



# LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

Minutes of January 23, 2020 Transportation Committee Meeting  
at the Lake County Division of Transportation

## Meeting Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Robert Phillips	Director of Public Works/Engineering	Deerfield
Mayor Glen Ryback	Mayor	Wadsworth
Shane Schneider	County Engineer	Lake County
Maria Lasday	Village Administrator	Bannockburn
Anne Marrin	Village Administrator	Fox Lake
David Kilbane	Village Administrator	Round Lake Beach
Denise Kaufkis	Village Administrator	Green Oaks
Karen Daulton-Lange	Village Administrator	Lake Barrington
Jerry Nellson	Interim Village Administrator	Beach Park
Michael Talbett	Village Administrator	Kildeer
Clay Johnson	Village Administrator	Lindenhurst
Kealan Noonan	Director of Public Works	Fox Lake
Ed Wilmes	Director of Public Works	North Chicago
Mike Brown	Director of Public Works	Lake Zurich
Paul Kendzior	Director of Public Works	Libertyville
Marty Neal	Township Highway Commissioner	Libertyville Township
Kevin Carrier	Director of Planning & Programming	Lake County
Erika Frable	Dir. of Public Works/Village Engineer	Hawthorn Woods
Stephanie Hannon	Finance Director	Barrington
Bob Ells	City Engineer	Lake Forest
Fred Chung	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Jeff Cooper	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Alex Househ	Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Katie Herdus	Area Programmer	IDOT District 1
Rick Mack	Community Affairs	Metra
Mary Donner	Community Affairs	Pace
Emily Karry	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Mike Klemens	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Joe Surdam	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Jon Vana		Consultant
Dan Brinkman		Consultant
Chris Bouchard		Consultant
Brian Plum		Consultant
Lee Fell		Consultant
Mark Buwen		Consultant
Tony Wolff		Consultant
Mark Kozlowski		Consultant
Scott Drabicki		Consultant
Joel Christell		Consultant



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## **1. Call to Order**

Bob Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:00am. Those in attendance gave self-introductions.

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

With a first from Mike Brown and a second from Erika Frable, on a voice vote the minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

## **3. Agency Reports**

- a. **IDOT Bureau of Programming-** Katie Herdus gave the IDOT Bureau of Programming report. Ms. Herdus provided status sheets to show the current status of IDOT projects in Lake County. Ms. Herdus also informed the committee that IDOT has begun work on the next Multi-Year Program and is hopeful to get the next MYP earlier in the year. IDOT is hoping to advertise for capital bill projects in 2020.
- b. **IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets-** Alex Househ informed the committee of the changes related to the Local Roads project status sheets.
- c. **Illinois Tollway-** The Tollway was not able to attend the meeting and planned to submit a written report to Council Staff following the meeting. Staff will share the report with Council members via e-mail once received.
- d. **CMAP-** Mike Klemens gave some updates that CMAP sent in ahead of the meeting. Mr. Klemens mentioned that STP funding continues to be very tight and there is enough funding to cover the January and March letting, CMAP is working with IDOT to secure additional funding for lettings in 2020 beyond March. The STP Shared Fund is being looked at through the Project Selection Committee and going through lessons learned from the first call for projects. USDOT has also released a notice of funding opportunity for INFRA grants which are a nationwide discretionary program focusing on freight.
- e. **RTA-** A written report was distributed.
- f. **Metra** – Rick Mack informed the committee that Metra has launched a survey to ask riders what they would like to see in new railcars and Metra has released an RFP for 200 new rail cars with the option for 300 more. There are several Lake County projects, in North Chicago there will be a station rehab project and updating parking at the Great Lakes Station. Waukegan station rehab is in design to add ADA bathrooms. Metra will be applying for ICC funding to partner with Lake Forest on one of their projects.
- g. **Pace** – Mary Donner of Pace informed the committee 8 employees retired at the end of 2019 and left with nearly 300 years of total experience. Pace is also getting new buses in the West Division, which will be replacing some of the oldest buses in their fleet. Pace is working with state officials to get access to Rebuild Illinois funding as soon as possible.

