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TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 24, 2011

9:00 a.m.

NWMC Offices

1616 East Golf Road

Des Plaines, IL 60016

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of the February 24 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)

Action requested: Approval of minutes

III. Public Private Partnership Bills

Last month's Transportation Committee meeting discussion on the Public Private Partnership bills (SB 146 – Steans, Risinger, HB 1091 – Nekritz, Mathias) generated questions about prohibited municipal actions. Staff anticipates receiving and distributing a response to those questions prior to the meeting.

Action Requested: Discuss NWMC Position on Bill

IV. Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass Project Update

On March 15, IDOT held a stakeholder workshop to discuss Tier Two Engineering, project financing and potential mitigation locations for the Elgin O'Hare – West Bypass project. Staff will provide an update from the workshop. Handouts from the workshop are available at:

http://www.elginohare-westbypass.org/TierTwo_StakeholderWorkingGroups/Forms/AllItems.aspx.

Action Requested: Informational

V. CMAQ 2012-2016 Call for Projects

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) applications are due to Planning Liaisons on March 18. Staff will outline the received applications relevant to NWMC members. Additionally, staff will discuss how applications relate to the implementation of the 2010 NWMC Bicycle Plan.

Action Requested: Informational

VI. CMAP Report

Staff will provide an update on relevant activities from CMAP's committees.

Action requested: Informational

VII. Other Business

VII. Next Meeting

The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 28 at 9:00 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

Action requested: Informational

VIII. Adjournment

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, February 24, 2011

9:00 a.m.

NWMC Offices

1616 East Golf Road

Des Plaines, IL 60016

Members Present:

Ken Nelson, Co-Chair, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows

Jeff Berman, Trustee, Village of Buffalo Grove

Tim Frenzer, Manager, Village of Wilmette

Bill McLeod, Mayor, Village of Hoffman Estates

Louella Preston, Trustee, Village of Niles

Greg Summers, Director of Engineering and Building, Village of Barrington

Others Present:

Larry Bury, NWMC

Ylda Capriccioso, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Kristi DeLaurentiis, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

Mike Hankey, Village of Hoffman Estates

Marnie Hooghkirk, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Bob Israel, MACTEC

June Johnson, Village of Schaumburg

Rick Mack, Metra

Andy Plummer, RTA

Peter Skosey, Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC)

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 27, 2011 Meeting Minutes

The January 27, 2011 meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Trustee Berman, seconded by Trustee Preston.

III. Letter to Metra Board

Mr. Walczak said that Metra is planning to take a strategic look at its major projects. He outlined the draft letter, which highlights NWMC priorities. He explained to the committee that the letter emphasizes maintaining a state of good repair on the system, increasing efficiencies on the system and support for major capital projects such as the STAR Line, UP-NW improvements, UP-N improvements, and North Central Service enhancements. Mr. Berman said that he has recently been appointed to the Metra Citizens Advisory Committee. He asked that the language regarding the North Central Service be amended to more broadly reflect the fiscal constraints on all projects.

Trustee Preston recommended that the letter be sent to the entire Metra Board and the new Executive Director.

With the changes recommended by Trustee Berman, the letter to Metra was approved on a motion from Mr. Summers, seconded by Trustee Preston.

IV. NWMC Bicycle Plan Implementation

Mr. Staron reported that staff and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee have been working on a plan foldout that is easier to digest compared to the 125 page plan. He distributed draft copies of the foldout and noted that the document is modeled off the DuPage County plan and highlights key items from the plan with a map. Trustee Preston asked if DuPage County had any ideas about what they would change if they could revise the foldout. Mr. Staron responded that staff has discussed the foldout with DuPage County staff, but they did not specifically address second thoughts. He said that he would contact DuPage County with this question.

Mr. Staron reported that the NWMC received two Cook County Model Communities Grants. He noted that staff is currently working through the consultant hiring process for the Bicycle Signage Plan and the Northwest Highway Bicycle Facilities Study.

Mr. Staron reported that the NWMC sent letters to municipalities with Tier One corridors in an effort to encourage the pursuit of joint Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants. He noted that corridor steering committees are planning to meet on March 1 to discuss the plausibility of joint applications and what it would entail. He informed the Committee that this is a five-year call for projects, which means more money is available. Chair Nelson asked if NWMC will still pursue joint applications if a community does not want to be involved. Mr. Staron responded that depending on the willing municipalities, it may still be possible to put together joint applications for logical segments in the corridor.

