Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Council of Mayors Executive Committee Meeting
Draft Minutes

October 19, 2021

Via GoToMeeting.
Recording available: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ijQ00CEfIg

Members Present: Chair Jeffery Schielke, President Emily Berendt, President Dave Brady, President Karen Darch, President Mike Einhorn, President Alice Gallagher, President Thomas Hayes, Mayor Teresa Kernc, President Greg Lungmus, Mayor Leon Rockingham, Mayor Glenn Ryback

Staff Present: Erin Aleman, Jonathan Burch, Anthony Cefali, David Clark, Patrick Day, Kama Dobbs, Teri Dixon, Doug Ferguson, Avery Goods, Leroy Kos, Elliot Lewis, Amy McEwan, Tim McMahon, Lily Neppl, Jared Patton, Noel Peterson, Russell Pietrowiak, Yousef Salama, Gordon Smith, Mary Weber, Simone Weil

Others Present: Len Austin, Lenny Cannata, Eric Czarnota, Jon Paul Diipla, John Donovan, Michael Fricano, Elizabeth Ginsburg, Kendra Johnson, Mike Klemens, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Ryan Peterson, Leslie Phemister, Chris Pisz, Suzette Quintell, Elizabeth Scott, Troy Simpson, John Skillman, Joe Surdam, Michael Vanderhoof

1.0 Call to order/introductions

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Chair Schielke.

2.0 Agenda changes and announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

3.0 Approval of the minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2021, as presented, was made by Mayor Rockingham and seconded by President Gallagher. The motion carried.

4.0 CMAP update

Prior to the CMAP update, Chair Schielke acknowledged the hard work that CMAP staff and leadership have done during the last year, noting that the agency is a sign that government can function during challenging times.

CMAP Executive Director Erin Aleman thanked Chair Schielke for his comments. Ms. Aleman then stated that the CMAP office is now open daily at approximately 50% capacity. Staff are assigned to teams on a rotating schedule for in-office and remote work. She invited committee members to come in for a tour at their convenience. Ms. Aleman then summarized the recent meeting of the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee. At the meeting, IDOT provided an overview of their new data-driven decision making tool, which focusses on new construction, and is now out for public comment. The Board and Committee also discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Many municipalities in the region that are required to complete ADA transition plans have not done so and are out of compliance with the law. To address this, CMAP is working to develop what may be a decade-long program to assist with ADA transition plans. This will require hiring additional staff to provide ADA-specific planning assistance through the Local Technical Assistance program.

Next, Ms. Aleman provided an overview of the recent State of the Region event, and thanked committee members for their participation. Ms. Aleman also gave an update on the FAST Act reauthorization process. The Act has been extended through October 31, and the federal government has been funded through December. This should be resolved in the coming weeks.

Finally, Ms. Aleman highlighted the ongoing LTA call for projects, and encouraged communities to apply. The deadline for applications is Thursday, October 28. Committee members should reach out with any questions.

Chair Schielke then emphasized the valuable role that CMAP plays bringing together the region's communities to have a shared voiced in topics such as transportation finance.

5.0 STP Project Selection Committee Update

Kama Dobbs reported that the STP Project Selection Committee last met on September 9. At that meeting, the committee approved the FFY 2022 – 2026 Shared Fund Program. Following project selection committee approval, the CMAP Transportation Committee reviewed the TIP Amendments incorporating the program and recommended approval to the CMAP Board and MPO Policy Committee. The Board and MPO gave final

approval at their joint meeting on October 13 and approved the FFY 2022 – 2026 CMAQ and TAP-Local programs.

Ms. Dobbs then explained that the STP project selection committee will meet again on October 28, 2021 to discuss an outline for reviewing the 2022 Shared Fund methodology. Staff will also seek approval for the programming of the $5.3 million in COVID Relief funding allocated to the shared fund at that meeting.

Next Ms. Dobbs summarized the Regional STP Accounting Summary included in the meeting materials, noting that over $148 million was obligated in FFY 2021 between the shared fund and local council programs. This is 67% of the funds available at the beginning of the year. Ms. Dobbs noted that the current funding available and programmed for FFY 2022 and projected funding and programming for years 2023 through 2026 are included in the summary, and reminded the committee that summaries for individual councils can be requested from CMAP staff or council planning liaisons.

6.0 IDOT Bureau of Local Roads Update

Chad Riddle of the IDOT Bureau of Local Roads Bureau was not able to attend the meeting but sent ahead a note explaining that Local Roads staff have returned to the office two days per week.

Senior Planner Russell Pietrowiak provided the remainder of the update. Mr. Pietrowiak informed the committee that Temi Latinwo has retired. He then gave a recap of recent and upcoming lettings. Despite supply chain challenges, all recent letterings have seen bids come in at or below pre-bid estimates. There will by 26 lettings in November, including nine that are sponsored by local agencies.

7.0 Unified Work Program

Planning Coordinator Lenny Cannata provided an overview of the scope of services for FY 2023 Planning Liaison program. The scope has not changed significantly from 2021. Last year, the PL program began tracking time by task, and will continue to do so moving forward. There has been substantial turnover in the program, which has created some challenges for putting together the budget, but the process is well underway. Mr. Cannata does not foresee any significant changes to the budget.

A motion to approve the scope of services was made by President Darch and seconded by President Mike Einhorn. The motion was unanimously approved.

8.0 **2020 Census Results**

Associate Planner Elizabeth Ginsberg reviewed the most recent data release from the 2020 decennial census, which includes datasets used for redistricting, such as total

population, voting population (over 18), population by race and ethnicity, and total housing units. The data show that the region is growing and becoming more diverse.

