

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee**  
**Wednesday, June 17, 2009**  
**8:30 a.m.**  
**Skokie Village Hall**

**MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present:**

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

**Others Present:**

Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway  
Greg Benski, Thomas Engineering Group  
Rodney Bettenhausen, Cook County Highway Department  
Erik Cook, Village of Skokie  
Mary Donner, Pace  
Grace Dysico, TranSystem  
Robert Lewis, Stanley Consultants  
John Mick, Baxter and Woodman  
Omar Nashif, Collins Engineers, Inc.  
Holly Ostdick, CMAP  
Kevin Siksta, ESI Consultants  
Kevin Stallworth, IDOT Local Roads  
Chris Staron, Northwest Municipal Conference  
Steve Mastny, IDOT

**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 – March 18, 2009**

Chair Schattner asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 18, 2009. *On a motion from Ms. Kane, seconded by Mr. Jensen, the minutes passed unanimously.*

### **III. Agency Reports**

#### **A. IDOT Highway Report**

Mr. Mastny presented the committee with *Management Monitoring Schedule* and *Awarded Projects* handouts. He reported that a number of projects have been awarded as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the mini-capital bill. He said IDOT was able to move a number of projects forward this year because of the additional funding provided by the mini-capital bill and the Recovery Act. He noted that there are not a lot of projects currently programmed in the North Shore in SFY 2010. He said that bids have been coming in low this summer and that there may be an opportunity for some projects to be moved up in the 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 March are highlighted in bold. He noted that there have not been any major changes since the last meeting.

#### **C. Pace**

Ms. Donner reported that the mini-capital bill helped Pace purchase ADA vehicles. She informed the committee that the Suburban Mobility Fund is available from RTA and that Pace is applying for an Arterial Rapid Transit (ART) on Dempster Ave. from Evanston to O'Hare.

#### **D. Illinois Tollway**

Ms. Anderson reported that the North Tri-State (I-294/I-94) is on schedule to be completed in 2010. She said that long-term lane closures are starting on Half Day Road for two months. She said they expect the work on the Half Day Road Bridge to be complete by the end of 2009.

#### **E. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)**

Ms. Ostdick reported that the suburban councils have spent roughly 150% of appropriations in SFY 2009 and that the region continues to spend down its federal allotment. She further reported that CMAP has produced an expenditure report for the ARRA funds. She said that by the end of July, the suburban councils and Chicago will have obligated \$53 million out of \$172 million.

She informed the committee that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met last week and discussed rescissions of STP money and redistribution of ARRA funding if a council is unable to obligate their funding. She said that the committee will discuss this issue later in the agenda.

She reported that CMAP is ramping up its external relations campaign for Go To 2040 and that workshops will be held around the region to engage the public. She said that the DRI process was approved by the board and will begin a 2-year trial period later this year. Finally, she reported that CMAP released the Greenways and Trails map for public comment.

**F. IDOT Local Roads**

Mr. Stallworth distributed the IDOT status sheet and reported that the Chestnut/Waukegan intersection design approval has been pushed back to January 2010 because of outstanding geometric issues. He said that the West Lake Avenue project in Glenview will submit their final PDR on July 1 for design approval at the end of August. He reported that the Willow Road project in Winnetka will have a FHWA coordination meeting in July to discuss ROW, geometrics, and 4f issues.

In regards to ARRA projects, he reported that all projects have their CE-1 approval except Glencoe, whose project needed some minor revisions. He said that CE-1 approved will not be a problem for this project. He reported all the ARRA projects are on schedule to make their respective lettings.

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

**A. Current North Shore STP FFY 09-13**

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 explained that Phase II Engineering will be moved to FFY 2010.

He reported that the council is making good progress in FFY 2009. He said that the council has obligated \$1.63 million. He said that Greenwood/Glenview had its Phase II and ROW agreements authorized and that the Lake St. project in Evanston was awarded. He said the Skokie projects are still hoping to obligate funds in this FFY. He said that IDOT informed him that engineering agreements are taking up to four months to get through Springfield. He speculated that the rush of construction agreements from the Recovery Act and mini-capital bill has pushed engineering agreements on the back burner.

