. Mr. Schneider asked what the balance currently is. Mr. Staron responded that the balance is \$213,277. Mr.

Glenn asked that since Golf’s project cost increased if the committee would consider funding the first \$130,000 at 100% to reduce the size of the local match. Ms. Mayerhofer said that the 100% funding was for small projects and that because of the scope and cost increase of the Overlook Dr. project, it should be treated like the other projects. The committee agreed. Mr. Schattner asked for a motion to approve the municipal projects for funding. *On a motion from Ms. Mayerhofer, seconded by Mr. Kendzior, the committee unanimously recommended the municipal projects for ARRA funding to the North Shore Council of Mayors.*

Sponsor	Project Location	TIP Number	Scope	Phase	Total Cost (Eligible Construction)	ARRA Funding	Federal %	Local Funding
Evanston	Sheridan Rd.	02-08-0005	Resurfacing	Construction	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 1,320,000	80%	\$ 330,000
Glencoe	Green Bay Rd.	02-07-0017	LAPP	Construction	\$ 760,000	\$ 608,000	80%	\$ 152,000
Glenview	Central Rd.	02-07-0003	LAPP	Construction	\$ 900,000	\$ 720,000	80%	\$ 180,000
Golf	Overlook Dr.	02-09-0011	Resurfacing	Construction	\$ 315,000	\$ 252,000	80%	\$ 63,000
Morton Grove	Lehigh Ave.	02-07-0004	LAPP	Construction	\$ 410,000	\$ 328,000	80%	\$ 82,000
Northbrook	Pfingsten Rd.	02-09-0012	Resurfacing	Construction	\$ 790,000	\$ 632,000	80%	\$ 158,000
Northfield	Old Willow Rd. Bridge	02-09-0013	Bridge Repair	Construction	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	100%	\$ -
Skokie	Main St.	02-07-0009	LAPP	Construction	\$ 950,000	\$ 760,000	80%	\$ 190,000
Wilmette	10th St.	02-09-0014	LAPP	Construction	\$ 450,000	\$ 360,000	80%	\$ 90,000
Winnetka	Tower Rd.	02-09-0015	LAPP	Construction	\$ 525,000	\$ 420,000	80%	\$ 105,000

On a motion from Ms. Mayerhofer, seconded by Mr. Kendzior, the committee unanimously recommended the Cook County project for ARRA funding to the North Shore Council of Mayors.

Sponsor	Project Location	TIP Number	Scope	Phase	Total Cost (Eligible Construction)	ARRA Funding	Federal %	Local Funding
Northfield (CCHD)	Winnetka Rd. Bridge	02-09-0007	Bridge Repair	Construction	\$ 420,000	\$ 213,277	51%	\$ 206,723

Mr. Househ reported that he would like to schedule kick-off meets as soon as possible to so these projects can get moving.

B. ARRA Reporting Requirements

Mr. Staron reported that the ARRA included reporting requirements for the economic benefit of projects, tracking of obligations, and other provisions. He said that the details of what will be required from local sponsors have yet to be determined but he will keep the committee informed.

VI. Crack Sealing

Ms. VanDornick reported that NWMC will no longer be administering a joint contract for crack sealing. She said that she wanted to inquire if municipalities were still interested in doing a joint contract. Mr. Owens asked about the potential savings from economies of scale. Mrs. VanDornick said that the economy of scale is the point of a joint contract and that there have been contractors that have done a good job in the past. Mr. Househ asked if NWMC is no longer administering the contract because the contractor did not show up last year. Mr. Staron said that he believes that is the case. Mr. Schattner said that interested communities should contact Ms. VanDornick.

VII. Other Business

Mr. Staron reported that Representative Bradley is hosting capital plan hearings around the state and that one will be held in Northbrook on April 6. He said if people are interested in testifying, they should contact him.

Mr. Staron reported that RTA approved funding programs for 2009 and that details on the call for projects will be forthcoming.

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Schattner said that the next North Shore Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2009 at the Skokie Village Hall. Mr. Staron said that the meeting may be earlier depending on issues surrounding the ARRA.

X. Adjournment

On a motion from Ms. Chen, seconded by Mr. Schneider, Chair Schattner adjourned the meeting.