



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAQ) CMAQ Project Selection Committee Minutes

Minutes – October 28, 2021

Via GoToMeeting

Members Present: Doug Ferguson (Chair, CMAP), Darwin Burkhart (IEPA), Mayor Gary Grasso (Council of Mayors), Mark Pitstick (RTA), Chris Schmidt (IDOT), Tom Rickert for Chris Snyder (Counties), Jeff Sriver (CDOT)

Staff Present: Teri Dixon, Kama Dobbs, Elliott Lewis, Jason Navota, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Mary Weber, Simone Weil

Others Present: Brian Carlson, Eric Czarnota, John Donovan, Jackie Forbes, Mike Fricano, Tony Greep, Kendra Johnson, Mike Klemens, Heidi Lichtenberger, Brittany Matyas, Leah Mooney, Ryan Peterson, Leslie Phemister, Jada Porter, Keith Privett, Tom Rickert, Brian Stepp, Joe Surdam, Sonali Tandon, David Tomzik

1.0 Call to Order

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

No agenda changes or announcements were presented.

3.0 Approval of Minutes— September 9, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Pitstick, seconded by Mayor Grasso, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2021 meeting as presented. A roll call vote was conducted:

<u>Aye</u>	Darwin Burkhart	<u>Aye</u>	Chris Schmidt
<u>Aye</u>	Doug Ferguson	<u>Aye</u>	Tom Rickert
<u>Aye</u>	Gary Grasso	<u>Aye</u>	Jeffrey Sriver
<u>Aye</u>	Mark Pitstick		

With all in favor, the motion carried.

4.0 Program Monitoring

4.1 Project Programming Status Sheets

Mr. Ferguson presented the program status sheets for active and deferred CMAQ and TAP-L funded projects.

4.2 **Programming Summary and Obligation Goal**

Mr. Ferguson presented the CMAQ obligation summary for federal fiscal year (FFY) 2021 and the CMAQ programming summary and obligation goal progress for FFY 2022. The region's cumulative CMAQ obligations for FFY 2021 were \$30.6 million on the federal fiscal year.

He observed that this is significantly lower than the obligation goal and the federal apportionment for the year. Mr. Ferguson noted there is \$77 million in Advance Construction (AC) for CMAQ, which, if the total had been converted, that the total obligation would have been nearer to the goal. To that end, staff will be increasing engagement with project sponsors to move phases towards obligation and is working with IDOT to manage CMAQ funds in the federal system and to convert funds with AC status.

5.0 **Project Changes**

5.1 **Committee Consideration**

Mr. Lewis presented two (2) project change requests for Committee consideration, which can be found in the project change request memo.

Mr. Ferguson invited Mr. Carlson to provide more detail on IDOT's IL 64 SMART Corridor project (TIP ID 13-19-0005) and request. Mr. Carlson explained that the Phase II Engineering and land acquisition cost estimates were based on a percentage assumption from Phase I Engineering report. The request reflects the actual engineering costs following selection of the consultant for Phase II Engineering.

Mr. Pitstick clarified that this is Phase II Engineering and not for Phase I. Mr. Carlson agreed and noted that IDOT funded Phase I Engineering. He explained the complexity of the project and how it is unique among more traditional roadway projects. Mr. Pitstick also highlighted that the project also has CMAQ funding for the Construction and Construction Engineering phases, but no change requests for those are presented at this time. Mr. Carlson agreed and said any future requests would be based on more accurate engineering estimates.

A motion was made by Mr. Rickert, and seconded by Mayor Grasso, to approve the project change requests. A roll call vote was conducted:

<u>Aye</u>	Darwin Burkhart	<u>Aye</u>	Chris Schmidt
<u>Aye</u>	Doug Ferguson	<u>Aye</u>	Tom Rickert
<u>Aye</u>	Gary Grasso	<u>Aye</u>	Jeffrey Sriver
<u>Aye</u>	Mark Pitstick		

With all in favor, the motion carried.

5.2 Administrative Modifications

No project change requests were submitted that were eligible for administrative modification by CMAP staff.

6.0 CMAQ/TAP-L Project Status Update Procedures

Mr. Ferguson introduced a proposal to alter project status update procedures from a semi-annual reporting basis to a quarterly basis, with updates due every March, June, September, and December. He explained that this aligns with existing practice used by the STP-Shared Fund program. The change is intended to standardize and streamline reporting requirements for sponsors and provide more current project information to aid the Committee and CMAP staff in active program management.

Mr. Rickert observed that with longer agreement processing times contributing to project delays, the move to a quarterly basis may not offer much more information than biannual updates. He did state that he was not opposed to the measure.

Mr. Ferguson agreed, however he noted that more frequent updates would allow for more flexible active program management from a programming perspective. He invited Ms. Dobbs to share her experience with similar status update procedures with the Surface Transportation Program.

Mr. Privett asked if the new system would reduce redundancies in updates. Mr. Ferguson replied that this is the intent.

A motion was made by Mr. Pitstick, and seconded by Mr. Schmidt, to approve changes to the CMAQ/TAP-L project status update procedures. A roll call vote was conducted:

<u>Aye</u>	Darwin Burkhart	<u>Aye</u>	Chris Schmidt
<u>Aye</u>	Doug Ferguson	<u>Aye</u>	Tom Rickert
<u>Aye</u>	Gary Grasso	<u>Aye</u>	Jeffrey Sriver
<u>Aye</u>	Mark Pitstick		

With all in favor, the motion carried.

7.0 FY 2022-2026 Program Development – Next Call

Mr. Ferguson invited the Committee to discuss the FFY 2022-2026 program development process and to offer ideas for improvements on the project analysis, evaluation criteria, and the development process in general.

Mr. Pitstick asked Ms. Tandon with CTA to share the Agency's comments and critiques of this call for projects and evaluation process. The main points raised surrounded limitations of the scoring criteria concerning large transit projects. Ms. Tandon invited Ms. Mooney to elaborate on the agency's comments, who explained that the scale of such projects may add complexity to the cost benefit analyses when compared to smaller applications. Ms. Mooney provided several potential modifications to consider for the next call for projects.

Mr. Privett observed how the project scoring is reported as one program and offered that it would be helpful to show scores relative to other projects by project type for a more informative context. As it stands, the composite scores are presented together despite different scoring criteria for each project type category.

Mr. Ferguson remarked that staff will be reviewing comments and all aspects of program development and welcomed any additional input moving forward.

8.0 2022 Meeting Schedule

Mr. Ferguson presented the proposed meeting dates for calendar year 2022. He explained the addition of the December 2, 2021 meeting was added to allow sponsors to submit any change requests that could be approved ahead of the March 2022 letting. He stressed that these dates are flexible and may need to be changed in the future depending on circumstances. Committee members were amenable to the proposed schedule. Staff will send meeting invitations to Committee members.

9.0 Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

10.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

11.0 Other Business

In response to soliciting public comments, Mr. Pitstick observed there doesn't appear to be a hand raise function on GoToMeeting. Mr. Ferguson said he would make a note and, for future meetings, emphasize that if anyone has a comment, they can use the chat function.

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Elliott Lewis