

SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MAYORS
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
 December 14, 2010



ATTENDEES:

NAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING
David Brady	President – Committee Chairman	Village of Bedford Park
Kris Wasowicz	Mayor	Village of Justice
John Mahoney	Mayor	Village of Palos Park
Brian Reaves	President	Village of Lemont
Paul Lippens	Complete Streets Coordinator	Active Transportation Alliance
Lynn Krauss	Senior Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Dave Vandervelde	Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Dave Vandervelde	Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Joe Vondra	Engineer	Ciobra Group
George Johnson	Planning & Programming	CMAP
Kesti Susinskas	Senior PM	EACOM
Jim Cainkar	President	F. Novotny & Associates
Mel Mangoba	Engineer	IDOT
Earl Dunn	Area Programmer	IDOT
Bunny Anderson	Engineer Project Liaison	Illinois Tollway
Timothy D. Werner	Director of Engineering	McDonough Associates
Jon Vaznelis	Project Manager	Morris Engineering
Sue Rushing	Representative	PACE
Jessica Mitchell	Community Relations Representative	PACE
Mary Clumpner	Business Development	Robinson Engineering
Pat Barker	Engineer	Robinson Engineering
Andy Plummer	Regional Municipal Consultant	RTA
Mitch Bright	Sales Representative	Traffic Control Corp.
Charles Crump	Infrastructure Planning	URS Corporation
Bill Cronch	PW Director	Village of Bridgeview
Bill Lorenz	PW Director	Village of Evergreen Park
Gavin Yeaman	Quality Control Director	Village of Evergreen Park
Rick Boehm	Administrator	Village of Palos Park
Valbona Kokoshi	Program Coordinator	Southwest Conference of Mayors
Vicky Smith	Executive Director	Southwest Conference of Mayors

NOTE: Copies of all attachments referred to in these minutes are available by contacting the Southwest Conference of Mayors at (708) 403-6132.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brady called the meeting to order at 9:35 A.M. The roll was called. On a motion by Mayor Wasowicz and a second by President Reaves, the minutes of the July 20, 2009 meeting were approved (*See Attachment A*).

II. PROGRAM UPDATE

A. IDOT PROGRAM UPDATES (Earl Dunn)

Mr. Dunn reported on projects scheduled for the November 5th letting and that the next IDOT letting is scheduled for January 21st, 2011 (*See Attachment B*).

B. METRA REPORT (Demetrios Skoufis)

Metra's 2011 total budget is \$1.048 billion. In order to offset shortfalls in sales tax receipts, Metra will move a total of \$60 million from the capital funds from the 2010 and from the 2011 capital funds to their 2011 operating budget. Operating costs have increased in the last several years, especially in diesel fuel, security, employee health insurance, credit cards and website maintenance, and in preparation of future employee retirements to be replaced with new employees. SW Service between the months of January to October is running at 94.4% on-time performance and systemwide is 95.9%. Ridership from January to September, systemwide is down 1.4% compared to the same period in 2009. The SW System is down as well by 1.8%.

Mayor Mahoney asked for an update on the Seniors Ride Free program. Mr. Skoufis mentioned that there was a report that discusses the ridership information and how that is affecting the different service boards. In addition, Mayor Mahoney mentioned that as a result of this program, many seniors are taking those free rides that they would not have otherwise have done so, but to also be aware that there are people who are seniors and are in the work force that say they can manage to pay and don't really need the free ride.

C. PACE REPORT (Sue Rushing/Jessica Mitchell)

Ms. Rushing reported that the 2011 Pace budget do not suggest fare increases or reductions in services. To maintain a fiscally constrain budget, Pace's spending is at 2008 levels. 60 hybrid vehicles are programmed to be purchased to replace older vehicles. Ridership has increased and Pace is working on expanding the capacity of ADA and paratransit in the year to come. Ms. Mitchell reported that effective December 12-13, there will be several improvements on Routes 381, 382 and 384.(See Attachment C).

