

Scope of Service/Responsibilities

FY 2019 Planning Liaison Scope of Services

The Planning Liaison (PL) Program is funded with Federal Metropolitan Planning funds, as allocated in the Unified Work Program (UWP). Local matching funds are provided by each local Council. The PL Program receives Core Supplemental funds to assist CMAP, as the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Chicago region, in meeting Federal transportation planning requirements including development of a Long Range Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Congestion Management System. The PL Program includes five general task areas described below that will be completed using the Core Supplemental budget as allocated in the FY 2019 UWP.

Communication & Public Involvement

The PL program will be the basic communication link between CMAP and the suburban mayors. PL staff will attend CMAP Transportation Committee, MPO Policy Committee, CMAP Board, and other relevant meetings and provide information about CMAP transportation policies, programs and initiatives to local officials and stakeholders, will provide feedback regarding those issues to the CMAP staff, committees and Board and will ensure that CMAP is apprised of regional and sub-regional issues of importance to their communities.

The PL program will be the primary public contact for local government projects in the eTIP database. As such, the PLs are expected to keep abreast of project status and issues, and maintain close contact with local project officials and project teams by facilitating the scheduling of project phase kick-off meetings with IDOT and project sponsors, attending those meetings, FHWA/IDOT project coordination meetings, and other project-related meetings and events.

The PL program will actively work to assist CMAP staff with the implementation of GO TO 2040 as well as the development and implementation of the ON TO 2050 regional comprehensive plan through participation in the CMAP committee structure and facilitation of meetings, events, and distribution of information throughout the subregional areas.

The PL program will be responsible for conveying information about council transportation activities via either a council website or the CMAP website. At a minimum, an up-to-date meeting calendar, meeting agendas and attachments, minutes of past meetings, and information regarding the council's STP program development and current status should be available.

General Liaison

The PL program will provide staff assistance as part of the GO TO 2040 and ON TO 2050 comprehensive regional planning effort. This includes being involved in the CMAP committee structure and providing technical and other support to help achieve CMAP objectives. The PL staff will participate in and provide input on local planning initiatives as well as regional and subregional planning efforts surrounding the Transportation Improvement Program, Congestion Management System, and GO TO 2040/ON TO 2050. The PL staff will represent the interests of the subregional councils when attending and participating in advisory groups, committees, and public meetings for regional or subregional planning efforts, and regionally significant projects.

The PL program will support the development and implementation of CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program, the RTA's Community Planning program, *Invest in Cook*, and similar programs by providing program and funding opportunity information to local agencies, facilitating outreach efforts, assisting CMAP, the RTA, or other program sponsors with the

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assessment of applications, and facilitating communication with project sponsors during the implementation of projects.

Program Development – Surface Transportation Program

The PL program will support the region's transition to new programming and management methods for the local Surface Transportation Program (STP) while managing the implementation of existing programs developed in prior years. PL staff shall actively participate in the development of an Active Program Management (APM) system for the shared fund and local programs, the development of a shared fund project selection methodology, data collection for determination of funding distribution, and other related topics by attending STP project selection committee meetings, participating in PL and other meetings, facilitating presentations at subregional council meetings or events, and soliciting local government feedback and communicating that feedback to CMAP and the STP project selection committee, throughout the transition process. The PL program will, with support from CMAP staff and the STP project selection committee, begin making modifications to local council STP methodologies to incorporate the APM system and regional priorities.

During the transition period, PL staff shall closely monitor the implementation progress of STP-funded projects, and shall provide status updates to IDOT and CMAP on a schedule aligned with TIP change deadlines or when requested by CMAP staff.

Program Monitoring and Active Program Management

The PL program will work with local officials, regional, state and federal agencies and consultants to ensure the timely, efficient and effective implementation of transportation projects from the project scoping phase through project completion and close out. This will include providing regular project status reports and attending coordination meetings with CMAP and IDOT staff for all locally sponsored projects, at least semi-annually, and more often when requested. The PL program will be responsible for Active Program Management for locally sponsored projects funded with federal Surface Transportation Block Grant (STP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Safe Routes to School (SRTS), STP-Bridge, Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), and other federal and state resources awarded to local governments through regional, statewide, or national selection processes.

The PL program is responsible for initiating and updating local projects within the eTIP database accurately and on time, including mapping projects and attaching related documents. Active Program Management of these projects also includes reviewing and submitting to IDOT all project forms completed by local agencies and their representatives. This includes, but is not limited to, Project Program Information (PPI) forms and draft local agency funding and engineering agreements. This requires that planning liaisons produce and submit to CMAP all appropriate TIP changes for locally-sponsored projects in a timely manner to ensure timely processing by IDOT and timely federal authorization, and assisting CMAP, IDOT, and FHWA with ensuring timely invoicing and project close out for locally sponsored projects.

The PL program will assist local governments with accessing state and federal funds by communicating funding opportunity information and assisting local agencies with the completion of applications. For calls for projects issued through the eTIP database, the PL staff shall review and release to CMAP all complete funding applications. The PL program shall communicate project selection results and assist local governments with project initiation, including meeting GATA requirements.

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Technical Assistance

The PL program shall maintain a high level of expertise on transportation planning topics by attending and actively participating in local, regional, state, and national training, meetings, and conferences. The training shall include, but not be limited to, CMAP eTIP training, CMAQ, TAP, and other funding program information and training sessions, IDOT program administration training, IDOT and state of Illinois GATA training, the annual IDOT Fall Planning Conference, the annual John Noel Public Transit Conference, IML meetings and conferences, FHWA and FTA training offered through NTI, and meetings and conferences by professional organizations such as APA, ITE, ASCE, AASHTO, NARC, and others. PL staff shall encourage appropriate local government participation in the same, and shall communicate procedural changes, new or updated regulations, and other appropriate information from these sessions to local government and transportation partners.

The PL program will provide technical support and assistance regarding transportation issues to CMAP and local governments. It will provide data and analysis regarding issues of importance to regional or sub-regional agencies.