

**North Shore Council of Mayors Technical Committee
Wednesday, March 19, 2008
8:30 a.m.
Skokie Village Hall**

MINUTES

Members Present:

Fred Schattner, Chair, Village of Skokie
Erik Cook, Village of Skokie
Brigitte Mayerhofer, Village of Wilmette
Sat Nagar, City of Evanston
Susan Chen, Village of Winnetka
Chris Tomich, Village of Northbrook
Russ Jensen, Village of Glenview
Ryan Gillingham, Village of Morton Grove

Others Present:

Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway
Steve Miskowicz, RM Chin & Assoc.
Holly Ostdick, CMAP
Chris Rose, Pace
Thomas Gill, Thomas Engineering Group, LLC
Janet Bright, CMAP
Rodney Bettenhausen, CCHD
Alex Househ, IDOT
Kevin Stallworth, IDOT
Chris Holt, IDOT
Ken Nelson, Clark Dietz, Inc.
Steve Mastny, IDOT-PD
Salvatori Dibernardo, Ciorba Group
Bob Israel, MACTEC Engineering
Moe Javadi, Bloom Company
Chris Staron, Northwest Municipal Conference

I. Call to Order

Chair Schattner called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. He invited those in attendance to introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2007

Chair Schattner asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 19, 2007. Mr. Gillingham moved for approval. Mr. Nagar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

III. Agency Reports

A. Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)

Ms. Bright gave an update of the activities at CMAP. She passed out a postcard for “How to Seal the Deal: Development Incentives,” which is being held on March 31. She reported that CMAP is working on establishing a process for reviewing Developments of Regional Importance (DRI). She noted that the process is still in development. She assured the council that municipal input would be sought in the process. Ms. Bright reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met in February and approved advanced funding for projects in the North Shore. She deferred further comment on advanced funding due to the fact that it was a separate agenda item. Ms. Bright informed the committee that the Regional Comprehensive Plan has been branded “Go To 2040” and has a separate website within CMAP’s website: <http://www.goto2040.org/>. She informed the committee that the website is interactive and she encouraged the committee to engage and provide feedback.

B. IDOT Local Roads

Mr. Househ provided an update for IDOT Local Roads. He distributed the new status sheet for the North Shore STP projects. He noted that there were not a large number of changes. He reported that Chestnut/Waukegan, Greenwood/Glenview, and Church/Skokie have new estimated design approval dates. Chair Schattner asked about the Church/Crawford estimated design approval. Mr. Househ stated that the draft PDR is in Springfield and that July is only an estimate. If the review proceeds without any issues, design approval could potentially occur earlier.

C. IDOT Highways

Mr. Mastny provided two status sheets (Management Monitoring Schedule and Awarded Projects) of projects in the North Shore. He reported that three projects have been awarded since the last meeting. IL-21 (Milwaukee Ave) at the Union Pacific Railroad in Glenview, which is a bridge beam replacement and new deck project, was awarded 2/5/08. IL-68 (Dundee Rd) from east of Skokie Rd to Forestway Dr in Northbrook and Glencoe, which is a resurfacing and traffic signal modernization project, was awarded 2/15/08. Emerson St over the North Shore Channel in Evanston and Skokie, which is a bridge replacement, was also awarded 2/15/08. He further reported that there could be some big changes to the monitoring schedule depending on legislation. He expects that he will have a better idea of the changes for the June meeting.

Mr. Mastny acknowledge that the winter has been hard on the roads and that IDOT is awarding regional patching contracts for distressed roadways that do not have resurfacing work scheduled. He reported that the

selection of these roadways is substantially complete. He stated that there is also a day labor program and an “AARP” program that will address some of the problems.

D. Cook County Highway Department (CCHD)

Mr. Bettenhausen provided a status sheet with updates of Cook County projects within the North Shore. He reported that Lee Rd. from Walters Ave. to Dundee Rd. and Walters Ave. from Waukegan Rd. to Lee Rd. are scheduled for letting April 3. He stated that the Cook County Highway Department is currently developing their program and encourages input from municipalities.

E. Pace

Ms. Rose reminded the committee that at the last meeting, Pace and RTA were in the midst of a funding crisis. She reported that Pace does not expect any service enhancement this year because new revenues from the transit legislation will not start coming in until later this year.

F. Illinois Tollway

Ms. Anderson distributed a map and fact sheets regarding the construction on the Tri-State (I-294/94). She reported that the completion of the north section of the Tri-State is scheduled for completion in 2010, and the completion of construction on the central Tri-State is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2009. She explained that the next two and a half to three years are going to be challenging, but the system will be much improved. She encouraged the committee members to sign-up for construction alerts for relevant corridors.

IV. North Shore Council of Mayors FFY 08-13 Surface Transportation Program

Mr. Staron presented the latest Surface Transportation Program (STP) spreadsheet for the North Shore program. He reported that the only changes reflected were that advanced funding was approved for the Austin Ave. LAPP project and the Golf Rd./Skokie Blvd. ROW acquisition. He stated he has tried to remain in frequent contact with those communities that have projects in FFY 08, which is important as the North Shore Council proceeds with advanced funding and actively manages the program. He noted that he would explain more in later agenda items. He reported that after today, all projects in FFY 08 and FFY 09 will have had kick-off meetings.