## **4. Resolution 02062020LCC-01**

Ms. Karry presented the resolution for Unified Work Program funds to the committee. Each of the Council of Mayors in the Chicago region has planning liaison staff. Planning liaison staff is charged with assisting municipalities and local public agencies with navigating the federal/IDOT process, being a liaison between CMAP and municipalities/townships, keeping local projects in CMAP's Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) database up to date with all of the federally



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and state funded projects for our council, sharing funding opportunities with municipalities/townships, assisting municipalities/townships with IDOT paperwork related to funding access, and sharing information from various transportation agencies with council members.

Mike Klemens, Emily Karry and our new Planner Joe Surdam, are employees of LCDOT, but also serve as the planning liaison staff to the Lake County Council. Each of the Councils in the Chicago CMAP region receives federal transportation planning funds that are used to offset salaries of liaison staff, and in the cases for some of the Councils connected with Councils of Government, these funds cover rent, office space, utility costs etc. In Lake County, these funds are primarily used to cover portions of our salaries.

In order for LCDOT to continue to provide the planning liaison services to the Lake County Council, there needs to be a resolution every year from the Council authorizing this to occur and asking for the funds to be directed to LCDOT. You may recall in the past Emily Karry (or Bruce in earlier years) coming to the Council to ask for your approval on a resolution to direct these funds to Lake County. The item on the agenda is to recommend the resolution for approval by the Council to allow CMAP to distribute approx. \$170k of feds funds to Lake County for Planning Liaison staff assistance. The County contributes approximately \$87k in matching funds to the grant and the balance of our salaries/benefits.

A motion to approve the resolution for the disposition of federal transportation planning funds was made by Maria Lasday and seconded by Mike Brown, the motion was approved via voice vote.

## **5. Lake Council STP Program**

Ms. Karry presented the status of the Council's current FFY2020 program. A copy of our current program was sent out with the meeting materials. In the first part of this agenda item staff discussed FFY2020.

All of the Councils, the City of Chicago and CMAP have been working under regional fiscal constraint for STP funding over the past few years during this transition period. As you can see on the 2020 program, there are a few projects from our Council that are targeting lettings in 2020. The region as a whole (Chicago and suburban councils) is projected to receive about \$133 million in STP funds for 2020. In FFY20 the dollar value of projects currently programmed for the entire region targeting lettings in 2020 is more than the funding that is currently available to the region.

Right now, Phase 2 design projects targeting fed authorization by March 2020 (which meant they would have been sent in to IDOT several months ago) and construction/CE for projects through the March 2020 letting are lined up to go with 2020 funding in CMAP's TIP (transportation improvement program database). Beginning with the April letting and for any Phase 2 design projects targeting fed authorization after March 2020, Councils will be going letting by letting with CMAP to confirm if projects can be moved into 2020 in the TIP, meaning CMAP will determine based on regional fiscal constraint if there is enough funding available to cover these projects when they are approaching a letting.

As you heard in the CMAP report, the available STP funding for 2020 is significantly less than what was available in FFY19. In past recent years, CMAP has been able to secure additional access to funding from IDOT. This year, CMAP is also working with IDOT to seek additional programming authority to try to avoid having to delay projects until additional federal dollars for the region become available next year in 21. If additional funding cannot be made available to the region, our council has agreed to grandfather in projects that are already in the LCCOM program and so any projects that didn't make a letting in FFY20 would then be pushed into 21, 22, etc... dependent on project readiness and funding availability. This means that the projects on our Council list for 2020 will still get built, but that they may not be built on exactly the schedule that was originally anticipated.



