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Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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Economic Development Committee
DRAFT Minutes
January 27, 2020

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
DuPage Conference Room
233 South Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Chicago, Illinois

Members present: Mari Castaldi (Chicago Jobs Council), Lisa Castillo Richmond (Partnership for College Completion), Kevin Considine (Lake County Partners), Kristi DeLaurentiis (South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association), Xochitl Flores (Cook County Bureau for Economic Development), Jonathan Furr (NIU Education Systems Center), Bryan Gay (Invest Aurora), Emily Harris (Harris Strategies), Michael Horsting (Regional Transportation Authority), Jason Keller (interim chair, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago), Gretchen Kleinert (Chicago TREND), Agnes Masnik (Illinois Department for Commerce and Economic Opportunity), Kelly O'Brien (Alliance for Regional Development), Henry Pierce (ComEd), Lance Pressl (Kaplan Family Institute for Innovation and Tech Entrepreneurship), Doug Pryor (Will County Center for Economic Development), John Reinert (McHenry County Board)

Others present: Garland Armstrong (Access Living, PACE ADA Advisory), Heather Armstrong (Access Living, PACE ADA Advisory), Marti Deuter (Chicago Regional Growth Corporation), Tom Hulseman (Chicago Regional Growth Corporation), Edith Makra (Metropolitan Mayors Caucus), Dominic Tocci (Cook County Planning and Development), Bethany Williams (Lake County Partners), Drew Williams-Clark (Center for Neighborhood Technology)

CMAP staff: Erin Aleman, Austen Edwards, Cindy Cambray, Jesse Elam, Tina Fassett-Smith, James Gross, Lindsay Hollander, Stephanie Levine, Timi Koyejo, Amy McEwan, Jared Patton, Stephane Phifer, Elizabeth Scott, Matt Stern, Gordon Smith, Aseal Tineh, Simone Weil, Laura Wilkison

1.0 Call to Order/Introductions
Jason Keller called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2.0   Agenda Changes and Announcements

3.0   Approval meeting minutes
A motion to adopt the minutes for October 28, 2019 was made and seconded. With no opposition, the motion carried.

4.0   Presentation: Cook County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and Consolidated Plan
Drew Williams-Clark, Managing Director of Urban Resilience at the Center for Neighborhood Technology, provided an overview of the primary findings and actions in Cook County's next Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS will guide related investments, initiatives, and partnerships over the next five years, in line with the Policy Roadmap released in November 2018. Among others goals, the new strategy seeks to tackle the region's persistent segregation by race and economic hardship. Several existing conditions impinge on economic growth, including aging infrastructure, disparate property tax burdens, and recurring jobs-housing mismatches. The CEDS advances two overarching principles: Racial Equity and Resilience. The draft also reflects U.S. HUD's requirements for submission as a Consolidated Plan. Additional elements will be added and revisions made before final submission to U.S. HUD in summer 2020.

The committee discussed how Cook County can address access to high-quality education and training through its work on property tax relief and the development of accessible, supportive, and affordable housing. Members inquired if CNT or the county considered developing a social vulnerability index that incorporates both physical and socioeconomic factors, as well as the need to discuss transit and transportation issues.

5.0   Guide on incentives for economic development
Lindsay Hollander reviewed the initial findings of a recent CMAP project to draft guidance for local communities on policies and practices on economic development incentives. Previous CMAP analysis shows that local governments commit significant resources to such incentives, including at least $16 billion in equalized assessed value through tax increment financing and at least $6 billion in Cook County property tax incentive classes. The current project includes three parts: a guidebook for implementing local incentive policies, technical assistance to the Village of Richton Park, and a report estimating the prevalence of different incentive types in the region. The guidebook will outline a number of best practices, including how communities should start with non-financial incentives, assess developers' need for the incentive, evaluate short and long-term fiscal impacts on infrastructure and services, seek regional benefits and racial equity, and actively use clawback provisions.

The committee discussed the need for clear thresholds for real economic benefits and principles on minimizing intra-regional competition for new business activity. Members also affirmed the need to align incentive programs with larger initiatives on job access and workforce development. The guidebook will emphasize that incentives offered through multiple programs or by multiple state and local entities should be viewed as an integrated incentive package when evaluating its necessity and impact.

6.0 Regional Climate Action Plan

CMAP's Jared Patton and Edith Makra, Director of Environmental Initiatives with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC), shared an update on the Regional Climate Action Plan – a joint effort to outline strategies in accordance with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy. This project builds on the previous sustainability pledges and goals set under MMC's Greenest Region Compact, as well as key projections set in CMAP's 2015 Chicago Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. For example, 69% of the regions greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from stationary energy production facilities, compared to 29% from transportation vehicles and 3% from waste. The region has made progress in curbing its emissions, seeing a 7% drop in total emissions, 8.5% drop in per-capita emissions, and 50% drop in total emissions from waste. More work is needed. The project's next steps include developing a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment and considering local resilience strategies for adapting to the economic and fiscal pressures of climate change, alongside local climate mitigation techniques.

Discussion focused on ways to refine the greenhouse gas emissions assessment by incorporating new data on the changing mix of energy sources and electrical grid technology. Members also discussed opportunities for CMAP to consider the impacts of transportation electrification, particularly given the agency's purview on related land use and infrastructure issues.

7.0 Local Technical Assistance/Community Planning call for projects

Stephane Phifer presented the 28 project proposals with the highest potential to be selected under CMAP's Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. The joint call for projects with RTA's Community Planning program received 82 applications from 71 applicants. Stephane provided an overview of what project types covered, how they are assessed, and when CMAP will finalize its project selection. In particular, CMAP is currently revisiting the methodology used to assess community need and expanding its offerings to include new project types like leadership development, civic coordination, and strategic planning for climate resilience.

Committee members raised questions about the outreach process for soliciting applications and how the Embedded Staff Planner program interacts with the LTA program. CMAP will release the final list of staff recommended LTA projects by March 11, 2020—with approval pending the April 8, 2020 CMAP Board Meeting.

8.0 Other business

There was no other business.

9.0 Public Comment

Heather Armstrong brought attention to the need for commercial property landlords and tenets to recycle plastics more consistently. Doing so would further mitigate the region's greenhouse gas emissions from waste.
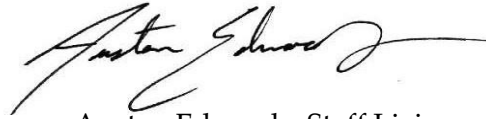
10.0 Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 23, 2020 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

11.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Austen Edwards, Staff Liaison