

Air Quality and Transportation Management Task Force

DRAFT Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: April 21, 2006

Meeting Location: Cunningham Williams Conference Room
Chicago Area Transportation Study
233 S. Wacker Dr., Suite 800, Chicago

Call to Order: 10 a.m.

Attendance:

Mike Rogers, Chairman	IEPA
Tim Grzesiakowski	Hewitt Associates, LLC
Chris Wilson	Metra
David Tomzik	Pace
Nathaniel Ekman	CTA
Karin Allen	UIC/UTC
Jackie Grimshaw	CNT
Brenda McGruder	CDOT
Patricia Killinger	Will Co. DOT
Barbara Ladner	Pace
Tony Maietta	USEPA

CATS Staff Attending:

Dan Rice
Tom Vick
Jose Rodriguez
Gerald Rawling
Ariel Iris
Leroy Kos

The annotated agenda for the April 21 meeting is attached and made a part of these notes. See Attachment A.

Approval of Minutes: January 19, 2006 Meeting Notes. No comments were received, and as such the notes were acceptable as presented.

Old Business:

I. Traffic Signal Interconnect Inventory Dan Rice, CATS

CATS staff distributed a draft working paper that described the comprehensive Signal Interconnect Inventory update undertaken in 2005. As background, it was noted that CATS has worked with inventories of signalized intersections and signal interconnect (SIGIC) systems for several years. The overall purpose of the CATS update was to describe the regional extent of coordinated signal systems in northeast Illinois, to establish a benchmark to track further regional progress, and to develop a process to facilitate regional updates in the future.

In May 2005, CATS initiated an agency outreach to update the Signal Interconnect inventory. The operating agency feedback was compiled and incorporated as it was received, resulting in a completely restructured GIS coverage, and a new Access database for system specific information. As of December 2005, the updated 2005 SIGIC inventory contained a total of 443 reported in-place SIGIC systems coordinating over 3,000 signals, and covering over 740 miles; with 19 additional records classified as “pending” because additional clarification and/or information was needed to confirm that the system was functional. A regional map and a one-page dot-point list were distributed to summarize the current status and observed regional trends, or “preliminary findings” of the paper. Next steps for inventory development include: to expand the inventory to Kendall County; to follow up with agency data gaps; to expand data fields based on agency feedback; and to utilize the Access database for the next inventory update.

CATS staff noted similar “needs and gaps” to those already described in the National Traffic Signal Report Card (NTSRC), 2020 and 2030 RTPs, and the Northeast Illinois ITS Deployment Plan Update, which also draws support from the 2030 RTP. The ITS Deployment Plan included four specific ITS project areas related to regional signal coordination: Signal Interconnect Deployment Programs, Traffic Management Centers, Interagency Operation and Signal Coordination, and Region-wide Transit Signal Priority. By identifying costs (as of 2005) itemized for deployment, annual operation & maintenance, annual staffing (as well as the associated funding gaps), several critical elements identified in the NTSRC were addressed and the stage is set for developing effective funding support for timely signal timing optimization. As a result, the summary recommendation of this paper is to support regional agency efforts as they work toward the goals of the ITS Deployment Plan Update.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Dan Rice at 312/386-8804.

II. TAMP Module of the RM 21 Software System Jose Rodriguez, CATS

CATS staff briefed the Task Force on TAMP’s functionality and reporting capability, emphasizing the importance of public outreach backing up service improvement studies. Rodriguez cited the SOV Commuter Survey completed by CATS in 2003 as an example of a study where a large sample of suburb-to-suburb and reverse commuters gave key insights into incentives that would enable them to consider non-SOV travel. Vick added that the travel path

reporting capabilities of TAMP would provide a spatial dimension to travel activity between TAZ areas.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Jose Rodriguez at 312/386-8806.

III. Status Reports

Emergency Ride Home Tom Vick, CATS

Staff reported that the UIC, which is responsible for this demonstration program, may have found a means to provide the local match so it can proceed. The UIC is in discussions with the ISTHA.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Tom Vick at 312/386-8818

Non Central City Park n Ride Lot Program Tom Vick, CATS

Staff reported that engineering design is well underway and that work is progressing on environmental and engineering studies for this first six lots of the program. Priority for initial project studies is the potential lot located at U.S. Rte. 6 and I-57 given, its potential as a mitigation project for the south suburban expressway reconstruction programs.

A meeting next week will be held with the PLs, who are coordinating local government involvement for this program.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Art Nicholas at 312/386-8792.

TM&O Specific Plan Tom Vick, CATS

Staff reported that the TM&O Specific Plan development working group has made progress in a number of areas. Especially, they have determined that the plan will contain the TM&O Strategies the region concludes should be available under the concept that strategies (different sets) should be applied on either a corridor or area basis to moderate delay.

