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Citizens Advisory Committee **Meeting Notes – May 14, 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
Jean Egerman
Cindy Ellis
Graham Grady
Jennifer Hill
Rosemary McDonnell
Andrea Powell
Nancy Seeger
Christine Sobek
Harry Solomon
Joel Stauber
Dan Strick
Stephenie Todd
Barbara Vroman
Richard Welton
Lance Wrightsell

CMAP Staff

Randy Blankenhorn
Gordon Smith
John Allen
Lynntoi Lawson
Kerry Leigh
Hubert Morgan
Ron Thomas
Kermit Wies

Others

Tom Kutzmark

DuPage Mayors & Managers Conference

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Co-Chairman Joel Stauber.

II. Minutes

The [April 9, 2007 minutes](#) were unanimously approved without changes.

III. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Blankenhorn updated the committee on House Bill 1134, legislation that creates and funds CMAP and covers pension-related matters for employees. The original bill allowed bonding authority for the agency, but the bill changed and both the funding and bonding authority were removed under pressure from IDOT. He said HB1134 Amendment 2 is scheduled for a hearing in the House on May 15 and urged committee members to contact their legislators to support it so it can be sent to the Senate where it will undergo more changes.

Mr. Stauber urged members to educate their representatives about why the CMAP legislation is important. He added that IDOT had let CMAP down, but that IDOT doesn't control the purse strings in Illinois.

Mr. Blankenhorn said the one-half of one percent of all highway capital improvement funding that would have been used to fund CMAP was the bill sponsors' idea, not CMAP's. He said he agreed with IDOT's complaint that it was unfair that the funds would all come from the transportation budget.

In response to a question from Ms. Todd, Mr. Blankenhorn said CMAP would have received \$2.6 million under the original legislation; so another source of funding would have to be found.

Mr. Blankenhorn then discussed the upcoming 2040 Regional Comprehensive Plan, saying this is where CMAP will concentrate the bulk of its resources over the next few years. He said the plan will be the defining product for CMAP and will set the stage for the 2016 Olympics if they're awarded to the Chicago region. He said the CAC's role would be reviewing public involvement and policy.

In response to a question from Ms. Seeger, he said CMAP would not do the entire plan itself, but would be incorporating work that's already been done by other planning partners.

Mr. Stauber said outreach was a big part of the landmark "Plan of Chicago" by Daniel Burnham and that half of public engagement is outreach.

Mr. Blankenhorn agreed, saying upfront outreach will be important to the new plan. He said CMAP wants to know what the public wants the region to look like, and that

the agency plans a photography contest to get people thinking about what they treasure most and want to see happen.

Ms. Todd said CMAP should get involved in communities on a local basis, to which Mr. Blankenhorn responded that CMAP would send speakers wherever they're wanted, whenever they're asked.

IV. Evaluation of CMAP's Public Engagement

Mr. Stauber asked how often CMAP should be engaging the public, using what criteria to determine the effort and how to evaluate efforts when they're completed. He said there had been only three comments on the Public Participation Plan, asking how we would grade ourselves based on that.

A general discussion ensued on what should be evaluated, how it should be evaluated and when it should be evaluated. Committee members were unable to reach a consensus, but agreed to participate in a telephone conference call prior to the next meeting to build a framework for further discussion.

Ms. Todd said this topic is why the CAC exists. She noted that the committee has been meeting since August 2006, and could have been beating the drums for CMAP funding.

Saying he wanted the evaluation framework completed this summer, Mr. Stauber added that this is the first time the CAC had been asked to contact the General Assembly.

V. CAC Co-Chair's Report

A. *TIP Subcommittee*: Mr. Wies said he had two telephone conversations with CAC members regarding the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program), the upshot of which is that the current TIP database is too complicated for the average user. He said CMAP is striving to keep it simple by looking at basic questions and then putting up simple maps of projects. He said the maps will lead to more in-depth questions and CMAP will need to see what types of questions are asked before attempting more complicated mapping projects. He said the goal is to have a "real-time" database that's user-friendly for the average person, but also contains enough detailed information to allow transportation industry insiders to do their work. Mr. Stauber said the website should explain how an individual can propose a project and that the CAC would like to see lists of projects from the CTA, IDOT and other transportation providers before they end up in the TIP database.

