

# LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

## Minutes of April 19, 2018 Transportation Committee Meeting at the Lake County Division of Transportation

### Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Leon Rockingham	Mayor	North Chicago
Karen Daulton Lange	Village Administrator	Lake Barrington
Michael Talbett	Chief Village Officer	Kildeer
Shane Schneider	County Engineer	Lake County
Maria Lasday	Village Administrator	Bannockburn
David Kilbane	Village Administrator	Round Lake Beach
Clay Johnson	Village Administrator	Lindenhurst
Barbara Little	Director of Public Works/Engineering	Deerfield
Bob Phillips	Dep. Dir. of Public Works/Engineering	Deerfield
Tyler Dickinson	Staff Engineer	Deerfield
Paul Kendzior	Director of Public Works	Libertyville
Kealan Noonan	Director of Public Works	Fox Lake
Ed Wilmes	Director of Public Works	North Chicago
Erika Frable	Director of Public Works/ Village Engineer	Hawthorn Woods
Darren Monico	Village Engineer	Buffalo Grove
Kyle Johnson	Civil Engineer	Buffalo Grove
Mike Brown	Director of Public Works	Lake Zurich
Ramesh Kanapareddy	Director of Public Works	Highland Park
Jeff Hansen	Village Engineer	Lake Bluff
Linda Soto	Pace Board/ Executive Director	Pace Bus/LCTA
Tim Dilsaver	Community Relations Representative	Pace Bus
Alex Househ	Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Gerardo Fiero	Assistant Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Katie Herdus	Area Programmer	IDOT Programming
Rick Mack	Community Relations Representative	Metra
Katie Renteria	Community Relations Representative	Metra
Kevin Carrier	Dir. Of Planning and Programming	LCDOT
Barbara Zubek	Associate Planner	CMAP
Emily Karry	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Mike Klemens	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Ashley Lucas	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Dan Brinkman		Consultant
Joel Christell		Consultant
Lee Fell		Consultant
John Heinz		Consultant
John Ambrose		Consultant
Brian Plum		Consultant

# LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

## **1. Call to Order**

Barbara Little called the meeting to order at 9:04am.  
Those in attendance gave self-introductions

## **2. Approval of the Minutes**

With a first from Mr. Talbett and a second from Mr. Wilmes, on a voice vote the minutes of the January 18th, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.

## **3. Agency Reports**

IDOT Programming- Ms. Herdus from IDOT Programming in District One had a handout for the committee that has been updated to reflect the current status of projects. Ms. Herdus informed the committee that the department has several projects from that year that have been carried over into 2018. She mentioned that a project at IL59 and Route 12 should begin in May, there will be a big detour associated with this project. She announced that the Milburn Bypass will be on the April Letting.

IDOT Local Road- Gerardo Fiero presented the handouts to the committee. He pointed out the projects in Fox Lake and Libertyville are scheduled for the April 27<sup>th</sup> letting.

Metra Report- Rick Mack from Metra informed the committee that Metra is beginning to implement Positive Train Control on all their lines. It will necessitate adjusting schedules for trains because engineers will have to enter in each trip via GPS and it will likely add about 10 minutes to flip a train's direction to go back to the suburbs from the city or vice versa. Metra has started on the BNSF line because it is the busiest line in Metra's system. The adjustments will begin on the lines in Lake County later this year and there will be opportunity for public comment during the transition. Mr. Mack also discussed the track project on going in Lake County which is taking place from Rondout to Fox Lake and is replacing nearly all ties in this area. There will be a \$3 million upgrade at the Rondout interlocker which will improve the line and set it up for Positive Train Control. Metra will be working with Lake Forest and Abbvie, as well as other business in the Lake Forest area, to put a crossover just north of Conway road, it will allow an early morning reverse commute train. It is intended to be a public private partnership with local businesses funding \$2 million and Metra about \$2.5 million.

