

**TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 28, 2010**

**9:00 a.m.**

**NWMC Offices**

**1616 East Golf Road**

**Des Plaines, IL 60016**

**Members Present:**

Kerry Cummings, Co-Chair, President, Village of Glenview  
Jeff Berman, Trustee, Village of Buffalo Grove  
Sandy Frum, President, Village of Northbrook  
Louella Preston, Trustee, Village of Niles  
Al Larson, Mayor, Village of Schaumburg  
Tim Oakley, Director of Public Works and Engineering, City of Des Plaines  
Brian Kozminski, Trustee, Village of Northfield  
Ken Nelson, Co-Chair, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows  
Arlene J. Mulder, Mayor, Village of Arlington Heights  
Bill McLeod, President, Village of Hoffman Estates  
Mike Janonis, Village Manager, Village of Mount Prospect  
Jim Wallace, Deputy Village Manager, Village of Barrington  
George Van Dusen, Mayor, Village of Skokie

**Others Present:**

Amanda Goski, Village of Mundelein  
Bruce Christensen, Lake County DOT  
Rick Mack, Metra  
Earl D. Dunn, IDOT  
Bill Baltutis, TMA of Lake Cook  
Andy Plummer, RTA  
June Johnson, Village of Schaumburg  
Mike Pagones, Village of Arlington Heights  
Ylda Capriccioso, CMAP  
Emmett Talkington, Village of Mundelein  
Heather Rowe, Village of Libertyville  
Kitty Weiner, Congressman Peter Roskam's Office  
Chris Staron, NWMC  
Mike Walczak, NWMC  
Larry Widmer, NWMC

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Approval of the December 17, 2009 Meeting Minutes**

*The December 17, 2009 meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Mayor Nelson, seconded by Trustee Berman.*

**III. CMAP Comprehensive Planning Fund**

Ms. Capriccioso reported that CMAP is looking for support in the form of resolutions for funding of the Comprehensive Planning Fund. Trustee Preston asked if the fund also supported NIPC. Ms. Capriccioso responded that the fund was created with CMAP to fund the planning activities of CMAP. Mr. Walczak said that NIPC had to find funding sources and relied much more on local contributions. Mayor Larson said that the fund was created to provide a stable funding source for CMAP. Mr. Oakley asked where else the funding goes. Ms. Capriccioso responded that the fund is used to support the planning activities of all the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations. *On a motion from Mayor Van Dusen, seconded by Trustee Berman, the resolution passed unanimously.*

#### **IV. Metra North Central Service**

Mr. Walczak reported that increasing service on the Metra North Central Line has long been a goal of the communities surrounding the line. He explained that the TMA of Lake-Cook along with NWMC members, such as Buffalo Grove, Vernon Hills and Libertyville are asking that the NWMC support a push for Metra to increase service on the line. Trustee Berman said that the North Central Line has been running limited service since its inception. He noted that Metra is constrained by capacity issues on the line and freight traffic with the CN railroad. He informed the committee that he is looking for support to start a dialogue with Metra and CN. Mr. Oakley noted that the line is also constrained by the S-curve through Des Plaines. Trustee Berman added that there is only a single track north of Mundelein as well. He said that CN is beginning to run less trains on the line due both to the purchase of the EJ&E and the current economy. Mr. Baltutis said that the limits to service are not only community issue, but also a business issue. He explained that there is only one reverse commute train, and it does not accommodate early start times. He said that the shuttle service from the train line to employers has been discontinued because it did not have the ridership to sustain service. Ms. Rowe said that Libertyville sees the train line as an economic development tool to attract employment; however without adequate reverse commute trains, business development is limited. She noted that she recognizes the constraints of Metra and the line. Mr. Mack said that limited service on the North Central Line is a result of funding and capacity constraints. He recognized that the reverse commute is an issue, but that Metra is limited by the capacity of its yards. He told the committee that he thinks starting a discussion and laying out the desires and constraints is a good thing. He said that Phil Pagano believes that any changes are probably at least three years away. Mr. Berman said that CN appears willing to have a dialogue and he wants to seize the opportunity while CN is willing to bargain. He further said that he wants to set the stage for when the conditions are right to expand service. Mayor Mulder said that Metra is getting requests from all over the region to increase service and start new service. Mayor Larson said that it advocacy should also be directed towards CMAP. Mayor Mulder said that specific figures will be helpful when advocating for the line. Trustee Preston said that she was surprised that there is no weekend service on the line. Trustee Berman said that it is disappointing that there is no weekend service because the line connects to O'Hare and without weekend service it is difficult to use the line for that purpose.

Chair Cummings asked what the next steps are for the NWMC. She asked if a resolution in support of expanding service is appropriate. There was consensus among

the committee to proceed in this direction and staff was directed to prepare a resolution for the February meeting.

**V. CMAP Major Capital Projects Evaluation**

Mr. Walczak reported that CMAP has completed the initial evaluation of major capital projects for the Go To 2040 regional comprehensive plan. He said that the project evaluated were submitted as part of previous plans or for the first time under this plan. He explained that major capital projects are expressway extensions, new transit lines or other projects of a similar scope. He said that the evaluation looks at things such as congestion reduction, air quality, transit trips and economic production. He reported that CMAP must include major capital projects in the regional plan within a fiscal constraint. He informed the committee that CMAP is not projecting to have a lot of revenue available for major capital projects. He said that projects cannot proceed to more detailed engineering unless they are included in the regional comprehensive plan. Mr. Staron said that CMAP plans to move forward by creating sets or groups of projects that support the adopted regional vision and preferred regional scenario. He noted that the STAR Line scored very well in the evaluation. The committee discussed the NWMC priority projects that CMAP is evaluating.

**VI. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**

Mr. Staron reported that the North Shore Council has obligated 100% of its ARRA funding. He said that the council has roughly \$500,000 in leftover ARRA funding that can be programmed in a six-month grace period starting in March. He said that the North Shore Technical Committee met yesterday to recommend programming the leftover funding towards three B-List projects. Mr. Walczak said that the Northwest Council is also 100% obligated and is anticipating over \$1 million in leftover ARRA funding. He said that the Northwest Technical Committee will meet in early February to program the leftover funding. Mr. Christensen reported that Lake County is 100% obligated and are anticipating roughly \$3 million in leftover funding that will be programmed on B-List projects.

Mr. Staron reported that Illinois is receiving over \$1 billion in High Speed Rail funding that is being announced today. He said that the funding will support improvements on the rail line between Chicago and St. Louis and Chicago and Detroit. He noted that a flyover that is part of CREATE received funding to aide the high speed rail to Detroit. He further reported that Wisconsin received funding for high speed rail between Madison and Milwaukee and upgrades on the line between Milwaukee and Chicago. Mr. Staron noted that Illinois received the third highest total of any state. He said that staff is considering having a speaker to come in and talk about the impacts of high speed rail for the region.

**VII. CMAP Report**

Ms. Capriccioso said that she brought STP and ARRA expenditure reports to distribute.

**VIII. Other Business**

Mr. Plummer reported that RTA is currently owed roughly \$250 million from the state. He said that sales tax continues to be low. He reported that RTA will be lobbying in Springfield for the repeal of the free-rides for seniors program. He said that the program is unsustainable. He also noted that RTA will be seeking more short-term bonding

authority in order to handle the problems with state payments. Mayor Larson asked if the senior fare would revert back to the reduced fare. Mr. Plummer responded that RTA is suggesting the old reduced fare, which still gives seniors a dramatic discount. He informed the committee that RTA estimates that the program is costing the system roughly \$30 million.

**IX. Next Meeting**

Chair Cummings informed the committee that the next scheduled meeting date is February 25 at 9:00 a.m. at the NWMC offices.

**X. Adjournment**

*A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved on a motion from Mayor Van Dusen, seconded by Mayor Larson.*