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Citizens Advisory Committee **Meeting Notes – April 9, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. at the CMAP Offices, Cook County Conference Room, 233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

Citizens Advisory Committee Members

Alba Alexander
William Balling
Steve Braxton
Roger Dahlstrom
Jean Egerman
Cindy Ellis
Jennifer Hill
Rosemary McDonnell
Allan Mellis
Andrea Powell
Nancy Seeger
Harry Solomon
Joel Stauber
Dan Strick
Stephenie Todd
Barbara Vroman
Donald Weiss

CMAP Staff

Randy Blankenhorn
Gordon Smith
John Allen
Patricia Berry
Bob Dean
Tom Garritano
Lynntoi Lawson

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Alba Alexander.

II. Minutes

The [March 12, 2007 minutes](#) were unanimously approved without changes on a motion by Mr. Balling and second by Mr. Dahlstrom.

III. CAC Co-chair Update

- A. Setting up a CAC List Serve: Mr. Allen said CMAP is in the process of setting up a new website that will contain list serve software, but that it will be 3-4 months before the project is finished.
- B. Research Reports on Previous Public Preferences: Mr. Allen reported that he has amassed public preference data from CATS, the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Regional Transportation Authority, but because the data are in varying formats, he has not devised a way to share the information as yet. Mr. Stauber requested that staff compile a short summary of what the data say. Ms. Alexander requested that a one-page summary be created to say what the public's preferences were. Mr. Allen said this would be harder than it sounds, since public preferences differ depending on where they live in the region. Mr. Smith said he will have staff look into creating both.
- C. TIP Subcommittee: Mr. Stauber said the subcommittee had a conference call last week to discuss putting a user-friendly Transportation Improvement Program online. He said CMAP has requested the CAC work with the agency to develop this and that a workshop would be set up to give CMAP input from the CAC. The next subcommittee meeting will be a conference call at 12:15 p.m. on May 4.
- D. CMAP Programming and Planning Committee meetings: Mr. Stauber reported that these two committees held their first meetings last month. He said they meet at 8 a.m. on the second Wednesday of odd months.
- E. CMAP Board/MPO Policy Committee joint meeting: Mr. Stauber reported that he attended this meeting and invited members of both boards to attend CAC meetings.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Blankenhorn updated the committee on House Bill 1134, legislation that directly impacts CMAP. He said Amendment 1 had been approved by all the agency's partners, although IDOT has some funding concerns. He said the bill gives one-half of one percent of all highway capital funding to planning, which would result in about \$5 million going to CMAP and \$4 million to other planning agencies statewide. IDOT has questioned why only road funds should be used to pay for planning costs, and

Mr. Blankenhorn said CMAP would look into other sources of funding. He added that there are no General Revenue Funds available and that other state agencies don't have money, so transportation is the logical place to look.

Mr. Mellis asked if the legislation contains a section saying CMAP will review projects of regional significance and if so, what the CAC's role will be. Mr. Blankenhorn replied that CMAP will review the projects and they'll go through the entire committee structure, including the CAC.

Mr. Strick asked if municipalities will be required to contribute funding for CMAP. Mr. Blankenhorn said no, monies will come from the road fund and the voluntary municipal contributions program will be eliminated.

Ms. Egerman asked if CMAP had looked at HUD and other federal agencies for funding. Mr. Blankenhorn said CMAP has hired a consultant to do that and has also met with Sen. Richard Durbin's staff to discuss possible federal funding options.

Mr. Blankenhorn then discussed the Regional Comprehensive Plan, which is due in 2010. He said 2009 will be the 100th anniversary of Daniel Burnham's landmark Plan of Chicago and people expect the 2010 plan to provide a similar vision for the 21st Century. He said the 2010 plan will take a regional effort utilizing CMAP and all its partners.

Ms. Ellis asked who is driving the expectations. Mr. Blankenhorn said the business, planning, university/academic and political communities are unanimous in their expectations.

