



Policy Committee Meeting Minutes October 12, 2006

The meeting was held at the Chicago Area Transportation Study, Cook/Cunningham-Williams Conference Room, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

Policy Committee Members Present

Timothy Martin, Chair	Illinois Department of Transportation
Marty Buehler	Lake County
George Catalano	Will County
	(Representing Sheldon Latz)
Tom Cuculich	DuPage County
Don Gismondi	Federal Transit Administration
	(Representing Marisol Simon)
Robert Hann	Private Providers
	(Representing John McCarthy)
Cheri Heramb	Chicago Department of Transportation
Jon-Paul Kohler	Federal Highway Administration
	(Representing Norman R. Stoner)
Wally Kos	Cook County
	(Representing James Eldridge, Jr.)
Ed Paesel	Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
Thomas Rickert	Kane County
	(Representing Karen McConnaughay)
T. J. Ross	Pace
	(Representing John Case)
Jeff Schielke	Council of Mayors
Steve Schlickman	Regional Transportation Authority
Mary Wells	Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
	(Representing Rocco J. Zuccherro)

Policy Committee Members Absent

Ken Koehler	McHenry County
Frank Kruesi	CTA
Philip A. Pagano	Metra
Michael Payette	Railroad Companies
John Rita	Mass Transit Districts
Anne Vickery	Kendall County

Visitors

Vanessa Adams	FTA
Chris DiPalma	FHWA
Michael Hoadley	Spinwater Ventures
Tam Kutzmark	DMMC
Bill Lachman	RTA
Jim LaBelle	Chicago Metropolis 2020
Clarita Lao	IDOT
Les Nunes	IDOT
Holly Ostdick	McHenry County COM
Mark Pitstick	RTA
David Seglin	CDOT
Dick Smith	IDOT
John Tremper	RTA
Mike Walczak	NWMC

Staff

Randy Blankenhorn
Don Kopec, Jill Leary, Gordon Smith, Kermit Wies
Claire Bozic, Teri Dixon, Bill Kiley,
Ross Patronsky, Joy Schaad, Patricia Tinnelle

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Martin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Minutes for August 17, 2006.

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the minutes of the meeting on August 17, 2006 were approved.

B. Council of Mayors' Report

Mayor Schielke reported that the Executive Committee met on August 22nd and approved new federal fiscal year 2006 STP programming marks. They also discussed the Flex Match Initiative Program that allows councils to use a variety of public and private funds and services as local match. Mr. Blankenhorn provided an overview of the report of the CMAP board to the Governor and legislature. The Councils had 2 STP projects on the September letting totaling \$13.5 million and will have 5 projects on the November letting for \$9.3 million.

C. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Kopec began by noting that later on in the agenda the Committee would consider approving the CMAQ program which marks 15 years for the program. He then reviewed some of the impacts of the program over the years. Nearly \$960 million in federal funds have been programmed resulting in a total investment of \$1.4 billion. Transit projects have received over \$400 million in federal funds, traffic flow improvements have received \$250 million and the Inspection and Maintenance program has received \$200 million. Staff has

estimated that the projects still producing benefits today reduce VOCs by nearly 38 tons per day. He noted that in 1991 there were 23 days when the ozone standard was exceeded, while in this past summer there were only two despite the more stringent 8-hour standard.

He noted that the CMAP board has released its report to the Governor and the General Assembly. It did address the concerns voiced by the Policy Committee at its August meeting.

Mr. Kopec closed by encouraging attendees to participate in the bake sale which is a benefit for a staff member seriously injured in a motorcycle crash.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee for the Office of Vice Chairman

Mayor Schielke reported that the nominating committee met and is recommending that Mr. Ken Koehler of McHenry County be nominated for a second one-year term as the vice chairman of the CATS Policy Committee. There were no other nominations. On a motion by Mr. Schlickman, seconded by Mr. Rickert, Mr. Koehler was unanimously elected Vice Chairman.

B. Proposed 2007 – 2009 Multi-Year CMAQ Program

Mr. Patronsky introduced the proposed CMAQ program for FY 2007 – 2009, which was being recommended to the Policy Committee by the Work Program Committee, after being developed by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee.

Mr. Patronsky said that the proposed program had been the subject of a public comment period ending August 29, 2006. The CMAQ Project Selection Committee reviewed the comments and recommended the attached program to the Work Program Committee.

Mr. Patronsky pointed out that previous CMAQ programs have funded a current annual element only. Projects that received funding typically received funding for all phases of a project in award. In order to improve the rate at which CMAQ funds are obligated while maintaining the practice of programming all phases of a project when appropriate, the Work Program Committee is recommending a multi-year program, in which projects are fully funded, and individual project phases are funded in the year in which the phase is expected to be ready to obligate.

Mr. Patronsky then noted that the proposed program contained 41 projects totaling just over \$18 million in federal funding.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Policy Committee approves the program, it will be forwarded to the U.S. DOT for an eligibility determination. Upon completion of the determination, sponsors will be notified to proceed.

Mr. Ross asked by what percentage the proposed CMAQ program would reduce the region's emission; Mr. Patronsky replied that it would be about one percent. Mr. Ross asked if there was a gross cost per kilogram of emissions eliminated. Mr. Kopec argued against developing such a number, since different types of CMAQ proposals are analyzed by different methods; there has historically been an avoidance of cross-comparisons of projects or aggregating analyses that would not be meaningful.

Mr. Patronsky concluded that the 2008 call for proposals will begin in December.

Following a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Schlickman, the Policy Committee approved the FY 2007 – 2009 multi-year program of CMAQ projects.

C. FTA Subarea Allocation between Indiana-Illinois and Wisconsin-Illinois of Section 5316 (JARC) & 5317 (New Freedom) Funds

Ms. Dixon requested that the Policy Committee endorse the split of funds for the Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and Section 5317 New Freedom Programs between Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin over the life of SAFETEA-LU. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Board has negotiated the splits through Letters of Understanding (LOUs) with northwestern Indiana and southeastern Wisconsin.

On a motion by Mr. Cuculich and seconded by Mr. Paesel, Resolution 06-10 and 06-11 endorsing the Subarea Allocation between Indiana-Illinois and Wisconsin-Illinois of Section 5316 (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) Funds was approved.

D. Designated Recipient of Section 5316 and 5317 Funds

Ms. Dixon requested that the RTA be endorsed as a Designated Recipient of Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and Section 5317 New Freedom program funds for the life of SAFETEA-LU.

On a motion by Mr. Rickert and seconded by Mayor Schielke, Resolution 06-12 endorsing the RTA as a Designated Recipient of JARC and New Freedom funds was approved.

E. Air Quality Conformity Determination of the Plan and Program

Mr. Patronsky reported that the draft *Transportation Conformity Analysis for the PM_{2.5} and 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards* had been the subject of a public comment period ending August 29, 2006, following the Work Program Committee's authorization for its release. The Policy Committee had so authorized the WPC. At that time, the document was posted on the CATS web site, and notification of the comment period was mailed to all parties on the CATS mailing list

Mr. Patronsky continued that no comments had been received. The Work Program Committee recommended that the Policy Committee make a finding of conformity.

In response to questions, Mr. Patronsky said that emissions for the analysis years of 2007, 2010, 2020 and 2030 were all under the emissions budgets in the State Implementation Plan, namely 127 tons/day for volatile organic compounds and 280 tons/day for nitrogen oxides.

He added that fine particulate matter emissions for 2010, 2020 and 2030 were required to be less than the emissions for 2002; the conformity analysis found this to be the case.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Policy Committee makes a finding of conformity for the 2030 RTP Capital Element Update and FY 07 – 12 TIP, the finding and documentation will be forwarded to the federal agencies for their review and approval.

Following a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the Policy Committee adopted resolution 06-13 titled, “A Resolution Finding the 2007 – 2012 Transportation Improvement Program and the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan for Northeastern Illinois in Conformity with the Provisions of the 8-Hour Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards.”

F. Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Wies noted that the 2030 RTP Update Capital Element had been made available electronically to the Committee. He reviewed that the document had been posted for public comment until August 28, that the air quality conformity consultation team had met to review public comments on September 11, that the RTP Committee had done the same on September 14 and that the Work Program Committee had recommended approval on September 29. Some minor technical clarifications were made to the document, but otherwise the plan’s recommendations remained identical to the public comment version. Mr. Wies provided a review of the entire 2030 RTP development cycle beginning in 2001 and indicated that CMAP would be preparing a SAFETEA-LU compliant 2030 RTP Update during 2007 and would also soon launch the new 2040 planning cycle intended to produce an integrated 2040 Land Use and Transportation plan in 2010. With a motion by Mr. Rickert, and seconded by Mayor Schielke, the Policy Committee approved Resolution 06-14 approving the 2030 RTP Update Capital Element.

G. FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Wies, in his report on RTP, stated that the RTP and TIP had been analyzed and found to conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Air Quality. After public comment, the WPC recommended at its September 29 meeting, that Policy Committee endorse the FY 2007-2012 TIP. Ms. Dixon requested that the Policy Committee approval of Resolution 06-15 endorsing the FY 2007-2012 TIP. On a motion by Mr. Kos and seconded by Mayor Schielke, the FY 07-12 TIP was approved.

H. Job Access and Reverse Commute Program, New Freedom Program

Mr. Bill Reynolds of the RTA noted that the call for project proposals for the FY 06 JARC and New Freedom programs has been issued. As explained at the June meeting, the timing of approving this program requires consideration by the Policy Committee of authorizing the Work Program Committee to act on its behalf and consider approving these programs. On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Ms. Heramb, the Work Program Committee was authorized to consider approval the FY 06 JARC and New Freedom programs.

I. Memorandum of Understanding with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Board

Mr. Kopec briefed the committee on the staff prepared draft of an MOU between the CMAP board and the Policy Committee that defines a working relationship between the two boards. Secretary Martin and Mr. Schlickman emphasized that the committee needed to provide Mr. Schlickman, the committee's representative to the board, with some direction on how to proceed. Committee members agreed that this relationship could be defined administratively, through an MOU and did not require new legislation. There were concerns expressed by members regarding the membership of committees, particularly the coordinating committees for planning and programming along with how the staff is expected to report to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Schlickman noted that the structure places great importance with the coordinating committees for planning and programming. He cautioned the committee to be careful in how the Transportation Committee is viewed, who is on the committee and its leadership. Since the leadership of the Transportation Committee will be on the coordinating committees, the importance of having the proper representation was emphasized. It was suggested that the chair of the transportation committee be from the Policy Committee. Mr. Blankenhorn felt that could be discussed with the CMAP board. Mr. Schlickman noted that while transportation was not the only issue area that will be addressed by the coordinating committees, it should be represented by more than one person on each of the twelve member committees. He also suggested that the Policy Committee have a standing agenda item for legislative updates. It was also discussed that the Policy Committee should be meeting more frequently. The year 2007 will see many important decisions made regarding all modes of transportation and the Policy Committee needs to be involved. Mr. Paesel noted that the CMAP board is actively meeting monthly and the Policy Committee needs to be equally involved. Mr. Cuculich remarked that although

the relationship with the CMAP board is the issue now, the Policy Committee, as the MPO, has a lot to offer the region. He suggested that the issue of advocacy be added to the MOU. Committee members agreed to meet more often and to have an input and influence on decisions made.

It was decided that IDOT would take the lead on the final negotiations of the MOU with the CMAP board. Specifically, the issues of the staff relationship with the Policy Committee and who decides the makeup of the Transportation Committee were noted as needing clearer definition. Secretary Martin asked the members to send any comments to Mr. Dick Smith or Mr. Les Nunes of IDOT.

J. Household Travel Inventory

Mr. Wies gave a presentation on the status of CMAP's household travel inventory. The survey design phase includes a pilot study of 300 households. Mr. Wies reviewed the pilot exercise and presented some preliminary results. Mr. Wies indicated that a peer review of the survey instrument is scheduled at CMAP for November 16-17, 2006.

K. CATS Committee Structure

Mr. Kopec explained the staff proposal for changes in the committees and task forces under the direction of the MPO. He noted that all the committees and task forces that remain should review their membership in light of the requirement to integrate land use and transportation planning. He requested that members provide staff with comments. This issue will be further developed by the Work Program Committee and brought back to the Policy Committee early next year.

L. Regional Transportation Authority Financial Capacity Report

Mr. Bill Lachman of the RTA reviewed the agency's FY 2005 Financial Capacity report for the committee. He noted that the recovery ratio generated by the Service Boards exceeded the statutory requirement. However, while there have been gains in ridership, fuel expenses have increased significantly. The financial analysis shows sufficient revenues to cover operating expenditures to merit further federal investment in the region. On a motion by Mr. Cuculich, seconded by Ms. Hermab, the Policy Committee accepted the report.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

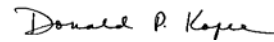
Ms. Adams informed the Committee that Mr. Gismondi of the Federal Transit Administration was retiring from federal service. This would be his last meeting of the Policy Committee. Members thanked Mr. Gismondi for his participation in MPO activities and wished him the best.

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2006 in the Sears Tower, 8th Floor, Chicago, Illinois at 11:00 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Buehler. .

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald P. Kopec
Secretary