Northwest Municipal Conference
Transportation Committee
Thursday, November 30, 2017
8:30 a.m.
NWMC Offices
1600 East Golf Road, Suite 0700 Des Plaines

AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Approval of October 26, 2017 Meeting Minutes (Attachment A)
   Action requested: Approval of minutes

III. Illinois Tollway 2018 Budget and Project Update
    Rocco Zucchero, Illinois Tollway Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning, will update
    the committee on the Tollway’s 2018 proposed budget and upcoming projects of
    interest in the NWMC area.
    Action requested: Informational

IV. RTA Regional Transit Strategic Plan (Attachment B)
    Andy Plummer, Regional/Municipal Consultant for the Regional Transportation
    Authority (RTA), will present the agency’s 2018-2023 Regional Transit Strategic Plan,
    which outlines capital investments in the region’s transit system over the next five
    years.
    Action requested: Informational

V. CMAP Update
    An update on relevant activities from CMAP’s committees will be provided.
    Action requested: Informational

VI. Agency Reports

VII. Other Business

VIII. Next Meeting
    The next meeting is scheduled for December 21, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. at NWMC offices.

IX. Adjourn
Members Present:
Rod Craig, President, Village of Hanover Park, Co-Chair
Bob Benton, Trustee, Village of Deerfield
Jeff Berman, Trustee, Village of Buffalo Grove
Jeff Brady, Director of Planning, Village of Glenview
Sean Dorsey, Director of Public Works, Village of Mount Prospect
Peter Falcone, Assistant to the Administrator, City of Prospect Heights
Matt Farmer, Village Engineer, Village of Northbrook
Tim Frenzer, Village Manager, Village of Wilmette
Bob Israel, Trustee, Village of Northbrook
Mark Janeck, Director of Public Works, Village of Wheeling
Ray Keller, Village Manager, Village of Lake Zurich
Al Larson, President, Village of Schaumburg
Anne Marrin, Village Administrator, Village of Fox Lake
Matt Roan, Deputy Village Manager, Elk Grove Village
Greg Summers, Director of Development Services, Village of Barrington

Others Present:
Steve Andrews, Pace
Vicky Czuprynski, Illinois Tollway
Tavis Farmer, IDOT
Jane Grover, CMAP
Tim Grzesiakowski, TMA of Lake-Cook
Rick Mack, Metra
Brian Pigeon, NWMC
Andy Plummer, RTA
Katelyn Rentería, Metra
Karyn Robles, Village of Schaumburg
Mike Walczak, NWMC

I. Call to Order
Co-Chair Craig called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. and had those present provide introductions.

II. Approval of September 28, 2017 Meeting Minutes
On a motion made by Mr. Frenzer, seconded by Trustee Israel, the committee voted to approve the September 28, 2017 meeting minutes.

III. Metra 2018 Budget
Mr. Mack informed the committee that Metra representatives, including Chairman Norm Carlson, will be at the November 8th NWMC Board meeting. He then discussed the proposed 2018 budget, which uses a
combination of fare increases and service cuts to close a $45 million deficit. The deficit was caused by a combination of lower sales tax revenues, state funding cuts, Positive Train Control (PTC) costs, higher staff costs and more workers telecommuting. He outlines the fare increases and service cuts, including to the Milwaukee North and North Central Service (NCS) in the NWMC area. Trustee Benton asked if freight railroads were paying a share of the PTC costs. Mr. Mack responded that they pay a much lower share on Metra lines due to lower volume and speeds of freight trains compared to Metra. Trustee Israel asked if Metra has pursued other funding sources. Mr. Mack said they have sought TIGER grants for capital projects, but they really need a more sustainable regional source and the current board are committed to finding the right formula. Trustee Berman asked how the four lines with service cuts were chosen. President Craig responded that it was based on ridership numbers and where the opportunity existed to combine trains. Trustee Berman noted that the NCS is underserved as it is and Metra had committed to adding those trains in 2006. Trustee Israel asked what the next steps are for Metra. Mr. Mack replied that they are looking at regional commuting trends and may make future service adjustments based on their findings. Trustee Berman said he would provide President Craig with information on previous service commitments by Metra on the NCS.

IV. Pace 2018 Budget
Mr. Andrews discussed the agency’s 2018 budget, which will recommend the first fare increase since 2009. The increase is needed due to cuts in state funding. Hearings on the budget are done and it will now go to the RTA for their approval. He also provided updates on the I-90 and Edens express bus services and Pulse Milwaukee and Dempster lines as well as the North Shore restructuring initiative. President Craig asked if there was a fee for using park-and-ride lots and who maintains them. Mr. Andrews responded that there is no fee and that maintenance is done by Pace.

V. IDOT 2018 Highway Improvement Program
Mr. Farmer outlined the impacts of a $300 million statewide budget cut to IDOT’s upcoming program. 124 miles of projects and 22 bridges are being deferred, including $112 million in projects in District One. He outlines the projects in the NWMC area which will be impacted. Mr. Summers asked if projects with written commitments from IDOT would continue. Mr. Farmer responded that it may go forward if other projects see lower than expected costs. President Craig asked if projects currently underway will continue and Mr. Farmer said they would.

VI. Surface Transportation Program (STP) Programming Update
Mr. Walczak announced that the STP agreement had been finalized and that the councils will now begin working towards updating their programs and methodologies. A new project selection committee for the Shared Regional Fund is being formed and will meet early in 2018 to develop a scoring system and active program management rules.

VII. Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee Update
Mr. Walczak announced that NWMC had received a Local Technical Assistance (LTA) grant for an updated Multimodal Transportation Plan from CMAP. The project does not yet have a set timetable, but the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee will act as the project’s steering committee with regular reports to the Transportation Committee.

VIII. CMAP Update
Ms. Grover congratulated NWMC on its LTA grant and announced that CMAQ and TAP grants had also been announced.
IX. Agency Reports

Mr. Plummer reported that the RTA Regional Transit Strategic Plan will be released soon and he will give a full presentation at next month’s meeting. He provided a preview, noting that the region’s transit system has the best operating cost per mile of peer agencies but our capital infrastructure is not being maintained or invested in.

Mr. Grzesiakowski noted that information from the TMA’s October meeting was now up on its website.

Mr. Czuprynski said the Illinois Tollway is starting to see the first impact of the new “Smart Road” technology in the I-90 corridor, including statistics on incident management and how often Pace is using the Flex Lanes. She also announced a kickoff event for the opening of IL 390.

X. Other Business

Mr. Walczak presented a draft letter to support a biodiesel tax credit from Representative Peter Roskam’s office. The letter was approved on a motion from Trustee Berman, seconded by Mr. Roan.

XI. Next Meeting

Co-Chair Craig reported that the next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 30, 2017.

XII. Adjournment

On a motion by Trustee Berman, seconded by Trustee Israel, the committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 a.m.
Draft Policy Statements

Provide attractive, cost effective travel options
Advocate for region-wide policies and pricing strategies
Control costs and seek opportunities to increase dedicated revenues
Focus limited resources on making targeted investments and increase transit speeds
Adapt to the future

Draft Vision

Convenience, reliability and affordability as the core of the Chicago region’s robust transportation mobility network.

Draft Goals

Goal 1: Deliver value on investment
Provide value for the investment that is ready being made on our system. Seek additional funding while making it clear how we will spend the funds and demonstrated the outcomes.

Goal 2: Build on the strengths of our system
Provide faster and more reliable buses, better connections and more modern amenities. We must focus the limited funding in major markets which have been identified as:

Chicago CBD
Suburban Cook County
South Side of Chicago
North Side of Chicago
Suburban Job Clusters

Goal 3: Stay competitive
The number of millennials is increasing but so are the number of residents over 65. These demographics and advances in mobility technologies are have an impact on transportation choices. These new mobility choices could have a positive effect on our most costly services such as Para transit and shuttle services if we can partner with them. However these same technologies are competing for riders and curb space with transit service in the densely populated areas of the Chicago CBD and north side. We need to be flexible to operate in this environment and seek regulatory or taxing relief if it threatens bus performance.