Ms. Todd asked what chance the plans have to make a difference since they're advisory only. Mr. Blankenhorn replied that the region must control its own destiny, that growth is inevitable and that the key will be defining how that growth happens.

Ms. Vroman asked if the timeframe for compiling the plan is realistic. Mr. Blankenhorn said no, but federal law requires that it be completed by 2010 and it will be.

Mr. Solomon said Burnham's plan was one man's vision, but this plan will utilize a different process. Mr. Blankenhorn said this will be a public process, with the region deciding what it wants to accomplish and then figuring how to make it happen. He then introduced Bob Dean, CMAP associate regional planner, who described how the [plan development process](#) will work.

Mr. Dean said CMAP must do three things: find out where we are now; where we want to go; and how we'll get there. He said CMAP's working committees have already started developing visions and goals, which should be completed by late August and fine-tuned through spring, 2008. He said data is being collected for a series of quarterly regional snapshot reports tied to each of CMAP's focus areas. Beginning this summer and fall, alternative scenarios will be developed. The CAC will be receiving these items as they are developed.

Mr. Solomon asked what the planning horizon will be for the plan. When Mr. Dean said 2040, Mr. Solomon suggested that it might be wiser to have a series of horizons spaced every 10 years through the end of the century. Mr. Dean said that would be considered as work progresses.

V. Director's Report

Mr. Smith reported that CMAP is currently taking public comments on the Public Participation Plan, the update to the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the Unified Work Program. He said 10,000 postcards had been sent out announcing the comment periods and that an open house held at CMAP drew just three visitors.

Mr. Mellis asked what the media involvement had been. Mr. Smith replied that staff had internal discussions about the level of media effort required and decided not to send out a press release because CMAP has been inundating the media within the last few months and didn't want to wear out its welcome. He said the media had been sent postcards and that the comment periods and open house had been discussed during editorial board briefings that had been taking place over the past several weeks.

Ms. Todd said press releases need to be interesting, not just cut-and-dried. Mr. Garritano said the media like controversy, and planning issues usually aren't sexy enough. Mr. Stauber said the CAC should be part of the media strategy planning process. Ms. Powell added that CAC members may have media contacts who could be useful. Ms. Alexander said the CAC Steering Committee would take up the topic, devise a strategy and report back at the next CAC meeting.

VI. CMAP Focus Area Reports

Mr. Solomon reported that he attended the meeting of the Environment & Natural Resources Committee. The committee discussed the list of goals from the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2040 Regional Framework Plan, and selected which of them would be their core focus. He said committee members were concerned that the TIP doesn't address environmental impacts of transportation projects.

Mr. Dahlstrom reported that he attended the Land Use Committee meeting. That committee also discussed the goals from the two plans.

VII. CAC Member Profile

This item was tabled due to lack of time.

VIII. Update on Public Participation Plan

Mr. Stauber said the [Public Participation Plan](#) is currently available for public comment, along with the proposed Unified Work Program for FY08 and the draft 2030 Regional Transportation Plan update. Mr. Balling asked how the public was notified on the comment periods for these documents, and when told it was via e-

mail and postcard, said that wasn't enough. He said employees of his village couldn't remember receiving the postcards and had most likely discarded them without paying attention to the contents. He said CMAP should ask cities and villages to announce the comment periods on their websites and list serves to broaden the appeal.

Ms. Egerman suggested CMAP send out electronic notifications whenever its website is updated, saying she routinely receives these from sites to which she subscribes. Ms. Todd says she also receives these types of notifications and deletes most of them without actually looking at the information. She said e-mail notifications could be "the next postcard."

Mr. Allen said the point is moot because CMAP's website is available to everyone, not by subscription.

Mr. Solomon said the Public Participation Plan doesn't say how it is linked to specific planning projects and it should address those directly.

IX. Other Business

There was no other business.

X. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 14, at 8:30 a.m.