



MINUTES

October 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m.

Allerton Hotel, 4th Floor conference Room , 701 N Michigan, Chicago, Illinois

In conjunction with the IDOT Fall Planning Conference

I. ROLL CALL

Board: Cameron Moore, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Don Kopec, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Terry Kohlbuss, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Linda Wheeland, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Jon Paul Diipla, Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Paul Russell, McLean County Regional Planning; Denise McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission; Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study; and Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study; Brian Dickson, DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Chandra Ravada, Dubuque MPO; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study; Adam Aull, Danville Area Transportation Study. *Others:* Angie Stenson, Danville Area Transportation Study; IDOT, Les Nunes, Curtis Jones, Tom Kelso and Jim Stack; and Marta Perales, Illinois MPO Advisory Council.

Teleconference: Jon Paul Kohler, FHWA

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Moore entertained a motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2009. Mr. Kohlbuss motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Lammey. All voted aye.

III. TREASURER'S REPORT

At the previous meeting there was discussion to move forward with a revised dues structure. However, there was no board approval for action. Mr. Moore entertained a motion to revise the dues structure as discussed at the prior board meeting. Mr. Russell asked how the dues were revised. Mr. Moore stated that at the last meeting was not a specific number but the concept was a 1/3 for each MPO category which developed the numbers. Mr. Russell asked if there was any a correlation between the dues structure and the Comprehensive Regional Planning Funds. Mr. Moore stated that the original dues formula was never based on CRP funds. With the new structure, there is a reduction from CMAP and all other MPOs paying increased dues. He also expressed that the issue can be revisited if the issue comes up again. Motioned made by Mr. Lammey and seconded by Mr. Paul. Mr. Soltau asked what the structure was for smaller MPOs. Mr. Soltau asked why the amounts were different. Mr. Moore stated some MPOs already paid the initial dues before the revision and the revised amount took into consideration the amount that was already paid from the previous bill which take the MPO Advisory Council until June 30, 2009. All members voting aye.

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Moore provided an update to members to continue the contract with IDOT to fund the MPO Advisory Council. Mr. Moore and Mr. Kohlbuss attended a meeting with Dick Smith, the Director of the Planning Department at IDOT. There was consensus to move forward with another year of funding Mr. Kohlbuss discussed the need to ensure federal funds were not used for lobbying. Mr. Moore expressed his tenure with NARC caused him in close proximity on Capital Hill and he was fully up to speed not to cross that line. In every instance, Cameron has provided the guidance to ensure there are no lobbying activities by staff. Mr. Moore reiterated through his previous experience at NARC that MPOs across the country were concerned that federal dollars were not going towards lobbying efforts as a legitimate expenses. Professional development of the MPO Advisory Council members through training workshops was important to Mr. Smith. Mr. Moore expressed it was a positive meeting.

The second item that came out of the meeting was the CRP funds. Mr. Blankenhorn reported at the last MPO Advisory Council meeting in Bloomington that the Governor's office indicated it was a mistake to remove the CRP funds from the introduced budget. IDOT has requested that the line item will be restored in next year's budget. It appears that we have the support of both IDOT and the Governor's office to restore the funds. The state is in a tough budget climate, but it would be beneficial to be included in the introduced budget at the \$5 million. After the first of the year, there will be more activity to notify your legislators about the importance of these funds.

V. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Perales reviewed the UWP and with recent discussions with Mr. Moore stated that she feels a follow up meeting with the Technical Committee is appropriate at this time. A few activities will be ongoing including supporting the board meeting activities and ensuring the website is updated on a weekly basis. There were two major gaps in the UWP which will be focused on the Technical Committee to ensuring that they have the resources that they need moving forward. Mr. Moore reiterated that the purpose of the Technical Committee is to provide training opportunities. No other members expressed any concern over the UWP. Mr. Nunes asked the FHWA if there is list of courses that the MPO Advisory Council can produce. Mr. Stevenson stated that there are some courses. Ms. Perales asked IDOT if an expense such as a teleconference phone would be eligible for reimbursement.

Mr. Kohlbuss asked if the notion of the USEPA could dramatically change our lives in MPOs, than there should be some consideration to develop a consensus position on this issue. In Peoria, there are folks who want to understand the issue from a public health perspective and from a nuance perspective. Is there opposition from the standard or there a position that it would be a lot easier to be at 70. Mr. Kohlbuss asked if this is appropriate for the Technical Committee to address. Mr. Moore asked members to consider this topic. Ms. McCullough stated she would follow up with the Technical Committee soon. Mr. Nunes stated it would probably affect 4-5 MPOs in Illinois. There was some discussion to create an ad-hoc committee to present a statement on this issue. Most MPOs wanted to wait and see how their MPOs are handling this issue before preparing a statement on this issue. Mr. Kopec advised that the Illinois EPA be brought in on this issue for the next meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

PRINCIPLES FOR REAUTHORIZATION

Mr. Moore indicated that the federal government will work on a few continuing resolutions at last year's level and with the issue of rescissions that are some funding levels which are of concern. The Obama administration is pushing for an 18 month extension so there is time for the MPOs to weigh in on the principles over the next couple of months. Ms. Perales informed members that Mr. Blankenhorn encouraged member to review their principles for reauthorization. The CMAP link was sent to members for review. She reviewed the principles from various national organizations and there were several main themes. The information was compiled into five principles for reauthorization. She outlined the five main principles to the board including: a national vision for infrastructure, a holistic approach to planning, reducing government programs, alternative funding sources and maintaining safety.