Further, staff has been authorized to proceed to strategy solicitation. A copy of the proposed solicitation document and cover letter was distributed. It was noted that the requests for strategies is now a two-part process based on the comment received from DuPage County Transportation and Economic Development. The initial document contained two elements – a strategy solicitation document based on the form used for the 2030 RTP update, modified to request strategies and definitional documents. DuPage commented that filling in the standard solicitation was probably too great a task for an agency not wishing to advocate a particular strategy(ies). The response to this comment was to make a voting list of strategies that are ranked 4 through 1 with 4 being most suited to northeastern Illinois. This approach is viewed as unique to CATS, as it's soliciting an overall regional strategy, not one built on a project-by-project basis. Comments were request through Friday.

It is anticipated the solicitation period will be 45 days for the projects e-mail list. Staff is working with CATS' Communications Division on a public outreach approach.

Major Incident Management Module of RM 21 Jose Rodriguez, CATS

MIM programming activity is underway. UIC is working with RTA to establish a data exchange of station information for use by commuters. MIM is a tool that will enable users to access carpool/vanpool/bus travel to commuter rail and rapid transit during the recovery and reconstruction phases following major incidents. MIM development responds to the need for effective post-incident TDM strategies following major incidents, as outlined in Rodriguez' TDM Annex to the Chicago Central Area Evacuation Plan (prepared by the Illinois Terrorism Task Force). Brenda McGruder of CDOT asked what is the relationship between the TDM Annex and the OEMC (City of Chicago Evacuation Plan)? Vick stated as the likely command agency, OEMC has been involved in TDM Annex development and that ITTF will likely see a demonstration of the completed MIM software package at a future Evacuation Committee meeting.

Ramp HOV IGA with UIC Tom Vick, CATS

Staff reported that this IGA is pending signature with IDOT Public Transportation Intermodal. It has received approval to proceed from IDOT Strategic Planning and IDOT District 1. But, as it is not moving through this final signature, staff will continue to pursue.

New Business:

I. Rideshare Services Transition to Pace Jose Rodriguez, CATS

Vick initiated the discussion by restating how the reorganization of CATS under the RPB enabled the opportunity to tap into Pace's assets in employer outreach and vanpool development to improve carpool activity throughout the region.

Rodriguez summarized the assets transferred to and work activities expected from Pace upon its acceptance of the Rideshare management function within the MOU language. Barbara Ladner of Pace stated that under Pace's direction there will be a commitment to develop a registered carpool program in the region to increase overall participation through incentives and also to provide hard data for future performance and air quality evaluations.

Dave Tomzik of Pace asked why its UWP 07 rideshare dollars (\$92,000) were provided through Tier II competitive and not from Core funds. Vick responded that the transition of Rideshare was not proposed until February 2006, hence Pace could not request funds during the Core application period. Within the MOU, Pace is assigned future responsibility for applying for and receiving UWP funds for Rideshare program development.

Tim Grzesiakowski requested clarification on an item in the cover memo regarding a CATS employer coordination group. Vick stated that an employer group should be undertaken by

CATS as a means of keeping TDM strategies in the forefront of consideration by employers and service agencies in northeast Illinois.

Task Force Action Request: Review, comment and recommendation to the Work Program Committee of the draft MOU.

Mike Rogers requested a motion to advance the MOU to the Work Program Committee; Jackie Grimshaw made the motion, with Tim Grzesiakowski seconding. Motion passed. MOU for transfer of Rideshare Services from CATS to Pace now moves to the Work Program Committee.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Jose Rodriguez at 312/386-8806.

II. Truck Way Network Analysis Gerald Rawling CATS & Ariel Iris, CATS

CATS staff reported that the analysis of truckway concepts and alternatives continued and that Inter-modal Advisory Task Force members continue to ask for progress reports. A paper summarizing this process is to be prepared. The three concepts in “the Southland” (previously reported as I-80 add lanes; the EJ&E alignment; the South Suburban Corridor) are being further refined in terms of facilities (alignment), properties (interchanges) and attributes (such as speeds, with or without tolls, etc.) such that there will actually be 12 alternatives, 6 tolled and 6 not, that will form the basis for this working paper. Preliminary benefits and costs will be identified.

The intent is to produce two sets of results:

1. the amount of revenue any specific (tolled) alternative can be expected to produce and
2. the values of net regional savings in VMT and/or VHT.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Gerald Rawling at 312/386-8800.

III. Value Pricing Project Tom Vick, CATS

CATS staff presented the ISTHA proposal for a value pricing project for northeastern Illinois. Staff noted that ISTHA had requested that CATS TM&O develop a project in late January for submission to FHWA as ISTHA and Illinois are qualified to receive VPP funding. The initial proposal was for a HOT HOV project. FHWA thought this was a good proposal, but could not fund this as the SAFETEA law notes that as an old approach. The task force commented that if we had an HOV system they could not understand the FHWA opinion. Staff noted that FHWA then worked with CATS and the coordinating committee to develop a proposal. The proposal was for an HOT lane queue bypass feasibility study. The HOT lane would serve tolled HOV's and premium tolled SOV. The objective of the feasibility study is to identify up to 5 pilot projects. The proposal calls for the development of a modeled HOV network to feed the bypasses, and the examination of toll policy and private partnerships in lane construction.