V. Elgin O'Hare West Bypass Advisory Council Draft Report

Mr. Walczak reported that the Governor's advisory council has released its preliminary report. He noted that IDOT and the advisory council are looking at a phase implementation approach on this project. Ms. Johnson said that the advisory council is going to invite all the mayors along the corridor to be involved in the planning. She also said that the report has to go to the Governor before it goes public. She further reported that the advisory council discussed the use of an overlay district to partially fund the project. Trustee Preston asked if it was appropriate to invite IDOT staff or Mayor Moylan to the next NWMC Board meeting to provide a project update. Mr. Walczak reported that staff could look into this idea.

VI. Public Private Partnership Bills

Mr. Skosey reported that MPC has been working on passing a public-private partnership (PPP) bill in the General Assembly for the last five years. He said that the proposed legislation would only enable PPPs for IDOT, the Tollway and municipal airports. He said that these agencies must notify the General Assembly, affected communities and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) when proposing a PPP. He said the proposed legislation has passed the House Committee, and he noted that there are some issues with both labor and business groups. Trustee Berman asked about the lease of existing assets. Mr. Skosey responded that for Tollway facilities, PPP could only be

used for new projects or adding lanes. Trustee Preston asked if there are similar laws in other states. Mr. Skosey said that many states have PPP legislation, but noted that the proposed legislation does not allow non-compete clauses, which other states often allow. Mr. Israel asked if MPC has considered the economic impacts of this provision and noted that this could limit the revenue potential for a PPP. Mr. Hankey asked if projects would have to be on the fiscally constrained CMAP list in the regional comprehensive plan to be eligible for a PPP. Mr. Walczak said that CMAP has noted that if a project can acquire a funding source, then it will be moved into the fiscally constrained list. Mr. Staron asked about the provision in the legislation preventing local government interference with a PPP, specifically noting concerns about zoning control and billboards. Mr. Skosey said that he believes this provision was put in place to prevent a municipality from opposing a project at the eleventh hour. Mr. Nelson asked if a municipality has any type of veto power over a project. Mr. Skosey said that the projects will need to meet the same public input and environmental review that current IDOT and Tollway projects must meet. The Committee discussed taking a position on the legislation and there was general agreement that more information was necessary before making a decision.

On a motion from Trustee Berman, seconded by Mayor McLeod, the committee unanimously voted to take no position on the PPP legislation.

VII. CMAP Local Share Contributions

Mr. Walczak reported that CMAP has forwarded the local contributions to NWMC for North and Northwest Cook County. He explained that the conference traditionally forwards the local contributions to municipalities based on their populations.

On a motion from Mayor McLeod, seconded by Trustee Preston, the committee unanimously voted to approve the distribution of the CMAP local share contribution.

VIII. CMAP Report

Ms. Capriccioso reported that CMAP is offering a number of training opportunities in the coming months, including Planning Commissioners Workshops in April and May. She discussed CMAP's state agenda including the 55/45 split in highway funding, where 55 percent of funding goes to IDOT districts outside of the Chicago region, and 45 percent of funding goes to IDOT District One. She said that CMAP is pushing for IDOT and the General Assembly to fund projects based on needs and performance measures. She said that CMAP recognizes that this could be a long-term battle. Mr. Walczak noted that IDOT distributes funding to downstate districts based on a needs analysis. Trustee Preston said that this has been a long-time issue that seems to come up regularly. Mr. Bury asked about the bill that would set aside 30 percent of the road funds for District One. Ms. Capriccioso said that CMAP does not believe a legislative approach based on a new arbitrary split is an appropriate solution. Ms. Johnson asked what measures CMAP is proposing to determine the funding breakout. The committee discussed the difficulty of making the argument to change the current split and the need to identify a replacement mechanism. Chair Nelson asked about the awareness of legislators to this issue. Ms. Capriccioso responded that education of legislators is a big part of the strategy. Mr. Skosey said that MPC helped draft a bill in previous sessions that would establish goals and priorities for spending scarce transportation dollars to get more bang for the buck. The committee discussed the best way to frame the issue and generally agreed that targeting the split will be difficult due to downstate resistance.

Instead, various committee members recommended that argument should be built around needs-based and performance programming. Mr. Plummer asked if CMAP has work at all with the Transportation for Illinois Coalition. Ms. Capriccioso responded that CMAP is working to reach out to partners in the next couple of months.

IX. Other Business

Mr. Plummer reported that RTA has proposed a \$2.3 billion budget, which is in part dependent on the state paying \$460 million owed to the RTA. He said that RTA is working through the changes to the free rides for seniors. He said he plans to give a presentation on BRT at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Mr. Mack reported that Metra has hired a new Executive Director, Mr. Alex Clifford.

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Nelson said the next meeting would be March 24.

VIII. Adjournment

On a motion from Trustee Preston, seconded by Trustee Berman, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn.