

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee
Wednesday, September 16, 2009
8:30 a.m.
Skokie Village Hall**

MINUTES

Committee Members Present:

Brigitte Mayerhofer, Chair, Village of Wilmette
Susan Chen, Village of Winnetka
Erik Cook, Village of Skokie
Russ Jensen, Village of Glenview
Anne Kane, Village of Northfield
Paul Kendzior, Village of Northbrook
Sat Nagar, City of Evanston
Chris Tomich, Village of Morton Grove
Christine Van Dornick, Village of Glencoe

Others Present:

Rodney Bettenhausen, Cook County Highway Department
Earl Dunn, IDOT
Grace Dysico, TranSystem
Thomas Gill, Thomas Engineering Group
Greg Kiaer, MACTEC
Steve Mastny, IDOT
Tex Mick, Baxter and Woodman
Holly Ostdick, CMAP
Andrew Samfos
Kevin Siksta, ESI Consultants
Sagar Sonar, Stanley Consultants
Kevin Stallworth, IDOT Local Roads
Chris Staron, Northwest Municipal Conference
Steve Sugg, Ciorba Group

I. Call to Order

Chair Mayerhofer called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. She noted that Fred Schattner was unable to attend the meeting and that she would be chairing the meeting. She invited those present to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – March 18, 2009

Chair Mayerhofer asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 17, 2009. *On a motion from Ms. Van Dornick, seconded by Mr. Cook, the minutes passed unanimously.*

III. Agency Reports

A. IDOT Highway Report

Mr. Mastny reported that he is no longer in the programming division at IDOT. He said that he is now doing bridge inspection in south suburbs. He said that Earl Dunn will be replacing him, at least temporarily. He noted that Earl is an experienced programmer and that he is actually on his way to deliver the official report. Mr. Mastny said that he is still around at IDOT if anyone needs to contact him to discuss past agreements.

B. Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)

Mr. Bettenhausen distributed a handout outlining all the Cook County projects within the council area. He reported that changes are reflected in bold. He explained that interim grind/overlay work will be done along Lake Cook Road at Waukegan Road because of the condition of the intersection. He noted that the Lee Rd. project (Walters Ave. to Dundee Rd.) and the Walters Ave. (Waukegan Rd. to Lee Rd.) are complete. He said that the Winnetka Road bridge project that received ARRA funding from the North Shore Council is on schedule for a November local letting.

C. Pace

No Report

D. Illinois Tollway

No Report

E. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Ms. Ostdick reported that the Go To 2040 public engagement phase concluded at the beginning of the month. She noted that CMAP held workshops, attended state fairs and set up kiosks to solicit public input. She distributed the STP expenditure report for the region. She noted that \$26.3 million in STP funds has been obligated in State FY 2010 through the September letting. She said that the mark for SFY 2010 is \$47.9 million and that the suburban councils continue to make good progress spending their STP funding. Ms. Ostdick informed the committee that the end of SAFETEA-LU carries a rescission that takes back unobligated balances from programs. She said that the region has not obligated all its STP funding and that the CMAQ program has a large unobligated balance. She reported that the CMAP Council of Mayors Executive Committee met yesterday to discuss rescissions and agreed that municipalities need to reach out to federal legislators to fight the rescission. She said that she would talk about the ARRA issues later in the agenda.

F. IDOT Local Roads

Mr. Stallworth distributed the Local Roads and Streets Status Sheet for Federal Aid Projects. He reported that the Final PDR for the West Lake Ave. project is in the IDOT Central Office and design approval is now

anticipated on October 15, 2009. He reported that the Skokie/Old Orchard project is now anticipating a January 1, 2011 letting. He said that the Willow Road project is anticipating a March 3, 2010 design approval date. He noted that the date was move back because of 4f and drainage issues. He said that the ARRA projects are all pretty much in good shape.

IV. North Shore Council of Mayors FFY 09-13 Surface Transportation Program

A. Current North Shore STP FFY 2009-2013

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment B is the current North Shore STP. He said that this will serve as the starting point for any changes to the program. He noted that a number of projects are highlighted for movement or potential deletion. He said that construction for the Sheridan Road signal interconnect is not recommended for deletion at this time because CMAQ funding for the project is still pending.

B. Proposed North Shore STP FFY 2010-2014 Amendments

1. Program Moves

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment C outlines the changes to the program, and Attachment D actually shows the revised program. He said that Skokie is shifting around three projects due to delays in the Golf/Skokie project and other issues. Mr. Staron reported that three projects are recommended for deletion from the B-List because they received ARRA funding or are not on FAU routes. Mr. Kendzior asked that the committee not delete the Happ Rd. project from the B-List because Northbrook and Northfield are seeking to classify this road on the FAU system. Mr. Staron said that this could be a friendly amendment to the proposed changes. Chair Mayerhofer asked for a motion to approve the changes with the Happ Rd. modification. *On a motion from Mr. Kendzior, seconded by Mr. Nagar, the program changes passed unanimously.*

2. 3% Program Cost Increase

Mr. Staron reported that no individual cost increases were received prior to the meeting. He said that it is the council's policy to give a 3% increase to all projects to account for inflation. He said this will add \$585,059 to the North Shore program, which adds to the council's negative balance. He noted that Attachment E shows the impact on individual projects and the overall balance of the program. Chair Mayerhofer asked the committee if they thought the 3% increase was necessary this year. She said that costs have either been flat or declining in the last year, and she questioned if it made sense to implement the 3% cost increase. Mr. Nagar said that he agreed. Mr. Kendzior said that he believed the committee could avoid the cost increase this year and reexamine next year. *On a motion from Mr. Kendzior, seconded by Mr. Nagar, the*

committee voted unanimously to not implement the 3% program-wide cost increase. Mr. Staron noted that projects may still come to the committee for cost increases in the future and those requests will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