He reported that FFY 10 is a very full year with three construction projects scheduled. He noted that the council will continue to seek advanced funding and monitor the region's allotment. He said that advanced funding has been contingent on a balance in the suburban council system. He said that the region may have to look to borrow from other region's that are unable to obligate funds.

He noted that the MYB list has grown smaller because a number of projects shifted to the ARRA program. He said that the shift from the MYB list is positive because given the North Shore Council's funding situation; these projects would likely not receive federal funding for 5-6 years.

**B. Proposed Program Changes**

Mr. Staron reported that two program changes are reflected in attachment C. He said that Winnetka revised the Phase I Engineering schedule, which has pushed Phase II funding back into FFY 2010. He reported that Lincolnwood has agreed to drop the Touhy Ave. resurfacing project from the MYB list because the segment was included in IDOT's Multi-Year plan. He noted that since these changes do not require movement of construction funding, they do not require the committee's approval.

**V. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

**A. North Shore Council of Mayors ARRA Program**

Mr. Staron reported that attachment D reflects the North Shore ARRA program as it was approved in March. He reported that three projects are on schedule for the July letting and that the large majority of projects should be let in calendar year 2009. He said that the B-list currently includes everything that did not receive initial funding.

Mr. Staron reported that attachment E is the tracking schedule for North Shore ARRA projects. He informed the committee that he has been asking for weekly updates from IDOT and project sponsors. He said that he is happy that project sponsors have been able to keep on schedule. He noted that all eleven projects have received their CE-1 design approval and a number of project sponsors have already submitted pre-final plans.

**B. ARRA Program Management**

Mr. Staron reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met last week and discussed how to ensure that all local ARRA funds are obligated by the March 2010 deadline. He said that the Executive Committee did not approve or endorse a formal policy, but they did give some direction for moving forward. It is likely that October 31, 2009 is going to be the deadline by which IDOT will judge if a project can make the March 2010 letting. He noted that pre-final plans are due to IDOT on October 16, so projects without completed pre-final plans will likely forfeit funding. He explained that before the end of October, individual councils will be able to shift funds internally to ensure they can obligate funds. He said that at the end of October the councils will have to forfeit any funds that IDOT will not guarantee to be obligated. He reported that the Executive Committee appeared to endorse a policy of no payback for forfeited funds.

Mr. Staron said that redistribution of the forfeited funds is where there is still a grey area. He explained that the Executive Committee may either redistribute the funds traditionally (according to population), equally among councils, or directly to specific projects. He outlined two options for the North Shore Council: Move forward with select ARRA B-list projects with no guarantee of federal funding, or attempt to apply any redistributed funding to project balances of existing projects to reduce the local funding share.

The committee discussed the strategy moving forward. Members also examined using redistributed ARRA funding to replace STP funding in projects for FFY 2010. Members asked how much forfeited funding will likely be available. Mr. Staron said it was hard to say at this time. He said that some councils have back-loaded programs, which makes it more likely for one or more projects to fall off. He said that CMAP will be tracking obligations, but we likely will not know until early fall if councils are not going to be able to obligate funding. The committee expressed interest in using the funds to spend down the local share of existing ARRA projects. Mr. Staron recommended that he outline the options, along with pros and cons, and poll the members via email. He said that the North Shore Council has done a good job programming and moving ARRA projects forward, and now the council wants to get in the best possible position to obtain forfeited funds.

**VI. Villages of Northbrook and Northfield Functional Classification Request**

Mr. Staron reported that Paul Kendzior from Northbrook approached him about classifying Happ Road on the Federal Aid Urban (FAU) system within the last month. He said that Happ Road was thought to be a FAU route already since it was previously county jurisdiction. He explained that for continuity, Northfield was approached for its portion of Happ Road and decided to extend onto Old Willow Road and Northfield Road. Mr. Staron recommended that the committee approve the functional classification request. *On a motion from Mr. Schneider, seconded by Mr. Jensen, the resolution to approve the functional classification request passed unanimously.*

**VII. Other Business**

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Chair Schattner said that the next North Shore Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009 at the Skokie Village Hall. Mr. Staron noted that the meeting will include the program changes for the FFY 2010 program.

**X. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The committee voted unanimously to adjourn.*