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Our Council has 2 projects targeting the April 2020 letting, Fox Lake's Nippersink Blvd project and Long Grove's N. Krueger Rd project. The City of Highland Park's Park Ave West and Green Bay Road projects are also targeting Phase 2 design authorization later in spring/summer of this 2020 FFY. For these projects staff are currently waiting to hear from CMAP and IDOT as to the status of the funding situation and whether any additional funding will become available for the April letting and for these Phase 2 design projects. Council staff has been in consistent communication with CMAP staff regarding this issue and as of yesterday, there is still not an update that they can provide to us as to the fate of projects targeting the April letting and those waiting for Phase 2 funding. It is anticipated that folks should be preparing for the possibility that these projects targeting the April letting and the Phase 2 design projects targeting federal authorization this year will be pushed at least to June and possibly to later on in the year until additional funding becomes available.

As stated before, CMAP is discussing with IDOT programming dollars required for the region and a strategy for receiving additional funding to meet the needs as demonstrated by the region's recent robust obligation record over the past couple years. Council staff are committed to sharing an update with you as soon as more information becomes available.

A question was asked if this will cause a domino effect through the rest of the program. Mr. Klemens discussed how it would impact the rest of the program. A question was also asked if the cost estimates for projects which in some cases are several years old would lead to additional funding shortages. Staff responded that bid prices are always a concern but that the Council does have a new process for communities to request a cost increase for their project.

Mr. Klemens presented on how the Council's program from FFY2021-2025. If the Council assumes that CMAP does not receive anymore funding in FFY2020 and the remaining projects in the Council program have to be grandfathered into the new program from FFY2021-2025. The Council currently has about \$17 million programmed in 2020 that would get pushed into 2021, however the Council will only receive \$8.1 million in funding in 2021, so the 2020 projects will end up getting pushed into 2022 as well. There are also projects that were already planned to be grandfathered into the new program that were targeting 2021 and 2022, would then have to get pushed back into FFY2023, 2024 and 2025. If no more money is found for the rest of FFY2020, then the Council would nearly fill up the program from 2021-2025 with grandfathered projects and there would only be about \$1.5 million available to add new projects.

This would represent a worst-case scenario, to see projects pushed back throughout the 2021-2025 program. Through the Council's active program management rules, the program will change constantly, and the Council will have the opportunity to seek additional funding through the STP-Shared Fund if other Council's don't spend all of their funding.

The Council had a robust discussion on the funding splits of 80% federal funding versus 70% federal funding for the next program. There was also a lengthy discussion if the Council should freeze cost increase requests for the new program. The committee talked through the active program management rules that have been adopted to understand the options for programming projects in the new program and how cost increases could be accommodated. Staff agreed to provide some additional information about the cost increase discussion and bring it back for further discussion at a future meeting.

## **6. 2020 STP Call for Projects**

Ms. Karry walked the committee through the timeline for developing the Call for Projects, and the timeline document was distributed on the screen. Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the Call for Projects will open on the website



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on January 30<sup>th</sup> with all applications being due by March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Klemens discussed the resources that will be available on the Council's website. All of the data sources that will be used to score projects that don't come from the application will be on the Council website.

## **7. 2020 LCCOM Workplan**

Ms. Karry presented the Council's 2020 workplan which was included in the meeting materials. The workplan lays out a basic outline of the items that are expected to be covered at Council meetings throughout the year. This is mostly an internal staff document for staff to track agenda items and will be updated as other items come. As soon as the new Council program gets approved staff intends to have a discussion of lessons learned from the first call for projects, while it is still fresh in everyone's minds.

## **8. Other Business**

The Federal Railroad Administration has developed a website for people to log railroad blockages and delays. The website was included in the council email for the meeting, and all the communities are encouraged to use it as much as possible.

Staff also informed the committee that the STP Project selection committee finalized a process for calculating improvement to the next round of funding marks for the Council. It is available on the CMAP website under the STP project selection committee webpage. The quick summary is that the region will set aside an amount of funding equal to the percentage of improvement from 2019. The funds that are set aside would be given to the Councils that improved in proportion to their amount of improvement.

## **9. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **11. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for April 23, 2020 at 9am.

## **12. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made Kevin Carrier and seconded by Anne Marrin, the meeting adjourned at 10:30am.