The region as a whole grew by two percent from 2010 to 2020, and every county saw population growth. Kendall County and Will County saw the greatest growth, while Southern Cook County, the South Side of Chicago, and several areas near the edge of the region saw population declines. The City of Aurora also saw substantial population loss, but has requested an official review due to challenges collecting surveys. Despite experiencing overall population growth, the region's growth rate continues to lag behind other major metropolitan areas.

Consistent with previous trends, the region also grew more diverse from 2010-2020. The number of people identifying as white and black both decreased, while the number of people identifying as Asian and Hispanic increased. The census also saw a significant increase in the number of people identifying as more than one race, which may have been driven in part by changes in the amount of space respondents were given to provide origin information.

CMAP will continue to review new data as they are made available. The Census Bureau has indicated that additional demographic and household data will be released in 2022 but has not given a firm date for the next release.

Chair Scheilke said this presentation is an example of the great work CMAP does and discussed the challenges Aurora is facing due to the population decrease shown in the 2020 Census. The City of Aurora has requested a review of their Census results but will lose some federal funding while the review process is completed. Chair Scheilke said he has heard frustrations from other communities as well.

President Hayes said that his community grew by 400 residents according to the 2020 census, but they believe the community grew by more, and asked for additional information about how to request a review. Ms. Ginsberg echoed Chair Scheilke's comments about the slow pace of the Census Bureau and explained that new ACS estimates will be coming out soon, which may help provide a more accurate picture of current conditions for some communities.

Mayor Einhorn mentioned that they had a lot of housing vacancies due to COVID-19, which coincided with the census and may have affected the count. Mayor Einhorn also mention that several nearby communities appear to have a large number of vacancies, but the vacancies did not show up in the data. Mayor Einhorn asked how vacancies are calculated for the decennial census, and Ms. Ginsberg offered to follow up with additional information.

Chair Scheilke said this may be a good topic for the committee to discuss regularly to ensure mayors and village presidents have the latest information available.

9.0 Community Data Snapshots, 2020 update

Assistant Analyst Avery Goods gave an overview of the most recent update to CMAP's Community Data Snapshots. The snapshots include a wide range of data for municipalities, counties, and the region. They are focused on data, and do not include policy analysis or recommendations. Ms. Goods reviewed the information included in both the PDF snapshots and the raw data tables. The most recent update includes data from the 2020 Census.

Mayor Einhorm asked how the snapshots split data for zip codes located in multiple municipalities. Ms. Goods explained that most data are reported at the census tract level, which is more granular than a zip code. Mayor Einhorn said he would follow up for additional clarification about accessing that information.

10.0 Regional Socioeconomic Forecast

Senior Analyst David Clark summarized the process through which CMAP is updating its regional socioeconomic forecast for the ON TO 2050 update and presented the high-level findings for population and jobs.

Mr. Clark explained that the forecast is a federal requirement. For its forecast, CMAP uses a two-step process that begins with a regional forecast that is then disaggregated to the local level. The forecast itself includes two elements: population and employment. The population forecast uses a cohort-component model that is based on trends in births, deaths, and migration. The employment forecast uses a third-party model, which is used to update migration assumptions in the demographic model to balance out labor supply and demand. The forecasted residents and jobs will then be assigned to specific locations using the UrbanSim land use model.

Mr. Clark then provided an overview of the forecast results. The updated forecast shows more modest population and employment growth compared to the original ON TO 2050 forecast. By 2050, the region is forecasted to grow to roughly 10 million residents and 4.8 million jobs. The largest job growth is expected in the healthcare, professional, scientific, technical services, and transportation sectors. Manufacturing is expected to see the greatest decrease in total jobs.

CMAP expects to finalize the regional forecast and have draft local forecast ready to review in December. Final local forecasts are expected in March 2022.

11.0 LTA Call for Projects

Assistant Planner Lily Neppl and Local Planning Manager Michael Horsting from the RTA provided an overview of the current Local Technical Assistance Call for Projects via a pre-recorded video. Ms. Neppl explained the various types of assistance available, including bicycle and pedestrian plans, capital improvement plans, comprehensive plans, and grant readiness assistance. Ms. Neppl noted that the LTA program is intended to both assist local governments to achieve their goals, and to advance the goals and priorities of ON TO 2050, with a focus on capacity building and equity.

Mr. Horsting provided an overview of the goals of the RTA Community Planning Program and the types of projects they will be funding, such as TOD plans, transit corridor plans, and curb management studies.

Finally, Ms. Neppl reviewed the application schedule and process, and encouraged communities to apply before the October 28 deadline.

12.0 Local Government Network update

Senior Planner Patrick Day gave the committee an update on recent work of the Local Government Network. Since the last Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting, the Network has completed one initiative and begun a second. First, the Network contacted all communities that had not yet claimed their American Rescue Plan funds. Prior to the initiative, 35 communities had not claimed their funds; all communities have now claimed their funds, and no money was reallocated. Currently, the Network is working to encourage communities to apply to the CMAP/RTA call for projects. Applications are due on October 28.

13.0 Legislative update

Director Gordon Smith explained that the General Assembly is currently meeting for veto session, but there are no major bills scheduled for discussion. Debate will likely focus on redistricting and COVID-related issues. The federal government is waiting to advance the infrastructure bill, and no action is expected soon.

14.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

15.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

16.0 Next Meeting

The next Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting is planned for January 25, 2022. Staff will confirm the full 2022 meeting schedule shortly and notify members in the coming weeks.

17.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Schielke at 10:40am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jared Patton