



**DRAFT MINUTES**

September 28, 2010

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

IDOT Fall Planning Conference - Springfield Hilton, 700 E Adams, Springfield, Illinois

**I. ROLL CALL**

*Board:* Cameron Moore, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Terry Kohlbus, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Steve Ernst, Rockford Metropolitan For Planning; Norm Sims, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Paul Russell, Mclean County Regional Planning Commission; Gordon Smith, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Mike Lammey; Jerry Blair, East-West Gateway Council of Government; Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Planning Commission; Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study; Kankakee Area Transportation Study; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study; Brian Dickson, DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chairman Moore entertained a motion to approve the minutes of June 17, 2010. Mr. Sims motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Treasurer Kohlbus. All members voted aye.

**III. TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Kohlbus presented financial reports to the Council. He further indicated two members had not paid their current dues and asked CMAP to consider paying their dues soon to keep a positive balance in the account. Mr. Ernst motioned to accept the financial papers and seconded by Mr. Lammey. All members voting aye.

**IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Chairman Moore reminded members of the new fiscal responsibilities of Tri-County as a result of ILARC no longer acting as the ILMPOAC fiscal agent. ILARC received \$8,000 a year to handle the fiscal responsibilities of the Council and recommended Tri-County be provided a small stipend of \$250 a month for an annual rate of \$3,000 a year. Chairman Moore entertained a motion to accept an administrative fee to Tri-County in the amount of \$250 a month. Mr. Lammey motioned to approve the administrative fee, seconded by Mr. Smith. All members voting aye.

**V. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Perales presented the reformatted UWP report to members. With the new accountability measures requested by IDOT, she spent considerable amount of time reviewing detailed invoices for the past three months to produce the UWP report by task. With the cumulative hours produced, all work products were provided in the document with links at the request of Springfield MPO. Each email blast is archived through Constant Contact, along with updating the MPO website with transportation related articles and notices of webinars and conferences. Ms. Perales briefed members of the report by task along with listing the work products.

Chairman Moore asked about the video conferencing capability and the time notice. Ms. Perales indicated IDOT needs a 3-hour notice for each video conference meeting. Mr. Moore further indicated with the new contract that invoices are very detailed to put the ILMPOAC in a better position for accountability and able to provide tangible evidence of tasks accomplished. He further reminded members that staff checks in with him at least once a week to discuss the weeks' workload before proceeding. Mr. Ernst appreciates the email blasts and asked for legislative updates to inform members of transportation related legislation. Ms. Perales responded she is reviewing statewide association legislative

newsletters and working on producing a template to provide timely updates to members once session begins.

Treasurer Kohlbus asked about public private partnerships (PPP) and hears that the federal government may avoid an increase in the gas tax if there is PPP legislation. He felt there was need to push capacity building and requested staff do some research on PPP. He asked Ms. McCullough, Chair of the Technical Committee if there has been any discussion on this topic. Ms. McCullough responded there has not been discussion of PPP, but of air quality and other training issues for staff. Chairman Moore asked if there was an interest in having an introduction to PPP discussion at the next IMPOAC meeting. PPP's don't necessarily lower the cost of the project but can help speed up the project delivery time. He suggested there are probably 6-7 case studies out there which have been reviewed. Mr. Kohler indicated a 3P association has sponsored a FHWA conference and they might be available for training on the topic.

Ms. Perales asked Treasurer Kohlbus about the details of the upcoming Transportation Symposium in Peoria. Treasurer Kohlbus informed members of the Symposium and encouraged members to attend. Chairman Moore requested staff be sent information on the conference so members can register.

## **VI. OLD BUSINESS**

### **CONGESTION MANAGEMENT USERS GROUP**

Mr. Ernst stated this was initially put on the agenda to solicit members of the need for such a users group statewide. However, there is a limited number of MPOs who are TMAs in Illinois. CMAP has indicated they are not interested in joining the group. The group will be meeting informally on this topic instead of meeting through the ILMPOAC.