C. FFY 2010 Advanced Funding

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment F outlines the projects that need advanced funding. He said that the amounts reflected in the attachment would actually be less because the committee decided not to implement the 3% cost increase. He noted that projects moved into FFY 2010 from FFY 2009 have already received advanced funding and therefore are not included in this request. He said that the total amount of the advanced funding request is roughly \$2.5 million. He said that the committee and then the council will vote to give the Planning Liaison (him) the authority to seek advanced funding for approved FFY 2010 projects. He said that Glenview may be seeking a cost increase in the future for the Greenwood/Glenview project and said that any cost increase would still have to come to the committee. Chair Mayerhofer asked if there was any concern about the size of the advanced funding request and if the Council of Mayors Executive Committee will likely approve the request. Ms. Ostlick reported that the Executive Committee has not turned down an advanced funding request yet; however, the region has done a good job in spending down its unobligated STP balance, so the future could possibly be different. Mr. Staron said that the council finds itself with a negative balance and reliant on advanced funding. He said as long as the council has projects ready-to-go, he recommended staying aggressive with the advanced funding to ensure that projects are accomplished. *On a motion from Mr. Kendzior, seconded by Mr. Nagar, the advanced funding request passed unanimously.*

V. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

A. North Shore Council of Mayors ARRA Program

Mr. Staron congratulated members on the good progress they have made on ARRA projects. He said that three projects were let in July and two more are scheduled for September. He said that all but one project will be let before the end of the year.

B. Revised ARRA Marks

Mr. Staron reported that CMAP released revised ARRA marks, which provided the North Shore Council with an additional \$231,496. He said that this funding must be programmed and obligated on the same deadlines as all local ARRA funding. Mr. Staron said that Attachment H outlines the options for programming the funding. He said that Option 1 programs the funding towards a B-List project. He said that only Glenview has said it can use the funding, so the Glenview Road project

would receive the funding. He said that Option 2 is to split the funding evenly among projects in order to minimize the local match. He said that two projects on the July letting would not receive additional funding because bids came in below the federal amount. He explained that to go forward with this option, project sponsors would need to submit a revised JRF and local agency amendment. He reported that Option 3 is to program roughly \$120,000 towards the Cook County project to decrease the local share and then split the remaining funding among the other projects. Mr. Nagar said that he liked Option 2. Mr. Kendzior, Mr. Tomich and Ms. Van Dornick also expressed their approval for Option 2. Ms. Mayerhofer asked if the committee would allow funding for construction engineering with the funding. The committee found this idea agreeable. Mr. Staron asked Mr. Jensen if he wanted to talk about Option 1. Mr. Jensen said that Glenview will support Option 1 or 2. Mr. Staron says the concern he has with Option 2 is the low bids that came in for the July letting. He is worried that projects will not be able to use the extra \$29,000 provided in Option 2. Mr. Tomich responded that this is a concern. Mr. Mastny asked what will happen if bids for the September letting come in lower than the amount approved in Option 2. Mr. Staron speculated that FHWA would not approve an amended agreement if the federal amount is increased over the amount for which the project was awarded. He asked Ms. Ostlick to talk about the redistribution policy and how the policy may impact the committee's decision. Ms. Ostlick said that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee adopted an ARRA redistribution policy at its meeting yesterday. She said that councils have to have all their funds programmed in early October or they risk losing them. Mr. Staron said he would get in contact with Temi Latinwo at IDOT to discuss moving forward with Option 2. *On a motion from Mr. Kendzior, seconded by Mr. Nagar, the committee voted unanimously to proceed with Option 2.*

VI. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Program Update

Mr. Staron distributed a handout of CMAQ projects in the North Shore Council area. He said that as FFY 2009 draws to a close, project sponsors either need to obligate funding or consider which FFY the projects can be accomplished. He said that CMAP and the Planning Liaisons are taking an active management approach to the program because it has a large unobligated balance. He further reported that the proposed FFY 2010-2011 program goes to the CMAP Transportation Committee on Friday and then for final approval to the MPO Policy Committee in early October. He said that the North Shore did very well in the program, with projects in Lincolnwood, Evanston and Glenview. He said the CMAQ program may be impacted by proposed rescissions, which will be discussed under the next agenda item.

VII. FHWA Rescissions

Mr. Staron reported that Attachment I provides a simple summary of the SAFETEA-LU rescission. He said that Illinois's share of the rescission is roughly \$290 million and is supposed to be taken proportionally from each program. He explained that not all the programs will be able to meet the rescission amount required by law, which means that other program with large unobligated balance could be disproportionately impacted. He said that the suburban councils have no unobligated balance to carry into FFY 2010; however, the region does have an unobligated balance, which means that the rescission could still potentially impact STP. He noted that CMAQ, with an unobligated balance of over \$200 million, could take a large hit from the rescission. Ms. Ostdick commented that many groups are lobbying to cancel the rescission and that CMAP and the Council of Mayors Executive Committee strongly oppose the rescission going into effect. Mr. Staron added that AASHTO reported that key Senators have pledged to address the issue before September 30, but with the deadline looming, there has been no action.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Dunn reported that he will be replacing Steve Mastny, at least temporarily for the North Shore area. He said that he now is the programmer for all of Cook County. He said that IL-43 (Waukegan Rd) is on the September letting for the end of the week. He reported that Touhy Ave. is also on the September letting. He noted that this project is using leftover state ARRA funding.

IX. Next Meeting

Chair Mayerhofer said that the next North Shore Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for December 16, 2009 at the Skokie Village Hall.

X. Adjournment

On a motion from Mr. Tomich, seconded by Mr. Nagar, the motion to adjourn passed unanimously.