

TO: Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee
FROM: Mike Walczak, Program Manager for Transportation
RE: March 20, 2009 Meeting Minutes
DATE: May 8, 2009

The Northwest Council of Mayors Technical Committee met on Friday, March 20, 2009 at Arlington Heights Village Hall. The following persons were in attendance:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

President Arlene J. Mulder, Chair
Reid Ottesen
Ken Fritz
Jim Norris
Mike Janonis
Ray Rummel
Sharon Caddigan
Mayor Ken Nelson

REPRESENTING

Village of Arlington Heights
Village of Palatine
Village of Schaumburg
Village of Hoffman Estates
Village of Mount Prospect
Elk Grove Village
Village of Streamwood
City of Rolling Meadows

OTHERS PRESENT

Matt Barry
Patricia Berry
Rodney Bettenhausen
Alan Boffice
Akram Chaudhry
Mike Danecki
Thomas Gill
Mike Hankey
Jerry Heimsoth
Alex Househ
Mike Kozar
Michael Litwin
Brian Lovering
Steve Mastny
Tim Merrihew
Mike Pagonis
Bob Pilat
Brian Plum
Jason Souden
Kevin Stallworth
Fred Vogt
Mike Walczak

REPRESENTING

Village of Palatine
CMAP
Cook County Highway Department
Elk Grove Village
SEC Group, Inc.
Village of Palatine
Thomas Engineering Group
Village of Hoffman Estates
Ciorba Group
IDOT – Local Roads
Village of Bartlett
Village of Schaumburg
Elk Grove Village
IDOT – Programming
Village of Wheeling
Village of Arlington Heights
Village of Niles
Traffic Control Corp.
Christopher Burke
IDOT – Local Roads
City of Rolling Meadows
NWMC

I. Call to Order

The Chair, President Arlene Mulder of the Village of Arlington Heights, called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

II. Agency Reports**a. CMAP Report**

Ms. Berry summarized CMAP's efforts to track the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), and urged all those interested to visit the CMAP website and sign up for e-mail updates. The Council of Mayors has approved the splits for the ARRA funds, using the existing formulas. She distributed an expenditure report which outlined STP balances for each regional council, noting that the region as a whole has done very well this year, but that the Northwest Council has a large unspent balance. She also reported that CMAP is collecting information on why projects across the region have been delayed.

b. CATS Council of Mayors Executive Committee

Ms. Berry noted that most of this report was given in her CMAP report, but added that the regional project which the City of Chicago will likely propose to receive ARRA funding in conjunction with the Council of Mayors is a resurfacing of Congress Parkway. President Mulder reminded the committee that five percent of the regional STP total must go to a regional project agreed upon by the City of Chicago and the Council of Mayors.

c. IDOT Highways Report

Mr. Mastny distributed updated status sheets and highlighted new and awarded projects. The sheets were mostly unchanged except for the addition of projects receiving ARRA funding. The ARRA funds allowed IDOT to move numerous projects up from out years, and will be placed on special lettings in April. This included a notoriously bad section of Touhy Avenue. All of the projects using ARRA funds were moved from the "B" list.

d. IDOT Local Roads Update

Mr. Stallworth provided an updated status of all current projects on his status sheets. The committee discussed the difficulty of dealing with railroads in STP projects, since they tend to wait until projects are well developed before commenting, often sending the project back several steps. Mr. Ottesen said that getting them to the table early is key. Mr. Househ recommended inviting the railroad or the ICC to any kickoff meeting involving a project with railroad issues.

e. Cook County Highway Department

Mr. Bettenhausen provided an update on Cook County Highway projects within the Northwest Council.

III. NW Council FY 08-13 Surface Transportation Program

The committee held a lengthy discussion on strategies that could be used to spend down the Council's considerable unspent STP balance. Mr. Norris pointed out that Councils

such as Lake and DuPage have far exceeded their annual allotment of funds, while the Northwest Council has struggled to spend their allotment, despite the great needs in the Council and many projects on the “B” list. The committee agreed that the goal should be to borrow from other councils every year.

Strategies which were suggested include overprogramming of STP funds to allow for a quick replacement of a delayed project, more actively encouraging projects to move up from the “B” list and pursuing more lighting projects which can quickly move through the federal process. Funding of Phase II engineering was also discussed as a way to spend more funds while also providing a tool for projects which have languished on the “B” list to move forward. The committee asked Mr. Walczak to look at how other councils handle Phase II Engineering and what the potential impact could be on the Council’s program.

A motion to consider allowing funding for Phase II engineering at the next meeting was made by Mayor Nelson, seconded by Ms. Caddigan and approved unanimously.

Consideration was also given to funding lighting and/or bike projects at a 90/10 ratio, but Mr. Househ pointed out that 80/20 was the minimum local match required for STP.

Changes to Current Program

a. A cost increase requested by Elk Grove Village for right-of-way acquisition for its Devon Avenue at Arlington Heights Road intersection improvement project from \$185,000 to \$317,715 was approved on a motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Mr. Ottesen.

b. A cost increase requested by Hanover Park for construction of its National Gas Pipeline Bike Path project from \$371,174 to \$424,198 under the new matching ratio of 80/20 for bicycle projects for was approved on a motion by Mr. Ottesen, seconded by Mayor Nelson.

c. A cost increase requested by the Village of Schaumburg for construction of its Wright Boulevard reconstruction project from \$2,500,000 to \$3,500,000 and a request that the project be moved from FY 2011 to FY 2010 was approved on a motion by Mr. Ottesen, seconded by Mayor Nelson.

IV. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funding

Mr. Walczak stated that the CMAP MPO Policy Committee approved the sub-allocation of ARRA funds through the Council of Mayors system using existing funding splits. Under this formula, the Northwest Council has received \$13,025,780 in ARRA funds. Projects using ARRA must be on IDOT’s March 2010 letting at the latest and meet all requirements of typical federal projects. He presented a summary list of projects which he had received applications for along with the staff recommendation for which projects should receive ARRA funds. The staff recommendation was based on a number of factors, including an attempt to avoid replacing existing federal funds with ARRA funds, trying to supplement existing STP projects, and on project readiness. He noted that he

recommended projects which could be on the January letting at the latest. Twenty-five projects from eight municipalities were considered for funding, and all eight municipalities received funds for at least one project. Those projects which were not selected can still pursue STP funding, and will be considered in the next call for projects. If these projects continue on the same schedule, they may be eligible for ARRA funds if a selected project is delayed and must be replaced.

Mr. Norris asked if there were any right-of-way issues with any of the proposed ARRA projects. Mr. Walczak responded that Schaumburg's Wright Blvd project has some corner takes needed. Mr. Ottesen said that they must acquire a number of properties for their intersection improvement project, but all of the land owners that they are negotiating with are willing sellers. Mr. Danecki added that they are working with the Union Pacific and ComEd on rail and utility issues.

The recommended program of ARRA projects was approved on a motion by Mr. Norris, seconded by Ms. Caddigan.

V. Hoffman Estates – Hassell Road, Jones Road, and Hillcrest Boulevard Redesignations

A resolution supporting the redesignation was approved on a motion by Mr. Fritz and seconded by Ms. Caddigan.

VI. Other Business

The Committee held a discussion on the pros and cons of red light cameras.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday May 8th at 8:30 a.m. at Arlington Heights Village Hall.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. on a motion by Ms. Caddigan, seconded by Mr. Rummel.