



WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 29, 2006

The meeting was held in the Cook County Conference Room at the CMAP office at 233 South Wacker Driver, Chicago, Illinois.

1. Call to Order

Work Program Committee Chairman Groner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Work Program Committee Members Present:

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra
George Catalano, representing Bruce Gould, Will County
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
Rocky Donahue, Pace
Neil D. Ferrari, representing Jason Tai, IDOT-DPIT
Larry Keller, representing Arlene Mulder CATS Council of Mayors
Don Kopec, CATS
Clarita Lao, IDOT-District One
John Loper, representing Chuck Tokarski, DuPage County
Les Nunes, IDOT-OP&P
Jason Osborn, McHenry County
Mark Pitstick, representing John DeLaurentiis, RTA
Thomas Rickert, Kane County
David Seglin, representing LuAnn Hamilton, CDOT
David Simmons, representing Jeffrey Sriver, CTA
Steve Strains, NIRPC
Ron Thomas, NIPC
Paula Trigg, representing Martin Buehler, Lake County
Mary Wells, ISTHA
Tom Zapler, Class 1 Railroad Companies

Work Program Committee Members Absent:

Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
Benet Haller, CDOP
Fran Klaas, Kendall County
Paul Losos, Private Transportation Providers

John Rita, MTDs
Mike Rogers, IEPA
Wally Kos, Cook County

Others Present

Joe Heinrich
Mike Klemens
Tam Kutzmark
Holly Osttick
David Piper
Chad Riddle
Holly Smith
Mike Walczak
Erin Willrett

Staff

Randy Blankenhorn, Teri Dixon, Tom Murtha,
Ross Patronsky, Gordon Smith, Ty Warner, Kermit Wies

1. Call to Order

Work Program Committee Chairman Groner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2006

It was noted that the minutes of July 28 should be corrected to delete Mr. Snyder, who was not in attendance. On a motion by Mr. Seglin, seconded by Ms. Lao, the minutes of the July 28, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

3. Updates and Status Reports

a. Committee and Task Force Meetings

Ms. Berry noted that the Metropolis 2020 report on UWP, including recommendations, was attached to the committee and task force meeting summary. Staff from Metropolis 2020 will be presenting this information to the Work Program Committee at its next meeting. Ms. Berry encouraged all to review the materials and to contact UWP Chair Les Nunes or Metropolis 2020 staff with questions or comments. Mr. Rickert noted that the Bike/Ped task force had requested information from IDOT on rescissions and had still not received it. Mr. Nunes said the information would be prepared and discussed at next month's CMAQ Project Selection Committee meeting. Mr. Rickert noted that IDOT's handling of rescissions was the main topic at the task force meeting and Mr. Seglin noted that the information has also been requested by the WPC.

b. Status Report on the Implementation of Projects

Ms. Lao reported that the Department opened bids in September and they included the last four contracts on the local lanes of the Dan Ryan from 31st St. to 63rd St. The low bids combined totaled about \$135.4 million. Other projects included I-94, the Edens, at Foster bridge superstructure and six of the I-55 bridges. The total of low bids for the September letting was about \$190 million.

There was no status update from RTA.

Mr. Seglin stated that the City had been no obligations of STP-L funds since the last WPC meeting. There were Chicago CMAQ projects obligated with a total dollar amount of \$1.245 million.

Mr. Patronsky advised the Committee that obligation information through July has been received; the CMAQ program is just under 80% obligated. This breaks down to 86.2% for TEA-21 and 54.5% for SAFETEA-LU. He also noted that two projects were on the September 22, 2006 letting for \$760,000.

Mr. Patronsky said that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee continues to consider options for improving the management of currently programmed projects. A staff recommendation will be reviewed by a working group in the near future.

c. Council of Mayors Update

Mayor Keller stated that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on August 22. The Committee approved new FFY 2006 to 2012 Surface Transportation programming marks. There was also a discussion regarding the Flex Match Initiative Program. This program would allow councils to use a wide variety of public and private contributions of funds, land, materials and engineering to be counted toward the non-federal match (local match). The Committee decided that each council will determine how they want to proceed to provide input to the development of a policy. Meetings will be held with all stakeholders to produce a policy that will be in the best interest of the councils. The recommendation will then be reviewed by the WPC and Policy Committees.

Also at the August meeting, Mr. Blankenhorn gave an overview of the draft strategic report on vision, governance, and funding for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP). The Committee engaged in a lively discussion and offered suggestions for the report.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is tentatively scheduled for mid-November.

Regarding STP program accomplishment, the Council of Mayors had two projects on the September letting for \$13.5 million dollars and has five projects scheduled for the November letting totaling \$9.3 million dollars.

Lastly, Mayor Keller invited everyone to stop by the Council of Mayors and CMAP booth number 204 if they are attending the annual Illinois Municipal League conference being held this weekend at the Chicago Hilton and Towers.

4. FY 05-09 TIP Changes

Ms. Dixon requested Work Program Committee approval of the TIP changes and requested that all programmers make appropriate changes to the 06 line items at the next meeting. All 06 line items will need to be awarded, deleted or moved to the correct year for the November WPC meeting. The TIP changes were posted on the web site. On a motion by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Mr. Rickert the TIP changes were approved. The changes will also apply to the proposed FY 07-12 TIP.

5. New Freedom and JARC Program

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

Ms. Dixon also requested recommendation to the Policy Committee that the RTA be endorsed as a Designated Recipient of JARC and New Freedom Program funds for the life of SAFETEA-LU.