CMAQ Report- Barbara Zubek from CMAP gave the committee information on the local STP program for the region, FY2018 is looking to be a banner year for the region. CMAQ does not have much funding obligated so far in the fiscal year but has an aggressive goal for projects to be obligated. CMAP is projecting to spend over \$200 million in STP funding and could be the biggest year for the region in the STP program. The STP Project selection Committee will meet twice in May on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the Shared Fund and the Active Program Rules. There will be an ON TO 2050 Open House in Lake County on July 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm. Ms. Zubek also left applications for the FLIP, Future Leaders In Planning program which will take place over the summer.

Pace- Tim Dilsaver from Pace presented to the committee. He left a handout for committee members to take with them as well. Pace has partnered with IDOT to expand the Bus on Shoulder program on the Edens Expressway from Foster Ave to Lake-Cook Road and the buses will be utilizing the right outside shoulder and recently held a ribbon cutting for the service. Mr. Dilsaver reported that Pace had received a positive review from the Federal Transit Administration on the agency's Paratransit program. He also mentioned that there are a few options for express busses for Park N Ride facilities to get to Wrigley Field, the rides are \$.50 each way and leave Wrigley Field 30 minutes after the game ends.

# LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

RTA- Andy Plummer from the RTA sent a written report for the committee which was read by council staff. The Report highlighted that 2018 is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the RTA Community Planning Program. The goals of the program are to increase quality of life and increase transit ridership. The program has funded 200 projects in 100 communities with a \$20 million investment. The program began as a planning program and has evolved into implementation as well. Lake County Communities have received funding for 28 projects from Zoning Code Updates to TOD Plans, Transit Improvement Plans and County Wide Plans.

#### **4. Functional Classification Change Requests**

a. Village of Deer Park has requested a functional classification change for three local streets in the Village to be reclassified to Minor Collectors. Ms. Karry walked the committee through the requests, the first is for Field Parkway from Quentin Road and Plum Grove Road. The second is Deer Park Boulevard from Rand Road to Lake Cook Road. The final request is Plum Grove Road from Rand Road to Lake Cook Road. A motion to forward the requests to the full council was made by Mr. Kanapareddy and seconded by Mr. Brown. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

#### **5. Village of Buffalo Grove**

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the Village of Buffalo Grove is seeking a cost increase for the Thompson Blvd. and Brandywyn Ln. projects (TIP ID#s 10-16-0038 and 10-16-0039) respectively. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the FHWA/Local Coordination Meeting the Village requested a design exception to use B-4.12 curb and gutter to appropriately mirror the current profile. B-6.12 could not be utilized due to flat parkways, therefore requiring the roadway to be lowered approximately 4 inches. Due to this exception not being granted and the existing thickness of the roadway not permitting the change, the limits of reconstruction had to be significantly altered.

The requested cost increases are as follows (in terms of STP funds only):

	Thompson Blvd (10-16-0038)	Brandywyn Ln (10-16-0039)
Approved Phase II Eng	\$204,000	\$155,000
Revised Phase II Eng	\$320,000	\$240,000
<b>Additional Phase II Eng Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$116,000</b>	<b>\$85,000</b>
Approved Const & Const Eng	\$3,910,000	\$2,543,000
Revised Approved Const & Const Eng	\$5,725,000	\$3,658,000
<b>Additional Const &amp; Const Eng Funds Requested</b>	<b>\$1,815,000</b>	<b>\$1,115,000</b>

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the Village is looking to start Phase II engineering in the current federal fiscal year, 2018. Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the request must be sent on to CMAP staff for final approval. The committee discussed the amount of the request and the requirements to change the curb design. A Motion was made by Mr. Kanapareddy and seconded by Mr. Kilbane. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **6. Resolution 042618LCC-01**

Ms. Karry presented the annual resolution to the committee. The resolution directs the federal planning grants funds to Lake County DOT to provided staff assistance to the Council. Lake County in turn provides the local match to the federal funds. These fund help cover the Planning Liaison positions for the Council. Mrs. Little reminded the committee that there are forty-seven municipalities in the council in addition to the county and she would like to continue to see the Lake County DOT provided the staff to the council. A motion was made by Mayor Rockingham and seconded by Mr. Kanapareddy. The motion passed unanimously.

# LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

## **7. Lake Council STP Program**

Mr. Klemens discussed the current status of the Council's program and thanked communities for getting status update sheets back to him to help keep the council program up to date. He informed the committee that those status update sheets are important for staff to keep IDOT and CMAP up to date, especially while the region is using a single pot of regional STP funds. Having current schedule information allows council staff to make sure the TIP and IDOT stay up to date and that funding will be available when projects are ready. Mr. Klemens informed the committee that based on the recently received status updates several project phases had moved as well as target letting dates for several projects. The largest changes were several Phase II engineering phases that had been targeting FFY18 have moved to FFY19 based on the projects' current schedule. Mr. Klemens highlighted the projects in the program that are targeting the upcoming bid lettings in April where the Council has 3 projects and in June the Council has 2 projects and will be where the Council spends the bulk of our funds for the federal fiscal year.

## **8. STP Project Selection Committee Update**

Ms. Karry walked the committee through CMAP's [current proposal](#) for Active Program Management rules that will apply to all of the local Council's as well as the city of Chicago and the STP Regional Shared Fund. The proposal is evolving and will be refined throughout the rest of the spring and summer and CMAP will be looking to approve the final version in the fall. As background, Ms. Karry informed the committee that STP funding is now subject to recessions, it previously had been exempted from recessions under federal law. Now if funds are not obligated in a timely manner and the region builds up an unspent balance, the federal government can take the funding back.

Under the new program all Council's will have to have a designated call for projects that will be held every two years. The projects within the Council's program will be managed actively once they are put into the program. Projects that are in the current year of the program will be subject to strict obligation goals. Council's will have a 5 year fiscally constrained list of projects and an unconstrained contingency list to help ensure that all funds are spent each year. If a project in the current year cannot be obligated by the end of the year, Council's will have a few options under the proposal. The project could be moved to a later fiscal year and another project is moved up or moved from the contingency list in the current year. The project phase could be given a one-time extension to allow more time to get the phase obligated, the current proposal calls for a 3-month extension for engineering phases and a 6-month extension for construction phases.

The contingency list would be made up of projects that did not score high enough to be funded during the initial call for projects. Sponsors would need to agree to keep the projects federally eligible and active even though there would be no guarantee of federal funding. If the contingency list projects do not end up getting funded, they would need to re-apply during the next call for projects.

A question was asked if roads that have already been designated as federally eligible would continue to be eligible, staff responded that the roads would likely to continue to be eligible if the federal requirements didn't change.

A question was asked if the Council must decide on having a contingency program. Staff responded that the Active Program Management rules will apply to all the councils and the current proposal includes the contingency program. A comment was made that having projects in the contingency program that didn't get funded eventually would be a deal breaker, because municipalities won't be investing in the federal process unless federal funding will be coming at some point. Staff responded that these are the types of comments we are looking for from Council members to share with CMAP. The Council can choose to award extra points during a call for projects for projects that were on the contingency and don't get funded before the next call for projects.

Mayor Rockingham informed the committee that the discussions at CMAP have been focused on making sure that all communities have access to these STP funds and that the Active Program Management Rules that are decided on don't put larger communities at an advantage over smaller communities.

## LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

The current proposal contains uniform status updates that will be done in an online form in the TIP so that all relevant agencies can see the status of the project. The update will be done quarterly at a minimum and there will be an update in the spring to know if projects will be able to be obligated by the end of the fiscal year.

A question was asked about IDOT keeping project schedules moving forward and how community's meet their schedule requirements when they don't know how long it will take for Springfield to process agreements. Staff responded that CMAP is working with IDOT central office to get a commitment to process agreements in a certain time frame that can be used to plan around and if it takes longer than that time the project sponsor would be held harmless. To date however, CMAP has been unable to secure a time commitment from IDOT.

A question was asked about what happens to projects that are ready to go but are waiting for items, like signatures from other agencies, that are out of the control of the sponsor. Staff responded that these issues are still being worked through but CMAP has been very responsive in working through these issues. Staff is hopeful that the rules will not be punitive for communities that have project delays, while at the same time the region must make changes, so we don't lose funding in the future.

A question was asked if we could make it so that projects are not eligible to apply for funding unless right of way is completed. Staff responded that something like that would be up to the council to decide, but another way to handle Right of Way delays would be in project programming. The Council could have rules that construction funds will not be programmed into the current year until right of way is clear, the tradeoff off for that is project that get right of way cleared may be forced to wait for construction funding to be available.

Ms. Karry informed the committee that the current proposal included a recommendation to have a minimum project score and that Council staff felt like this was not something that should be included, if the council has the funding available to fund a project they should be able to fund it, committee members agreed.

Ms. Karry discussed CMAP's proposal for using Toll Credits for disadvantaged communities to pay for phase one engineering without a local match. There is a list at CMAP that they are using to define what is a disadvantage community. This would also require IDOT to change its rules to allow municipalities to access toll credits for phase one engineering.

The last item on active program management that was discussed was the concept of grandfathering current projects into the new rules. CMAP and FHWA have agreed to let projects that are currently in the transition period move into the new program if they have begun to expend federal funding. If a project has not expended federal funding it will need to re-apply and be ranked in the next call for projects. Projects that slip beyond the transition period would reduce the amount of funding the council has to add new projects during the call for projects.

Ms. Karry also reported to the committee that CMAP staff has revised their initial proposal, instead unspent funds at the end of the federal fiscal year, the funds would go to the shared fund for a year where councils would be able to access the funding before it is programmed to the large shared fund projects.

Ms. Karry provided the committee an update on the STP Shared fund process. CMAP has put out a list of project types that would be eligible for the Shared Fund. The initial call for projects will be open to all project types and after that each call for projects would limit the project types that would be eligible to apply in a "rolling focus". The proposal also calls for projects to be at least \$5 million in total project cost or have multiple jurisdictions involved in the project if it is a smaller project. There has been a discussion of who can apply for the regional fund and it has yet to be determined what the result will be. Council staff has suggested that agencies that are not members of a council need to partner and be sponsored by a council member in order to apply to the shared fund.

Ms. Karry provided a brief overview of the scoring system CMAP plans to introduce for the STP Shared Regional Fund. The scoring system would be divided into 3 categories, Project Readiness, Transportation Impact and Regional Goals. The regional goals will be the same regional goals that the local councils are required to use. More details on the scoring system will be presented to the STP Project selection committee in May.



## LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

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### **9. Lake Council of Mayors Draft STP Guidebook**

In the interest of time Mr. Klemens did not discuss the STP guidebook, instead he asked the committee if there would be interested in forming a sub committee or technical committee to discuss the STP Guidebook in detail and bring recommendations back to the full committee. The committee indicated that there would be in interest in forming this committee. Mr. Klemens said he would send out an email to get some interest in the committee and work on scheduling this group.

A discussion was held on if there were ways the Council could assist communities in identifying potential eligible federal routes to be added to the systems. IDOT recently completed an inventory of all the eligible routes following the last US Census. There has not been a program in place to evaluate all routes in a given community.

### **10. Other Business**

Mrs. Little informed the committee that this would be her last meeting as transportation committee chair because she is retiring from the Village of Deerfield on June 1<sup>st</sup>. She thanked the committee for their support and participation in the committee. She also asked for volunteers to serve as the next committee chair and people who are interested in the committee chair can contact her or council staff to found out more about the role. Mayor Rockingham thanked Barbara for all of her service and expertise to the Council of Mayors and wished her well in her retirement.

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the scheduled Council of Mayors meeting on April 25 will be cancelled because the Mayors will be in Springfield. A new date has not yet been selected to reschedule the meeting but once a new date is selected notice will be sent out.

### **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for July 26th, 2018 at 9am.

### **12. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made Mayor Rockingham and seconded by Mr. Kanapareddy, the meeting adjourned at 11:04.