

## **Technical Committee**

A meeting of the **Technical Committee** of the Cook DuPage Corridor Study was held on **March 29, 2007** at 1:30 p.m. at 175 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago. This document includes a summary of the discussion for each agenda item and a roster of those who attended.

### **I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Patrick Higgins called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. He announced the new appointment of Karyn Ryg to the Technical Committee, who will be serving on behalf of the City of Naperville and the DuPage Council. Mr. Higgins further noted that Carmen Carruthers was attending in her place today.

### **II. January 25, 2007 Meeting Summary**

Mr. Higgins requested if there were any changes to the January 25, 2007 Technical Committee meeting summary. Mr. Rob Cole requested that on page 7, his reference to "critical habitat" be corrected to "wetlands".

Ms. Tam Kutzmark offered a motion to approve the minutes as revised, with a second by Mr. Bob Dean. The meeting summary was approved by unanimous vote.

### **III. Selection of New Vice Chair**

Mr. Higgins reported that the Committee needs to select a new Vice Chair to replace Rick Boehm, who recently left his position with Oak Brook to join the private sector. Mr. Higgins indicated that Ms. Kutzmark has expressed an interest to serve in this capacity. He further noted her continuity and participation since the beginning of the study.

Mr. Nick Pappas nominated Ms. Kutzmark as Vice Chair noting her significant contributions to date and vast knowledge of transit related issues. Mr. Higgins requested if there were any other nominees. Hearing none, Mr. Higgins called for a vote to approve the nomination of Ms. Kutzmark as Vice Chair of the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee voted unanimously to appoint Ms. Kutzmark as Vice Chair.

Before moving forward with the agenda, Mr. Higgins requested Ms. Ryan review the handouts distributed at the meeting. Ms. Ryan reviewed the following pieces of information: Screening Evaluation Matrix, Map of Average Household Expenditures on Housing and Transportation (provided by Albert Benedict, Citizen Advisory Committee Member).

#### **IV. Detailed Options**

Mr. Higgins stated that he would like to see the Technical Committee successfully narrow the eleven options down to five options or less. If the Technical Committee were unable to achieve that at this meeting, then he suggested the Committee be prepared to meet again on April 5 in order to adequately prepare a recommendation for the Policy Committee's consideration on April 19.

Ms. Kutzmark inquired as to the difference between the Goal 4 and Goal 7 worksheets distributed at the meeting and those that were received prior to the meeting and an explanation for what motivated the changes. Ms. Ryan responded that the Corridor Planning Standards were applied to Goal 4 and Goal 7, which impacted the scores for the Options, and the revised worksheets listed the new scores.

Ms. Kutzmark asked Mr. Higgins to describe what the focus of the Technical Committee should be for this meeting. Mr. Higgins responded that the focus should be on major capital improvements.

Ms. Kutzmark also sought clarification on whether or not any goals should be weighted more than others to help the Technical Committee focus on the various capital projects and commitments. Mr. Tony Catalina explained that the initial evaluation methodology included an opportunity to weight each goal; however, it was determined that this approach would not be used. He added that weighting goals is a common industry practice and would not be difficult to do.

Mr. Andrew Parker inquired about the confidence level of the results of the evaluation matrix based on what was measured. Mr. Catalina responded that he had a high confidence level. He added that at the conceptual feasibility level, this was a great amount of detail and the evaluation provides a solid grasp on the performance of each option.

Mr. Higgins confirmed his understanding that weighting of the goals would not be pursued. Mr. Catalina noted that weighting would change the evaluation results and if weighting were applied it would need to be on the goal level, not on the objective or evaluation measure levels.

Ms. Kutzmark questioned the best use of the evaluation matrix as a decision-making tool. Mr. Catalina responded that the evaluation matrix is one of many considerations for the options; [there are] other issues needed to [be] considered, such as cost-effectiveness.

Mr. Dean expressed concern about the wide range of results for the single evaluation measure scored for Goal 6, Reduce Adverse Environmental Impacts. He suggested that additional environmental measures be added to Goal 6 to dampen the impact of the single evaluation measure. Mr. Cole noted that the evaluation measure scored should also include critical habitats, not just flood plains and wetlands. In addition, Mr. Cole indicated that Oak Park has a number of historic parcels and if wetlands are considered, historic structures should also be considered.

	<p>Mr. Higgins identified the key issues as whether to expand the evaluation measures for Goal 6 or remove the Goal altogether, and whether to show the public the top five options.</p> <p>Mr. Cole expressed concern about the importance of the environmental impacts as a consideration in narrowing the options. Mr. Higgins confirmed that the importance of environmental impacts is in no way diminished.</p> <p>Mr. Henry Guerriero suggested an alternative method for measuring environmental impacts may be using land use data gathered by NIPC. Ms. Claire Bozic noted the lack of detailed data and information available at this stage.</p> <p>Mr. Peter Godowski stated that the Cook DuPage Corridor study is at the feasibility stage and much of the detailed environmental analysis will take place with an Environmental Impact Analysis once specific projects are identified.</p> <p>Mr. Catalina briefly reviewed a set of slides that provided additional context and clarification of the environmental findings.</p> <p>Mr. Cole requested a written explanation from Mr. Catalina on the process used to calculate the scores for each option.</p> <p>Mr. Rich Hazlett emphasized that the Technical Committee has spent a great deal of time in the development of the Options, and cautioned against becoming unnecessarily overwhelmed by the evaluation measures, particularly when there were not crucial differences between the options. At this stage, he expected the RTA staff and consultants to highlight the options that should not move forward to the next phase.</p> <p>Mr. Higgins agreed and asked the RTA staff to elaborate on the set of projects that were common among the options that were the highest ranked.</p> <p>Mr. Dean requested the Technical Committee revisit the issue of Goal 6 before moving on with the discussion, because the removal of Goal 6 scores would change the ranking of a Radial Reliant Option from 10<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup>.</p> <p>Mr. David Kralik supported the position expressed by Mr. Godowski and believed that Goal 6 would be better addressed through an Environmental Assessment. He noted that even if additional environmental measures were included and scored, more detailed analysis beyond a feasibility phase would be required. Mr. Kralik made a motion, seconded by Mr. Godowski to eliminate Goal 6 from the quantitative analysis and include a qualitative consideration of the Goal. The vote passed 17-2, with Mr. Cole and Mr. Guerriero casting dissenting votes.</p> <p>Mr. Cole strongly objected stating that the removal of Goal 6 made the study fatally flawed and was inappropriate. Mr. Guerriero expressed his belief that Goal 6 could be measured and scored at this stage and saw no reason not to do so. Mr. Cole further stated that the evaluation methodology distributed for public review and comment did not provide a mechanism for the current treatment of Goal 6.</p>	

Ms. Kutzmark stated that the role of the Technical Committee is to take an incomplete tool, the evaluation matrix, and determine the best way to use it. Relative to the environmental measures, she indicated that public input is not being disregarded, nor are the goals and objectives.

Mr. Kralik asked Mr. Catalina for clarification of the scoring of Goal 7 and noted that the objective could be scored differently if the parts were taken separately – construction costs vs. operations costs rather than combined in the overall effectiveness measure. Mr. Catalina and Ms. Ryan provided a detailed explanation of the calculations used for cost effectiveness, including the cost effectiveness factor. Mr. Catalina further explained the importance and FTA requirements for utilizing annualized costs to take into account life cycle costs for different modes, i.e. bus replacement (12 years) versus rail replacement (30 years).

Mr. Higgins requested Mr. Catalina revise the scoring based on not quantitatively measuring and scoring Goal 6.

Mr. Dean asked whether the number of stations included within each option could be indicated. He noted that a major consideration is the number of jobs within a ½ mile of each station. Mr. Lenski explained that a comprehensive document outlining the operating assumptions for each option was available on the study website.

Ms. Kutzmark requested more information on the format of the April 5 Technical Committee meeting. Mr. Higgins explained that the purpose of the next meeting will be to identify the set of recommendations that the Technical Committee will be making to the Policy Committee.

## **V. Formulation of Committee Recommendations**

The agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

## **VI. Committee Reports and Other Business**

Ms. Bozic informed the Technical Committee that the CMAP was preparing an urban partnership application for the region to FHWA. She explained that about \$500 million in funding was available and a number of congested corridors were under consideration including I-55 and I-90. Ms. Bozic believes that the Cook DuPage Corridor warrants consideration and includes a number of transit options. The funds could be used to support implementation and FHWA wants projects up and running within three years. She requested the Technical Committee review the congestion pricing handout distributed at the meeting.

## **VII. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Technical Committee tentatively scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2007 was postponed to allow time for requested staff revisions.

	<p><b>VIII. Adjournment</b></p>	

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

## Attendance Rosters

Technical Committee				
Present	Absent	Name	Title	Organization
*		Abraham, Chuck	Program Support Chief	IDOT, Division of Intermodal and Public Transportation
✓		Alvarez, José Luis	Grants Director, Town of Cicero	North Central Council of Mayors
*		Avery, Mark	Chief of Traffic Planning and Programming	DuPage County
	✓	Baczek, John	Consultant Studies Unit Head	IDOT - District 1, Division of Highways
*		Bolton, Michael	Deputy Executive Director, Strategic Services	Pace
✓		Bozic, Claire	Director of Plan Implementation	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
✓		Carruthers, Carmen	Transportation and Planning Operations Manager, City of Naperville	DuPage Council of Mayors
*		Ciavarella, Lynnette	Director, Office of Planning and Analysis	Metra
✓		Cole, Robert	Interim Assistant to the Village Manager, Village of Oak Park	North Central Council of Mayors
✓		Dean, Bob	Regional Planner	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
	✓	DiPalma, Christopher	Metropolitan Planning Engineer	Federal Highway Administration
✓		Godowski, Peter	Highway Engineer, Bureau of Transportation and Planning	Cook County Highway Department
✓		Guerriero, Henry	Traffic and Revenue Analyst, Planning Department	Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
✓		Hazlett, Richard	Coordinating Planner	Chicago Department of Transportation
✓		Higgins, Patrick	Village Manager, Village of Western Springs	Central Council of Mayors
	✓	Hulseberg, David	Asst. Village Manager/Director of Community Development, Village of Lombard	DuPage Council of Mayors
✓		Kutzmark, Tam	Transportation Planning Liaison, DMMC	DuPage Council of Mayors
	✓	McCampbell, Roy	Comptroller and CFO, Village of Bellwood	North Central Council of Mayors
✓		McCluskey, Beth	Director of Transportation and Planning, WCMC	North Central Council of Mayors
*		Montazery, Yadollah	Assistant Director	Chicago OEMC
*		Shiffer, Michael	Vice President, Planning and Development	Chicago Transit Authority
	✓	Werner, David	Community Planner	Federal Transit Administration
✓		Wierciak, Tammy	Planning Coordinator, WCMC	Central Council of Mayors
	✓	Vacant		IDOT, Office of Planning and Programming

\*Alternates present:

Chuck Kadlec served in place of Chuck Abraham for IDOT-DIPT  
 David Kralik served in place of Lynnette Ciavarella for Metra  
 Peter Fahrenwald served in place of Michael Shiffer for CTA.  
 Nick Pappas served in place of Mark Avery for DuPage County.  
 Andrew Parker served in place of Michael Bolton for Pace.  
 Abraham Emmanuel w served in place of Yadollah Montazery for Chicago OEMC.

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**Others in Attendance**

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Name	Organization
Benedict, Al	CNT
Perna, Laura	IDNR

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**Staff**

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Allen, Mignon	Dovetail Consulting
Catalina, Tony	Entran
DeLaurentiis, John	RTA
Lenski, William	RTA
O'Holleran, John	Entran
Phan, Michael	Entran
Ryan, Michelle	RTA