

McHenry County Council of Mayors

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MEMORANDUM

ALGONQUIN

BARRINGTON HILLS

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HOLIDAY HILLS

HUNTLEY

JOHNSBURG

LAKE IN THE HILLS

LAKEMOOR

LAKEWOOD

MARENGO

McCULLOM LAKE

McHENRY

OAKWOOD HILLS

PORT BARRINGTON

PRAIRIE GROVE

RICHMOND

RINGWOOD

SPRING GROVE

TROUT VALLEY

UNION

WONDER LAKE

WOODSTOCK

McHENRY COUNTY

TO: McHenry County Council of Mayors members

FROM: Cody Sheriff, Planning Liaison

DATE: March 8, 2018

RE: Agenda item 8.A. – CMAP - STP Project Selection Committee Update

Background - CMAP Surface Transportation Program Changes

As part of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) goal to bring its process for allocating Surface Transportation Funds (STP) into alignment with the Federal Highway Administration's performance based accreditation standards, CMAP created the STP Project Selection Committee. The committee is responsible for the development of an application review methodology for the newly created regional shared fund, update performance measure criteria for evaluating projects, develop an Active Program Management (APM) system, and developing parameters for providing assistance to disadvantaged communities, including defining eligible communities. The regional shared fund of approximately \$40 million/year is meant for larger projects that Council allotments cannot readily fund on their own. Please find below a summary of items discussed at the January 24 and February 28, 2018 STP Project Selection Committee, and staff analysis.

Active Program Management

The STP Project Selection Committee met on January 24, 2018 to discuss options for an APM system. An Active Program Management (APM) system is a system that is used to program and monitor approved STP projects in different metropolitan planning organizations (MPO). CMAP Staff analyzed several regional MPOs and identified several high level options for an active program management system which include realistic programming, project sunsets, frequent status updates, active reprogramming, regular and uniform calls for projects, and standardized implementation procedures. Realistic programming was identified by CMAP as a method to address delayed start times, agreement and ROW delays, and time to save for the local match. Project sunsets with serious penalties were identified by CMAP as a way to address starting on time, reserved funds, and agreement and ROW delays. A draft proposal of a new APM system will be made available at the March 28, 2018 STP Project Selection Committee meeting, after which it will be provided to members of the McHenry County Council of Mayors for their review. For more information, please see attached CMAP Active Program Management Power Point.

Regional Shared Fund

The STP Project Selection Committee met again on February 28, 2018 to discuss additional details related to the STP shared regional fund. This included:

- Identifying goals of the shared fund and eligible project types;
- Defining what a regional project is;
- Running the call for projects; and
- Determining phase eligibility.

CMAP staff proposed using the regional shared fund as a means to fill gaps between other fund sources. In order to define regional project types, CMAP Staff analyzed proposed STP projects that were above \$5 million and did not receive funding. Next, CMAP tried to define a “regional project” for the shared fund by considering three possible options – a minimum project cost threshold, multi-jurisdictional applications, and Council support requirements. Ultimately CMAP is recommending that regional projects meet a minimum cost threshold of \$5 million or require a joint application from at least 3 local parties.

Three regional shared fund call for projects methodologies were proposed to address the inventory of large unfunded projects, including an “open” call, a “narrowly tailored” call, and a “rolling focus” call. CMAP Staff recommended a “rolling focus” call for projects which would only allow specific project types to apply. This option would fund large projects but also bring focus to specific underfunded project types. Highest priority would be given to the focus area of that call year with second priority given to projects with focus areas in upcoming years (See attached CMAP Rolling Focus Sheet).

Allowing engineering to be eligible for funding was also a concern addressed by CMAP staff and it was recommended that high-need communities be eligible for phase 1 funding; however, additional phases may not be programmed until phase 1 is complete. A draft regional shared fund project call and selection methodology will be made available at the April 25, 2018 STP Project Selection Committee. For more information, see attached CMAP Regional Fund Power Point.

Staff Analysis

The current status of both the Active Program Management System and Regional Shared Fund call and selection methodology are in their preliminary stages. Once a draft proposal is provided by CMAP at both the March 28, 2018 and April 25, 2018 meetings will staff be able to interpret how these changes will impact the Council. One concern raised by the Planning Liaisons of the region is what happens to funding if a project fails to meet a deadline and whether the Council keeps those funds or if they are transferred into the regional fund. Staff will continue to monitor the development of the STP Project Selection Committee’s decisions as more details emerge.

Attachments

- CMAP Active Program Management Power Point
- CMAP Rolling Focus Sheet
- CMAP Regional Fund Power Point
- CMAP STP Project Selection Committee Timeline