D. COOK COUNTY HIGHWAY REPORT (Valbona Kokoshi for Steve Vaughn /Scott Van Der Aa)

Ms. Kokoshi presented a copy of the report sent by CCHD and informed the Committee Members of the letter mailed out recently by CCHD, requesting information of the most congested roadways and highest accident locations within SCM's boundaries and under County jurisdiction. For a copy of the report and letter, see Attachment D.

E. CMAP REPORT (George Johnson for Janet Bright)

Mr. Johnson reported that CMAP is accepting applications to provide local technical assistance (LTA) for planning projects that help to implement GO TO 2040. Eligible projects include comprehensive plans, zoning ordinance revisions, specific studies on important local issues, and many others. Eligible applicants include municipalities, counties, interjurisdictional groups, and nongovernmental organizations. Applications can be completed with a very simple form and are due by January 28, 2011.

CMAP has launched a new web system, the MetroPulse, as part of the Regional Indicators Projects. It was created in partnership by CMAP and The Chicago Community Trust, and gives the public a simple but powerful interface to access a vast warehouse of data on quality-of-life factors in the seven-county region. The data comes from various sources and will be updated as new data is available.

The PL/ IDOT/ CMAP coordination meeting took place on November 30th and December 1st. New ear marks for the next five years have been identified.

CMAP has received a \$25million dollar retrofitting grant and is working to putting together a program to identify criteria and develop procedure on applying for funding

F. RTA REPORT (Andy Plummer)

Mr. Plummer talked about the Seniors Ride Free Program and that the RTA feels that this program is unsustainable. The system has been dealing with cost overruns and with seniors riding during peak hours. The RTA budge is under a lot of pressure. The system has a much better ADA system but funding this will be less next year, \$8 million less. The State owes the RTA \$300 million and much of the funding needed to operate the system is coming from other budgeted programs.

G. ILLINOIS TOLL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY (Bunny Anderson)

Ms. Anderson presented that a three-year private public partnership with Aragon National Laboratory to come up with energy efficient strategies. In late November, a presentation of the Illiana Expressway scope was presented to the new Executive Director, which is also posted on the website.

III. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION REPORT

A. IDOT LOCAL PROGRAM REPORT (Mel Mangoba)

Mr. Mangoba gave an update of the SCM STP projects and of their upcoming letting dates (*See Attachment E*).

B. SCM STP REPORT (Valbona Kokoshi)

Ms. Kokoshi reported that the changes in the STP program were housekeeping changes and informed the Committee on the update of the Local Agency Contact Person (*See Attachment F*).

IV. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT (Chairman Brady/ Co-Chairman Mahoney)

President Brady reported on an upcoming meeting on January 27th, 2011, at the IDOT office to discuss the Central Avenue IDOT Lead

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Vicky Smith)

Ms. Smith reported on the Harlem Avenue Corridor meeting on November 30th and the next step is to use the Harlem Avenue Corridor website (<http://www.harlemcorridor.com>) as a tool for public involvement. She also suggested that the Harlem Avenue Corridor be posted on each of the SCM communities website in order to get feedback from the public and to inform constituents of upcoming news and information regarding the corridor study.

President Reaves raised concerns over the Lemont's McCarthy Road, between Derby Road to Archer Avenue, currently scheduled for the April letting, and due to IDOT increase in costs levels of about \$500,000, this project may not be able to make this letting date. President Reaves requested from the Committee if it would be possible to get additional STP funds to help elevate these new accrued costs. On a motion by President Brady and a second by Mayor Wasowicz, the request for additional \$500,000 STP funds, if available, was approved by the Committee and will be recommended to the full SCM Membership for their approval

Also, President Reaves shared with the Committee that any future work with ComEd along easements or ROW will most likely take up to year due to the fact that ComEd has let go of most of their subdivision crew and don't have the staff to do the work on a timely manner.