V. Advanced Funding Status

Mr. Staron reiterated the point that the Austin Ave. LAPP and Golf Rd./ Skokie Blvd. ROW acquisition received advanced funding approval and the Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting in February. He reported that the committee approved seeking advanced funding for all projects in FFY 08; however, after discussions with CMAP and IDOT staff, it was recommended that only projects that are “ready” be submitted for advanced funding. He stated that

Mr. Schattner and he had difficulty defining when ROW was considered ready to seek advanced funding. He drew the committee's attention to Attachment C, which outlines the estimated dates for advanced funding. He noted that for ROW or Phase II Engineering to seek advanced funding, the project must already have design approval. He reported that because the North Shore Council already approved seeking advanced funding for all FFY 08 projects, all they need to do is submit a letter/request to the Council of Mayors Executive Committee. He noted that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee's officers can approve advanced funding between meetings. He stated that this should prevent an unnecessary project delays. Ms. Bright indicated that the next Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting will probably be in May.

On a larger scale, Mr. Staron noted that the region is still attempting to spend down its balance from SAFETEA-LU. He indicated that this is a good thing for the North Shore's future advanced funding requests.

VI. Active Program Management

Mr. Staron indicated that the advanced funding scheduling works hand in hand with Active Program Management. He reported that because the region is attempting to spend down its balance, it means that accurate project schedules are necessary to seek advanced funding. In addition, he noted that the other councils of mayors are actively looking to spend down their balances. He indicated that other councils currently have unspent balances. He highlighted the funding handout passed out by CMAP staff that highlights the amount of projects programmed in the next two years. He also reported that state appropriations currently will not cover the programmed projects. He stated that IDOT is confident that projects will not be delayed because of state appropriations, but he wanted to make the committee aware of the situation. Mr. Staron informed the committee that Ms. Ostdick put together the funding sheet and could answer any questions about the information presented. He stated that with the federal legislation coming to an end, he wants to make the committee aware of potential issues that would affect the North Shore program.

VII. Village of Glenview Functional Classification Request

Mr. Jensen explained the functional classification request, which is for newly constructed roadways in the Glen development. Mr. Staron provided background of the request. He reported that the committee approved a similar request in 2006, but issues arose with IDOT's review. It has taken some time to hammer out all the details, but Mr. Jensen and Mr. Staron are confident that the resolution and request is correct this time. Mr. Jensen was asked what the reason for the request is, and he responded that the projected traffic and possibility of federal funding is the reason for the request. He acknowledged that these roadways are new and should not need work in the near future. Mr. Jensen was asked what the projected traffic of Patriot was going to be and he said over 20,000 ADT. He was asked how built out the Glen is, and he said roughly 90%.

Chair Schattner asked for a motion to approve Glenview's Functional Classification Request. Ms. Mayerhofer moved for approval. Mr. Nagar seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

VIII. National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Final Report

Mr. Staron reported that the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission released their final report in January. He reported that the commission was established under SAFETEA-LU to study the next transportation legislation. Mr. Staron explained that SAFETEA-LU expires at the end of FFY 09 and that the Highway Trust Fund is expected to go bankrupt by then. He indicated that the commission's report made recommendation for reforming the federal transportation system and for funding it. He highlighted the major reforms as streamlining the federal transportation programs from over 100 to 10, speeding up project delivery, increased performance measurement and accountability. He reported that the recommendation that received the most press was a major increase in the gas tax of up to \$.40 over the next five years, and then tied to inflation. Mr. Staron noted that the last transportation legislation operated on various continuing resolutions, so it is unclear when the new legislation will actually be passed.

Mr. Staron further reported that the report was not unanimous and that three of the twelve commission members dissented; most notably the Secretary of Transportation. Mr. Staron reported that she wanted less federal involvement, more public/private partnerships, and more direct roadway pricing.

Mr. Staron stated that no one believes that an STP-like program will not be included in the new legislation; however, he wanted to let the committee know that discussion and activity on the new legislation is ramping up. He informed the committee that CMAP recently distributed a summary of the commission report at their Board meeting. He reported that he would be happy to forward it to those interested in seeing a summary without reading the over 200 page report.

IX. Other Business

Mr. Staron reported that a number of grant programs are accepting applications through IDOT's Division of Traffic Safety. He stated that grant programs range from mobile crash reporting to Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety (PBS). The deadline for applications is April 3. He recommended finding more information about these grant programs online at: <http://www.dot.il.gov/grants.html>. He informed the committee that he would forward the information about the grants to the committee.

X. 2008 Meeting Dates

Chair Schattner informed the committee that the 2008 meeting schedule was attached to the agenda packet. He noted that the next committee meeting is Wednesday, June 18.

X1. Adjournment

Mr. Nagar moved to adjourn. Ms. Mayerhofer seconded the motion, which passed unanimously at 9:20 a.m.