### **LEGAL LIABILITY ISSUE**

Mr. Sims asked about the status of the liability issue. Chairman Moore stated this issue has been presented since ILMPOAC is not an incorporated entity and no longer affiliated with ILARC. Treasurer Kohlbus stated the consultant's contract is with Tri-County and somewhat by default is accepting legal liability of ILMPOAC. He further indicated they would be following up on this issue with their attorney since they are acting as the fiscal agent for the ILMPOAC. Chairman Moore will follow up with the Treasurer on this issue and additional insurance maybe acquired to address this issue.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **2010-2011 CALENDAR**

Ms. Perales presented the calendar to members at the request of Kankakee MPO. The calendar listed both ILMPOAC policy and committee meetings. No members voiced opposition to the dates.

### **METROPOLIS 2020 – TRANSPORTATION REPORT**

Jim Labelle from Metropolis 2020 provided an executive summary of the Chicago Metropolis 2020 report titled, 'Building Our Economy: Transportation for a New Illinois' to members. The report is statewide and was completed with the belief that transportation is a fundamental element of a strong state economy. The report reviews what transportation polices would best support not only support short-term construction, but long term and economic growth. The report indicates 93% of the gross product is in a third of the counties in Illinois and 87% of the population is in those areas. It further states most of the folks in the rural areas depend on strong metropolitan areas for access to healthcare, jobs, shopping, etc.

The report makes a number of recommendations including strengthening the collaboration between MPOs and IDOT. It further recommends development of freight authority because freight is a major component to the state's economy. They also recommend doubling the gas tax and indexing to inflation. With

inflation, the gas tax would be .33 to .44 cents today. Another recommendation includes utilizing a portion of the motor fuel tax not just be roads, but for transit in both rural and metropolitan areas.

Metropolis 2020 is a strong advocate for tolling, congestion and variable pricing to get better use out of our assets. They further recommend that any new expressway lane be tolled. The last recommendation is for township roads become a responsibility of counties. This can be accomplished by allowing the motor fuel tax, and township road bridge tax to go directly to counties to achieve more economy of scale.

Mr. Ernst appreciates the willingness of the organization to put the report together and some of the recommendations would be difficult to implement. He further indicated the need for more work in the passenger rail section to develop a more robust passenger rail policy. Mr. LaBelle responded they favor fast, frequent reliable service over high-speed rail. He further recommended better passenger rail connections. Chairman Moore indicated he not surprised by some of the recommendations that were in the report and thanked Mr. Labelle for his time and encouraged members to read the report.

Mr. LaBelle stated Chicago Metropolis 2020 is currently working on two pieces of legislation to be submitted for the spring session. The first is to provide some flexibility for motor fuel tax to use for transit and legislation to create the freight authority. Chairman Moore responded additional emphasis of freight movement in the next transportation reauthorization bill is likely.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Gordon Smith, Treasurer Kohlbuss and Chairman Moore felt it was necessary to reach out to the Governor's office, despite the election outcome to ensure they were aware of the concerns of the ILMPOAC. At both the state and national level, MPOs maybe asked to do more things, not just transportation planning but take into account natural resources and land use planning. Chairman Moore further stated that at the national level, entities want to encourage MPOs to plan and function in a variety of areas. However, there was also a real fear of the push to get rid of MPOs by some. Chairman Moore advised MPOs to be open to listening to future opportunities and threats to MPOs.

Mr. Soltau stated district engineers have been supportive and communicative. Ms. McCullough reported that the decision to increase the ozone threshold has been extended to late November. She informed members of a USEPA meeting at Bi-State Regional Planning Commission.

#### **IX. CALENDAR**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 7 with the location to be determined.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Moore entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Lammey. Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales

In attendance:

*Others:* FHWA, Jon-Paul Kohler; and Marta Perales, Illinois MPO Advisory Council. *Teleconference:* Jim LaBelle, Chicago Metropolis 2020.