On a motion by Mr. Pitstick, seconded by Mr. Loper the recommendations were made.

6. 2007 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program

Mr. Patronsky thanked Mr. Groner for the introduction.

He said that the Committee had before them the CMAQ program for FY 2007, which was being recommended to them by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee. He said that the proposed program had been released for public comment at the July Work Program Committee meeting; the comment period ended August 29. He continued that after the program was released, one sponsor withdrew its project. In response to the comments, one project was added, a diesel fleet retrofit project proposed by the Chicago Department of the Environment. These changes were reflected in the proposed program before the Committee.

Mr. Patronsky said that the program consists of 41 projects, with just over \$18 million in federal funds programmed in FY 2007. In addition, \$8.6 million in FY 2008 and \$6.6 million in FY 2009 CMAQ funds were being committed to complete the projects initially programmed in FY 2007.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Work Program Committee agrees, the proposed program will be recommended to the Policy Committee for adoption at its October meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Seglin, seconded by Mr. Rickert, the proposed program of CMAQ projects for FY 2007, with FY 2008 and 2009 commitments, was recommended to the Policy Committee for adoption.

7. Air Quality Conformity Analysis, Capital Element of the 2030 RTP Update, Proposed FY 07-12 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Wies noted that the 2030 RTP Update Capital Element, the FY 07-12 TIP and the accompanying air quality conformity analysis had been made available electronically to the Committee. He stated that the documents had been posted for public comment until August 29, 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. Some minor technical clarifications were made to the RTP document, but otherwise the plan's recommendations remained identical to the public comment version.

There was discussion about the overall comments that were received. Mr. Wies explained that the comments were varied and mixed according to people's interest. From the comments received people are most interested in the new regional planning agency. Mr. Strains asked about increases in the capital element costs. Mr. Wies stated that these costs were accounted for and the program is fiscally constrained.

On a motion by Ms. Lao, seconded by Mr. Keller, the WPC concurs in responses to public comments and recommends that the Policy Committee make a conformity determination and approve the update of the Capital element of the 2030 RTP and the proposed FY 07-12 TIP.

8. High Tension Cable Median Treatment

Dave Piper, the Safety Design Engineer for IDOT's Division of Highways, presented information about testing of high-tension cable median barriers. These barriers are designed to prevent cross-median incursions and head-on crashes on freeways and expressways. Such crashes are deadly and cause major disruptions to our highway system.

Mr. Piper reviewed the results of IDOT's experiments with these barriers. IDOT has experimented with a variety of vendors for these barriers along the Interstate highway system in six of IDOT's eight districts. The overall experiment was a success. Mr. Piper recounted several episodes, including in District 1, where the experimental median barriers apparently prevented incursions into on-coming lanes. He also showed a video (from another state's experiment) of a tow truck that ran into the median but was held by the barrier, demonstrating how the barriers were expected to work. The video showed the driver walking out of the truck, having escaped serious injury.

Mr. Piper presented an overview of engineering issues. Unlike many other barriers, high-tension cable median barriers can be applied where cross-slopes are as great as 1:4. Prices, including terminals, are comparable to standard guardrails. Repair prices were not extraordinary after a crash. District field maintenance crews established repair procedures. Given the positive test results and the economic considerations, IDOT is developing a standard spec for these barriers. This spec can be used in lettings as early as January, 2007.

Mr. Piper's presentation has been posted in pdf format at http://www.sp2030.com/High_Tension_Cable_Median.pdf

9. Regional Planning Act

Mr. Kopec stated that there was a special Policy Committee meeting on August 17, where the Committee reviewed the draft CMAP strategic report and the focus areas. Discussions are underway about implementation and staff transition. Most everyone is comfortable with the relationship between CMAP and Policy Committee. Funding is still an issue that is being resolved. Voluntary contributions are a problem as a stable and reliable fund source is essential to the process. Options and priorities are still being examined and legislation will be drafted for the Spring session of the General Assembly. It is anticipated that technical fixes to the Act will be made in the veto session.

The proposed committee structure has four levels, Policy (CMAP and MPO), Advisory (CAC, COM, Counties), Coordinating and Working. The Work Program Committee's role in the committee structure that is being proposed by CMAP will be the Transportation Committee, a working level committee. It will be the voice of transportation issues throughout the region as it is now, coordinating the planning and programming for transportation. The Transportation Committee will report to both the CMAP board and the Policy Committee. The current proposal is that a CMAP Board member will chair the coordinating committees (planning and programming) and that the chairs and vice chairs of the working level committees will be on the planning and programming committees.

10. Nominating Committee

Mr. Groner appointed the Council of Mayors (Mayor Mulder), NIPC (Mr. Thomas), Lake County (Mr. Buehler), Pace (Mr. Donahue) and IEPA (Mr. Rogers) to the Nominating committee for the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Work Program Committee. They were asked to report back at the November meeting...

11. Other Business

Mr. Seglin thanked Mr. Wies and for staffing the RTP. Mr. Groner added his thanks, also.

Mr. Thomas stated that CMAP has adopted the 2040 Framework Plan.

Mr. Kopec noted that an introduction to conformity class will be held November 28, 29 and 30. He asked those interested to contact him or Mr. Patrosky.

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Donahue, seconded by Mr. Pitstick the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia A. Berry', is written over a thin red horizontal line.

Patricia A. Berry
Secretary