VI. OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation on the SCM's *Active Transportation Plan* (Paul Lippens, AICP, Complete Streets Coordinator, Active Transportation Alliance (ATA))

Mr. Lippens presented information on the ARRA funded Cook County's Communities Putting Prevention to Work Grant and its intent and goals to help address obesity issues within Cook County boundaries. ATA's role would be to provide technical assistance to SCM in updating the Bike and Ped Plan. ATA just recently finished working on the Northwest Municipal Conference of Mayors' Bike Plan and this plan will be a model for a final product ATA would like to achieve in working with SCM region. The *Active Transportation Plan* priorities would focus on Network, Facility/Amenities and Policy Areas that each of the municipalities in the SCM identify as important in the region. To help with the planning phases of this Plan, ATA plans to work with a Task Force member from each community and share data, information and work priorities.

Mr. Lippens requested the Committee Members pass a Resolution to support ATA in to update the SCM Bike/Pedestrian Plan.

President Reaves shared his concerns on whether this Plan would look at connecting existing trails. Mr. Lippens assured President Reaves that the Plan will take in consideration each of the communities concerns and goals to identify what the Plan will entail, including connecting existing trail systems.

Ms. Smith added that this update of the plan will incorporate all 21 of the communities to create a regional non-motorized plan, which can be used as leverage for future funding. President Brady suggested approving the SCM Resolution with the stipulation that the Plan will connect all the communities using non-motorized transportation. Ms. Kokoshi further emphasized that the SCM's Bike

Plan was last updated in 2001 and having an updated Plan would be beneficial to the region in order to assess how much of this Plan has been accomplished already, and identify areas that need to be addressed further. Mayor Mahoney suggested that the Cook County Forest Preserve be also involved in the planning process and to take in consideration the existing connections as well.

On a motion by President Brady and a second by Mayor Wasowicz, the Committee recommended the SCM Board approved the SCM Resolution supporting ATA to update the Bike/Ped Plan stressing connecting non-motorized routes and involving the Cook County Forest Preserve

B. Village of Alsip's Request for STP Funding for Pulaski Road (FAU 3778): 115th Street (FAU 1583) to 123rd Street (FAU 1588) – TIP# 06-06-0014

C. Village of Alsip's Request for STP Funding for Cicero Avenue (FAP 350): 111th Street (FAU 1581) to 123rd Street (FAU 1558) –TIP# 06-11-0004

D. Village of Alsip's Request for STP Funding for Central Avenue (FAU 1583): 115th Street (FAU 1583) to 122nd Street (FAU 2796) –TIP# 06-11-0005

E. Village of Bridgeview's Request for STP Funding for Oketo Avenue (FAU 1708): 71st Street (FAU 1537) to 87th Street (FAU 1558) –TIP# 06-11-0006

F. Village of Bridgeview's Request for STP funding for 78th Avenue (FAU 1707): 79th Street (FAU 1548) to 87th Street (FAU 1558) - TIP# 06-11-0007

A request to approve the five new STP projects (items B-F) was sent to the SCM Members via fax in mid-November. All new STP projects were approved by the Committee on motion by President Brady and a second by Mayor Mahoney.

G. Village of Blue Island's Request for Additional STP funding for 127th Street/Sacramento Avenue: TIP# 06-06-0020

On motion by President Brady and a second by Mayor Wasowicz, the Village of Blue Island's request for additional STP funds was approved to be presented to the full SCM Membership for final approval.

H. City of Palos Heights' Request for a FAU Route Addition: 123rd Street, Harlem Avenue (FAP 348) to 76th Avenue (FAU 3791)

On motion by President Brady and a second by President Reaves, the City of Palos Heights' request for a FAU route addition of 123rd Street was approved to be presented to the full SCM Membership for final approval.

VII. NEXT MEETING

Next SCM Transportation meeting is scheduled for:
Tuesday, February 8th, 2011, at 9:30 A.M.
Bedford Park Village Hall
6701 South Archer Road

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by President Reaves and a second by Mayor Mahoney the SCM Transportation Committee meeting adjourned at 10:45 A.M.

Attachments referred to in these minutes can be obtained by contacting the Southwest Conference of Mayors office at 708-403-6132.