

	<p><b>Policy Committee</b></p>	February 13, 2008
	<p><b>I. Call to Order</b></p> <p>Policy Committee Chair Paul Fichtner called the meeting to order at 3:12 p.m. Mr. Fichtner welcomed new committee members Joe Deal serving on behalf of Mayor Daley's office [replacing Rita Athas], and Addison Trustee Joe McDermott serving on behalf of DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference [replacing Michael Fortner]. Mr. Fichtner noted that Mr. McDermott is currently out of state and participating in the meeting via telephone.</p> <p>Mr. Fichtner also noted the participation of alternates Mark Avery and Alan Bennett, serving in place of DuPage County Board Member Tom Bennington and Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, respectively. Mr. Fichtner then reminded all present to sign the attendance sheet.</p> <p>Mr. Fichtner summarized the prior committee meeting on Dec. 5, 2006, at which the primary business items were the approval of eleven options for evaluation, the incorporation of public comment into various study documents and the approval of corridor planning standards. He also noted that the purpose of today's meeting is to review three system recommendations forwarded by the Technical Committee based on their technical evaluation and to determine what to move forward for detailed consideration in follow-on study. Mr. Fichtner further stated that the committee would also consider a set of supporting recommendations developed by the Technical Committee. The actions taken today would be considered preliminary and the subject of public comment in March.</p> <p><b>II. Approval of December 5, 2006 Meeting Summary</b></p> <p>Mr. Fichtner asked committee members to review Attachment 1, the summary of the December 5, 2006 Policy Committee meeting and requested any changes. Vice Chair David Pope made a motion to approve the meeting summary as presented, with a second provided by Frank Pasquale. The December 5, 2006 meeting summary was approved by unanimous vote.</p> <p><b>III. Committee Reports</b></p> <p>Mr. Fichtner acknowledged the accomplishments of the Technical Committee and the Citizen Advisory Committee and thanked the respective committee members for their efforts. Mr. Fichtner invited a representative from the two committees to report on recent activities.</p> <p><b>A. Technical Committee</b></p> <p>Ms. Tam Kutzmark, Vice-Chair of the Cook DuPage Corridor Technical Committee reported that the Technical Committee had completed the evaluation of a broad range of options to determine how well each option addressed the study's goals and objectives.</p>	

She noted that it was a complex but successful evaluation process that resulted in three recommendations for the Policy Committee's consideration today. She further reported that the recommendations of the Technical Committee reflect the results of scores from a technical evaluation, along with key environmental considerations and consensus on noteworthy strengths and weaknesses.

Ms. Kutzmark thanked the Policy Committee members for their leadership. She further expressed her confidence in the technical foundation of the recommendations and indicated that the public policy perspective of the Policy Committee would add value to the work forwarded by the Technical Committee.

### ***B. Citizen Advisory Committee***

Mr. Fred Brandstrader, AIA, Chair of the Cook DuPage Corridor Citizen Advisory Committee, reported that during the past year, the committee reviewed strategies to increase public input, expanded the stakeholder database and offered advice to staff on public communication matters.

Mr. Brandstrader noted that the Citizen Advisory Committee had also led the development of a glossary of terms and definitions, distributed to the Policy Committee at today's meeting. He invited suggestions for additional terms or other improvements.

Mr. Brandstrader stated that the Citizen Advisory Committee had an opportunity last June to review the recommendations of the Technical Committee. He noted that the materials were somewhat challenging for a layperson to understand, and that the current versions are considerably improved.

Mr. Brandstrader explained that four public meetings were planned during the upcoming thirty-day public comment period to help obtain input on decisions reached by the Policy Committee at today's meeting. Mr. Brandstrader encouraged members of all of the committees to attend the public meetings and to help engage the public and the media in the Cook DuPage Corridor study.

Mr. Fichtner thanked Ms. Kutzmark and Mr. Brandstrader for their reports.

## **IV. Consideration of System Recommendations**

Mr. Fichtner then turned the Committee's attention to Attachment 2, noting that the requested action is to determine which future system to advance for further detailed consideration. He reiterated that the decision today would be preliminary and subject to public comment and that the Committee may revise the decision when

they next meet in May, if warranted by the public comments received.

Mr. Fichtner noted that all committee members have had an opportunity to carefully review the recommendations in advance of today's meeting, through individual and small group briefings held in January. He reported that nearly all committee members attended at least one briefing and that some members, including him, attended more than one. He added that RTA staff compiled and provided a response to questions from the briefings on a Q&A sheet that was included with the meeting materials.

Mr. Fichtner inquired about the popularity, or lack thereof, of extending the Blue Line to Oak Brook and Yorktown. He noted that comments at the briefings indicate support for extending the Blue Line in the I-290 Corridor, but not necessarily further west than 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue. He noted that committee members had expressed particular interest in the I-290 corridor in general, and suggested the Main Line System as a starting point for discussion.

Mr. Pope indicated that he was interested in looking at the Blue Line extension to Yorktown and that recent conversations he has had with other west Cook County communities and the president of Oak Brook reflect that there is support for such extensions further west.

Mr. Bennett indicated that he generally supports the Main Line system, but that the Concentric System offers greater north-south investment that the entire Chicago region is lacking. He also stated that the Blue Line seems to provide a logical east-west connection between the north-south spines, offering a seamless system from DuPage County to Chicago's downtown.

Mr. Peraica noted that he preferred the Concentric System, as it seemed to offer greater possibilities for the region, as a whole.

Mr. Pope inquired whether the committee must select from among the three systems as presented, or if they could combine them. If possible to do so, he suggested the committee consider adding a few elements to the Main Line System, such as the Inner Circumferential and Blue Line extension to Yorktown [from the Concentric System].

Mr. Avery indicated that he would like to see the IL 59 BRT corridor extended to North Avenue [north of I-88], as part of the Main Line system.

Mr. Marcucci recommended starting new corridors with bus service and over time phasing services into BRT and LRT, in scale with demand.

February 13, 2008

Mr. Marcucci noted that Pace stands ready to implement BRT corridors such as the J Route, but that trip generation should drive this decision. He indicated his support for extending the Blue Line west to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue as an unphased action, as that short extension would provide trip generators at each end of the line [Maywood/Loyola and the Chicago CBD].

Mr. Pasquale expressed concern that a Blue Line extension west might by-pass residents of west Cook communities.

Mr. Deal suggested that a hybrid of the Main Line System with another system might be a good beginning point for next phase analysis.

Mr. Fichtner confirmed that the Main Line System with some potential additions seemed to be most broadly supported by the committee. Mr. Fichtner indicated that based on conversations at the briefings however, cost may be a concern.

Mr. Bennett shared his opinion that cost may be academic; he noted that he would prefer to see the RTA bring a larger system into the next study phase and allow more elements to go through the evaluation process. Mr. Fichtner inquired whether the system would appear feasible if it cost more than \$9 billion [the total amount of funding projected to be available through 2030 for new major projects in the northeastern Illinois region]. Mr. Bennett stated that the issue is more of funding than of cost and affirmed that he would rather see more projects pursued for funding, than less. Mr. Deal noted that the MidCity Transitway is an expensive project for which funding has not yet been obtained, but is important to west side Chicago residents and is supported by the City [of Chicago].

Mr. Fichtner asked the committee to pause in their conversation for a moment and requested confirmation that it was the committee's desire to focus on the Main Line and Concentric systems for their further consideration and discussion, and not the Radial Reliant system. Committee members indicated unanimous agreement. The Chair granted a very brief, five-minute break. Committee discussion then resumed.

Mr. Pope indicated that the MidCity, together with the west extension of the Blue Line and the Inner Circumferential, could serve as a catalyst for Chicago's west side and west suburban communities by linking the airports, but that he does share in the concern for cost.

Mr. Fichtner requested that committee members momentarily turn their attention to the potential alternatives in the Main Line Corridor. He noted that the three I-290 Corridor alternatives

forwarded by the Technical Committee include an extension to 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue or to Oak Brook, but that there appeared to be interest among Policy Committee members to examine an extension as far west as Yorktown. Committee members indicated their agreement with this statement.

Mr. Fichtner then further summarized that the committee seemed to agree that there is a need for north south elements in the Main Line system in addition to the two north-south elements presented [the MidCity and the J Route]. Mr. Fichtner then suggested including the Inner Circumferential rail line and the I-355 BRT from the Concentric system. Mr. Bennett expressed agreement and noted that some of the elements could be identified as corridors of the future for detailed study at a later time.

On a motion by Mr. Avery, with a second from Mr. Pope, the Policy Committee voted unanimously to approve on a preliminary basis and subject to public comment, advancing for further study the Mainline System revised to include a further extension of the Blue Line to Yorktown, and the addition of the Inner Circumferential rail line and the I-355 BRT corridor project from the Concentric System.

#### **V. Consideration of Supporting Recommendations**

Mr. Fichtner introduced Attachment 3, the proposed supporting recommendations.

Through a PowerPoint presentation, RTA staff member Bill Lenski described the supporting recommendations, as forwarded by the Technical Committee. He further presented and explained how the supporting recommendations were intended to advance major capital investments, policy issues and the following networks: smart corridors, connector services, distribution/circulation services and strategic roadway improvements.

Mr. Fichtner invited committee member discussion on the supporting recommendations. Mr. Pope inquired if the committee's actions on the prior item (system recommendations) would be contrary to any of the supporting recommendations. Mr. Fichtner and RTA staff indicated that this would not appear to be the case. Mr. Lenski further noted that the supporting recommendations were developed so as to be compatible with all eleven options under consideration. RTA staff further confirmed that action taken today on the supporting recommendations is preliminary, and that any final revision could be made in May, if needed.

Mr. Bennett made a motion to approve the Supporting Recommendations as presented in Attachment 3. Mr. Deal provided a second and the motion passed unanimously.

**VI. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**VII. Public Comment**

Mr. Fichtner invited members of the audience to comment and there was none.

**VIII. Next Meeting**

Mr. Fichtner reported that the next meeting date of the Policy Committee is tentatively Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. at the RTA in Chicago.

**IX. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Pope, with a second from Mr. Peraica, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at approximately 4:00 p.m.

## IX. Attendance Rosters

Policy Committee				
Present	Absent	Name	Title	Organization
✓		Avery, Mark (Alt. for Thomas J. Bennington)	Planning Division Manager	DuPage County
✓		Bennett, Alan (Alt. for Peter Silvestri)	Trustee, Village of Elmwood Park	Cook County
✓		Deal, Joseph	Director of External Relations	City of Chicago, Mayor's Office
✓		Dominick, Larry	Mayor	Town of Cicero
✓*		McDermott, Joseph	Trustee	Village of Addison
✓		Fichtner, Paul	County Board Member, District 1	DuPage County
✓		Marcucci, Thomas	Mayor	City of Elmhurst
✓		Pasquale, Frank	President	Village of Bellwood
✓		Peraica, Anthony	Commissioner	Cook County Board, 16 <sup>th</sup> District
✓		Pope, David – Vice Chair	President	Village of Oak Park
✓		Stupegia, Joyce	President	Village of Villa Park

\* Participation via telephone

Others in Attendance		
Present	Name	Organization
✓	Baczek, John	Illinois Dept. of Transportation, District 1
✓	Brandstrader AIA, Fred	American Institute of Architects - Chicago
✓	Bruno, Anthony	Illinois Development Services Corporation (IDSC)
✓	Cannata, Leonard	West Central Municipal Conference
✓	Cole, Rob	Village of Oak Park
✓	Georgas, Ted	Cook County Highway Dept.
✓	Guerriero, Henry	Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
✓	Huffman, Bob	Pace
✓	Hulseberg, David	Village of Lombard
✓	Kutzmark, Tam	DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference
✓	McCampbell, Roy	Village of Bellwood
✓	Parker, Andrew	Pace
✓	Perna, Laura	Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources
✓	Parker, Andrew	Pace
✓	Trombetta, Vince	Republican Organization of Lyons Twp.
✓	Vasselli, James	Town of Cicero
✓	Wierciak, Tammy	West Central Municipal Conference

Staff		
✓	Lenski, Bill	Regional Transportation Authority
✓	Redden, Leanne	Regional Transportation Authority
✓	Ryan, Michelle	Regional Transportation Authority
✓	Weseman, Sidney	Regional Transportation Authority