Staff will report on the progress of FHWA review of the proposal. Initial comments were positive.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Tom Vick at 312/386-8818.

Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2006 at 10 a.m.

CATS staff requested input in two areas for construction of the next meeting's agenda. First, the meeting rotation provides for a focus on air quality issues and the staff is looking for individual outside projects that can be reported to the AQTM for its consideration.

Note: after the meeting two suggestions were received, a report on the "Clean Air Counts" campaign, and a private sector report by Hewitt & Associates on the status of business efforts to implement clean air programs focusing on travel reduction. Other recommendations are welcome.

Please direct comments, questions and inquiries to Tom Vick at 312/386-8818.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Attachment A
Air Quality and Transportation Management Task Force
Meeting Announcement & Annotated Agenda
April 21, 2006

10 a.m.
 DuPage County Room
 Chicago Area Transportation Study
 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower
 Suite 800
 Chicago, IL 60606

Agenda Item	Descriptions	Staff	Time
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I	Introductions	All	
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II	Notes of January 19, 2006 Meeting	All	
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See Attached

	Old Business		10:05 a.m.
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III	Traffic Signal Interconnect Inventory	Dan Rice, CATS	
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Staff will present the preliminary findings and recommendations pertaining to needs and gaps as identified during the inventory process. Of special interest will be the summary matrix of regional efforts to develop transportation management operations centers. These items will be presented in the form of a draft working paper. Additionally, anticipated work activities for 2007 will be outlined. This work is being done both as a status item and as a CATS contribution to the TM&O Specific Plan development process.

Task Force Action: Review and comment

IV	TAMP Module of the RM 21 Software System	J. Rodriguez, CATS	
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The RM 21 Internet-based software system that powers the SharetheDrive website being transferred to Pace is the property of the University of Illinois and licensed to the State of Illinois. Whereas, SharetheDrive will be operated by Pace, RM 21 (as it is to any agency) is still available to CATS for operations and management development. The TAMP module which you received an update on in 2005 is now ready to proceed to field testing. This module is a corridor or area transportation services planning tool implemented through the Internet and provides unique system planning and public feedback capabilities. Staff will provide a review of module functionality with an emphasis on approach to utilization.

Task Force Action: Review and comment

V Status Reports

Reports

Emergency Ride Home	T. Vick
Non Central City Park n Ride Lot Program	A. Nicholas
TM&O Specific Plan	T. Vick
Major Incident Management Module of RM 21	J. Rodriguez
Ramp HOV IGA with UIC	T. Vick

No Reports

Annual PAQB Report
Emergency Preparedness Planning

VI New Business

Rideshare Services Transition to Pace Jose Rodriguez, CATS

As part of the re-organization of CATS into the Regional Planning Board (RPB) with NIPC, the function of Rideshare Services is to be transferred to Pace, the Suburban Bus Division of the RTA. The primary objective of this relocation of function is to provide for a closer alignment with the Pace vanpool incentive program (VIP), and Pace's much larger employer outreach program. Staff will outline the transition requirements and the three-year plan CATS and Pace staff have developed to continue the emergence of Rideshare Services. A draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) between CATS/RPB and Pace will be presented for Task Force consideration.

Task Force Action: Review, comment and recommendation to the Work Program Committee of the draft MOU.

Truck Way Network Analysis Gerald Rawling, CATS
Arial Iris, CATS

Significant progress has been made in both network development and determination of possible benefits of implementing truck only facilities in northeastern Illinois. The current condition modeled network effects of implementing a number of alternate truck ways in two corridors will be reviewed. When these networks and effects are determined, a 2030 network and effects analysis will be accomplished and appropriate recommendations stated. This work is being done by CATS as a contribution to the TM&O Specific Plan development effort.

Task Force Action: Review and comment

In late January of 2006 the ISTHA requested of CATS TM&O Division direction in developing a value pricing project proposal for northeastern Illinois. A statement of interest was filed by ISTHA, outlining an approach CATS developed and coordinated with IDOT, Pace, CDOT and the RTA. This approach was accepted in general and refined by the USFHWA to focus on using HOT lanes to bypass bottlenecks on the expressway system. A final proposal was developed by TM&O in coordination with IDOT, Pace, CDOT and the RTA, and submitted by the ISTHA on March 31 to the FHWA. A copy of this proposal is provided for the Task Force's information.

Task Force Action: None

VII

Adjournment

Noon

Next Meeting Date & Time - July 20, 2006 @ 10 a.m.