B. *Setting up a CAC List Serve*: Mr. Allen said CMAP is still in the process of setting up a new website that will contain list serve software, but it will be late summer before the project is finished.

C. *Research on Previous Public Preferences*: Mr. Allen distributed a [memo](#) that outlined the locations of documents describing the public participation efforts of

CATS, the Center for Neighborhood Technology and the Regional Transportation Authority.

VI. CMAP Focus Area Reports

Mr. Porras(?) submitted a written report on the Housing Committee meeting, saying it had been largely organizational. They talked about the list of goals from the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2040 Regional Framework Plan and about creating a regional snapshot on housing issues.

Mr. Strick attended the Human Services Committee meeting, which also discussed the goals from the two plans. He said the committee includes members from 25 different organizations.

Ms. Leigh said the Environment & Natural Resources Committee has also been talking about the list of goals. She said one of them involves Facilities Planning Areas, which relate to sewage and wastewater treatment.

NIPC served in an advisory role to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in establishing FPAs, but now there's a proposal to make the role regulatory under CMAP. Mr. Thomas said the IEPA is ending its involvement in FPA regulation due to cuts in federal funding.

Ms. Leigh said the CAC should educate itself on what's involved, saying that if CMAP elects to continue handling FPAs the program will evolve from what it was under NIPC. She said the Environment & Natural Resources Committee will discuss FPAs as part of overall watershed planning at its June meeting.

She also invited CAC members to attend a seminar on influencing the transportation planning process being offered at CMAP by Chicago Wilderness from 9 a.m. to noon on Friday, June 1.

VII. Deputy Executive Director's Report

A. *Revisit By-laws/Resignations, Replacing Members:* Mr. Smith said he had reviewed the by-laws and that missing three consecutive meetings is grounds for a member to be removed from the CAC. He said the CMAP Board is responsible for replacing deposed CAC members, and urged the CAC to find out the intentions of members who haven't been attending meetings. Mr. Stauber noted that meetings have consistently been drawing 16-18 of the 34 members and that he will phone those who have been absent.

B. *2030 RTP Update on Mid-City Transitway:* Mr. Weis said the Mid-City Transitway is in the corridors of the future section of the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan, that it's been "around a long time," and that there is currently no funding available for it. He said the project began life as the Crosstown Expressway many years ago, but public opposition, particularly from the old Irving Park neighborhood, had shut it down. The corridor contains unused railroad right-of-way that groups such as the Center for Neighborhood Technology would like developed for mass

transit, he said, adding that because the corridor is so narrow it would be difficult for it to contain more than one mode of transportation.

- C. *Kendall County Leadership Workshop*: Mr. Morgan said the workshop is one of a series being held throughout the region to introduce CMAP, explain the planning process and ask participants what the issues/challenges are in their areas. He said 35 people participated. Ms. Todd said the workshop went well, but the CAC should help identify invitees to future workshops and CMAP should be more specific about the purpose of the workshops. Mr. Morgan said there would be a follow-up meeting as part of the process of creating the Regional Plan and that a report will be created evaluating that meeting. Mr. Thomas said there were many groups that were invited but didn't attend and that CMAP wants to get interest groups to participate. Ms. Lawson said the next workshop will be held in McHenry County and that others are in the process of being scheduled.
- D. *CAC Membership Directory*: Members received a draft copy of a membership directory, and Mr. Smith requested they notify Mr. Allen of any changes in their personal information. Mr. Grady requested that the title be changed, and Mr. Allen said it was just a working title and eventually would be changed.

VIII. Other Business

Mr. Solomon asked for a status report on the Public Participation Plan. Mr. Allen said there had been three comments and that staff is in the process of compiling responses to them and making adjustments to the plan based on the comments. He said none of the adjustments were major.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 11, at 8:30 a.m.