



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, October 13, 2005
10:00 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OLD BUSINESS

**A. Approval of Minutes for
June 9, 2005**

The minutes were previously mailed.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval by Policy Committee

B. Council of Mayors' Report

C. Executive Director's Report

D. U.S. DOT Certification Review of the Metropolitan Planning Process for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Area

U.S. DOT conducted a Certification Review of the Metropolitan Planning Process for the Northeastern Illinois Transportation Planning Area during the month of August. The review is meant to determine if the planning process meets the requirements of *23 CFR Part 450, Subpart C – Metropolitan Transportation Planning and Programming*. In addition, since northeastern Illinois is not in attainment of national ambient air quality standards, the review must certify that the planning process is adequate to ensure conformity of plans and programs with procedures contained in *40 CFR Part 51 – Air Quality: Transportation Plans and Programs*. Staff from the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration will report on the findings of the review.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Nominating Committee for the Office of Vice-Chairman

The CATS bylaws state “each year during June, after notice to the membership in the call and agenda of a particular meeting, the Chairman shall appoint a subcommittee of three members of the Policy Committee to nominate at a meeting in October, the name or names of candidates for election to the office of Vice Chairman of the Policy Committee for the following year”. The members of the nominating committee must include one person from each of the following areas: municipal government or municipal corporation; highway or roads administration; and public transportation agency, mass transit district or other transportation provider. This action was omitted from the June agenda and will be taken up at this meeting with the election held in January.

B. SAFETEA-LU – Implications for Metropolitan Planning

The implementation of the transportation reauthorization legislation, SAFETEA-LU, will bring about several changes to the metropolitan planning process in northeastern Illinois. Although final changes won't be known until passage of new federal regulations covering metropolitan planning, staff will brief the Committee on the probable impacts for northeastern Illinois.

C. FY 2007 Unified Work Program Procedures

The Unified Work Program committee has prepared a recommendation for the development of the FY 2007 Unified Work Program. The committee will develop projects that address core elements during the fall time frame and will follow with a competitive selection process for remaining funds in the winter time frame. The proposed schedule and a listing of the core elements are enclosed.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of UWP Development Procedure and Schedule

D. TEA-21 Subcommittee

The TEA-21 sub-committee was charged to “review and make recommendations on all aspects of the 1998 Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).” With the passage of SAFETEA-LU, replacing TEA-21, the Policy Committee will need to establish policies and procedures addressing the changes brought about by the new legislation. The subcommittee consists of Policy Committee members or alternates from IDOT, Council of Mayors, RTA, CDOT, and counties (one representative). CATS staff supports the subcommittee.

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorization to reactivate the subcommittee

E. Status of Implementing the Regional Planning Act

The Regional Planning Act calls for the appointment of members to the Regional Planning Board by October 8, 2005. Staff will brief Committee members on the status of those appointments, along with the requirement to co-locate the staffs of CATS and NIPC.

F. Appointment to the Regional Planning Board

Public Act 094-0510, the Regional Planning Act, calls for the CATS Policy Committee to “appoint one of their members to serve as a non-voting member of the Regional Planning Board”.

ACTION REQUESTED

Appointment of Regional Planning Board Member

G. Transit Use Campaign

With the high cost of gasoline, potential shortages stemming from the recent hurricane season and significant regional expressway construction, this is an opportune time to encourage alternatives to single occupant vehicle travel. Working with IDOT's Division of External Affairs, the MPO should advance a campaign advocating greater use of transit and other activities designed to limit highway driving particularly in the area of construction projects. A proposal to address this effort will be discussed.

H. FY 2006 CMAQ Program

The Work Program Committee met September 30 to consider the proposed FY 2006 CMAQ program as recommend by the CMAQ Project Selection Committee. The Work Program Committee has recommended approval of the program as enclosed.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Fiscal Year 2006
CMAQ Program

**I. Finding of Plan and Program
Conformity to the PM_{2.5}
Standard**

The draft Supplemental Conformity Analysis for the PM_{2.5} Standard was released for public comment on August 12, 2005. The comment period ended September 10, 2005. One comment was received. The staff response was considered at a Consultation meeting and by the Work Program Committee. The Work Program Committee has recommended approval of the conformity finding for the PM_{2.5} standard. The complete documentation is available on the CATS website.

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the conformity
finding

J. Regional Paratransit Plan

Public Act 094-0370 (previously HB 1663) assigns the responsibility for providing the entire region's federally required ADA complementary paratransit service to Pace and responsibility for funding, financial review and oversight of that service to the Regional Transportation Authority. The legislation also requires that a new paratransit plan be submitted to the FTA in January. Given the schedules of the Policy Committee and the development schedule of the plan, for the MPO to consider approving the plan by January, the Work Program Committee will have to be authorized to take this action.

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorization of the Work
Program Committee to consider
approving the Paratransit Plan

K. RTA Financial Capacity Report

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the RTA Financial Capacity Report

The Regional Transportation Authority is required to prepare an annual financial capacity analysis by the Federal Transit Administration. The analysis must demonstrate that there will be sufficient local revenue capable of covering operating expenditures to warrant further investment in the region. The 2004 report is enclosed.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

V. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting is January 12, 2006.

VI. ADJOURNMENT