Mr. Kohlbuss asked how much chaos would be caused if the reauthorization had a provision that the contract authority would match the appropriation and/or there would be no rescissions. He wants to the moneys that the federal government states they will provide. Mr. Kohler responded that they were fortunate in the T-21 bill had a firewall of guarantee funding level of \$286 billion. He has heard that the new administration is not supportive of those guaranteed funding levels. Mr. Kohlbuss asked if it would be less of a problem for language that states contract authority should match the funding authority as closely as possible. Mr. Kohler indicated unsure where Chairman Oberstar stands on the issue and they use the appropriation bills to work through the federal budget process. Mr. Kohlbuss indicated that with

the rescissions that funding is stable every year. Mr. Kohler stated that the MPO Advisory Council should consider one of the principles should reflect this. Mr. Moore stated that in DC, programs can get funding at a certain level but not necessarily funded at that level. Mr. Kohlbus is not asking for the appropriation to match the authorization. Mr. Moore stated at the national policy that certain things has to happen; by definition there is less discretion at the local level. Mr. Soltau stated that the part of the policy could be flexible funding at programs. Mr. Moore stated that he should provide feedback to staff with a possibility of a board vote in December.

Mr. Kopec advised that text should be provided to each principles but the dot points may be overwhelming without a sentence or two to educate. Mr. Moore affirmed that these text should also include what they would like to achieve and why it is valuable to have it in the next transportation bill. Ms. McCullough stated maybe not a single mode perspective but from a the three 'c' mode of streamlining and. Mr. Dickson asked if we know if other states are putting together principles for reauthorization. Mr. Soltau stated that Wisconsin and Minnesota had some principles. Mr. Moore stated he has not heard anything formal and recommended staff check into the national associations and check what other states. Staff will provide members with links to other states or MPO statewide associations and their positions on reauthorization. Ms. McCullough confirmed there is a working group in Iowa but unsure if they have had the policy discussion about principles for reauthorization. Mr. Moore also indicated active statewide MPO associations such as Florida and Texas should be researched

STATE TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Mrs. Emily Tapia from Metropolitan Planning Council presented an update to the state transportation plan legislation which was first introduced a year ago. The new bill, HB4590 is identical to HB2359. There was input from various MPOs in the initial mark up. She stated the major difference is that the new bill has consensus among IDOT officials as they are no longer opposing the bill. State Representative Kathy Ryg was the initial sponsor has since stepped down over the summer. State Representative Elaine Nekritz will be the lead sponsor of the legislation. Mr. Kohlbus stated that the sustainable legislation to the tune of \$150 million which should be going to MPOs across the state, with 6% potentially coming to Illinois, so there will be significant moneys coming to Illinois.

In regards to reauthorization, the state transportation plan legislation mirrors such principles as transparency and accountability; measuring the status of current infrastructure in Illinois in order to provide some guidance on priority projects due to the status. Mr. Moore stated that the board was neutral in the last legislation. She requested the board consider taking a position on the new bill.

Mr. Kohlbus stated IDOT was open to some internal changes within IDOT with greater input from MPOs. He requested an update to those discussions. Mr. Nunes stated the last discussion was with the Director of Highways, Christine Reed as a proposal to get the MPOs involved earlier in the process. IDOT submitted a proposed timeline for review with setting up regional meetings with MPOs and county engineers but has no further discussion. Mr. Kohlbus asked if the timeline could be redistributed.

HB4590 will be distributed to members – along with a synopsis of the bill with future discussion in December.

YEARLY IMPROVEMENT TRANSPORTATION PLANS

Mr. Nunes initiated the discussion at the previous meeting. There was no opposition expressed at the last meeting and it would allow some flexibility among MPOs. IDOT and FHWA had not proposed any opposition to the idea. Ms. McCullough raised the issue of increased amendments to TIPs throughout the year. Mr. Kohlbus asked if there be a training session through the MPO Advisory Council to some of the issues that may come up with the increased TIP amendments. Public involvement would be every

two years not every year. Mr. Moore stated that it may save some work up front because you cannot predict how many amendments will be forthcoming. Mr. Soltau agreed that the amendment process will need to be further discussed. Mr. Nunes stated that after the Governor announces the programs for each year, there will be at least one amendment per year to consider. By moving to every two years, it does allow some flexibility. Mr. Moore indicated that this should be a separate meeting to be facilitated through IDOT and FHWA to discuss a proposal.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Kohlbus requested a motion to be made that the MPO Association to whomever needs to hear the message that the MPO Advisory Council would welcome the opportunity to have earlier input in the statewide transportation plan. Mr. Soltau stated there was discussion from IDOT to have some input from MPOs. Mr. Nunes stated the process would include highway and county engineers to provide them additional notice. Ms. Sicks asked if they are factoring in unintended consequences from the process. Mr. Soltau stated that monies remaining in the stimulus package, there is monies available. From each MPO to be programmed in March. Mr. Nunes stated there are additional letting. Mr. Soltau stated that Wisconsin there was some monies and they are trying to identify what to spend the monies on; and in Illinois we are told to wait. Mr. Nunes there is no jeopardy to lose funds once they are authorized, we still have some time to expend these monies. Mr. Kohlbus stated the MPOs have more input earlier in the process in the development of the state program. Mr. Lamme asked if there will be a letter to IDOT. All was in consensus with a letter. All voting aye.

IX. CALENDAR

The next meeting is scheduled in Springfield in conjunction with the next ILARC meeting. Mr. Moore informed members that date might be December 4 or December 10. Staff will follow up with ILARC and notify members as soon as possible.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moore entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Russell motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kohlbus. Mr. Moore adjourned the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales