



CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

MEETING OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

to be held at the

CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois

Cunningham-Williams Conference Room

Thursday, March 11, 2004

10:00 A.M.

A G E N D A

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Approval of Minutes for
January 8, 2004 Meeting**
ACTION REQUESTED
Approval by Policy Committee

The minutes were previously mailed.

B. Council of Mayors' Report

C. Executive Director's Report

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. FTA Subarea Allocation between Indiana and Illinois and Designated Recipients of Section 5307 Capital and Planning Funds

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Resolution 04-01 endorsing northeastern Illinois/northwestern Indiana subarea allocation, resolutions 04-02, 04-03, 04-04 endorsing CTA, Metra and Pace as designated recipients for FY 04, and resolution 04-06 endorsing the northeastern Illinois/southeastern Wisconsin subarea allocation.

B. Swift Rail Development Act of 1994: New FRA Regulations

The MPO endorses the allocation of Section 5307 Capital and Planning funds between Illinois and Indiana, and names designated recipients on an annual basis. The RTA Board is scheduled to meet and consider the FY 04 allocations on April 1, 2004. To expedite programming and grant submissions by the CTA, Metra and Pace, staff is requesting that the Policy Committee consider endorsing the subarea allocation and the service boards as designated recipients using the RTA's preliminary allocations. If these preliminary allocations are changed by RTA action, they will be resubmitted to the Policy Committee at the June meeting. As a result of the Round Lake Beach-McHenry-Grayslake IL—WI urbanized area, this year the endorsement of a subarea allocation between Illinois and Wisconsin is proposed.

FRA has extended the comment deadline to April 19, 2004. Analyses of the new FRA regulations on the implementation of the Act have been proceeding at the local and regional level. Significant shortcomings in the regulations still exist and, while the current focus is to make strong, salient comments and suggestions to the FRA, the Council of Mayors and others are suggesting that a Congressional strategy may be needed to find a workable compromise. FRA Administrator Allan Rutter and several key FRA staff participated in three meetings in our area on February 16 and 17. The public meeting was well attended and several of our Congressional delegation attended or sent staff, indicative of the high level of interest and eagerness to help expressed by members of our delegation. A status report on issue will be provided.

C. Public Involvement Plan

ACTION REQUESTED

*Approval of Resolution 04-05
adopting the revised Public
Involvement Plan*

The Public Involvement Task Force has developed a revised Public Involvement Plan for Transportation Planning in Northeastern Illinois. The proposed Plan received the required 45 day public comment period. The Work Program Committee has reviewed the Plan, the comments received and how the Public Involvement Task Force responded to the comments. The Work Program Committee recommends adoption of the revised Public Involvement Plan.

**D. Implications of the 2000
Census in Northeastern
Illinois**

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of updated urban boundary

A status report on activities related to the 2000 census results will be given and the proposed updated urban area boundary will be offered for approval. Slight adjustments have been made to the boundary recommended by the Work Program Committee to include the urban places of Wilmington in Will County and Hampshire in Kane County.

E. 2030 Regional Transport Plan (RTP)

Staff will present the “popular fold-up” version of the 2030 RTP. This attractive and accessible document will be used to introduce the 2030 RTP to a wider audience and will facilitate broader public discussion of the 2030 RTP and the *Shared Path 2030* planning process.

F. Regional Transportation Task Force

The Task Force has met several times, rejecting the proposal to merge the RTA, CATS, NIPC and the Toll Highway Authority into a single agency. Currently under consideration is the recommendation of the Metropolitan Planning Council that the NIPC Commission become the region’s MPO, with the Policy Committee serving as an advisory board to the Commission, and have the CATS staff absorbed by NIPC. The Task Force asked the Metropolitan Planning Council and the Center for Neighborhood Technology to provide a governance and operational structure for this proposal.

**G. Common Ground – NIPC’s
Land Use Plan**

A status report will be given by NIPC of Phase II of Common Ground whose goal is to create a Regional Land Use Framework Plan and have it endorsed by the NIPC Commission in December 2004. Of particular interest to CATS is the preparation of socioeconomic forecasts that reflect Common Ground recommendations and strategies. These socioeconomic forecasts are important to RTP evaluations.

H. RTAMS Demonstration

Regional Transit Asset Management System (RTAMS)
RTAMS is an Internet-based pilot project to create a centralized source of databases on the region’s transit assets and related information. The RTAMS database includes ridership information, operational data, capital program and grant information and aerial photography. The initial goal of this project is to create a central base of information that can be shared and accessed by the RTA, the CTA, Metra, Pace and other agencies across the region, thereby improving the flow of information between these agencies. Ultimately, a version of the RTAMS database will also be made available to the public. RTA staff will make a presentation.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is June 10, 2004.

VI. ADJOURNMENT