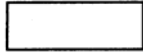




Chicago Area Transportation Study



## MEETING NOTES

**Project:** *Implementation of the ITS Component of the RTP (UWP-5328.02)*  
**Task Force:** *Advanced Technology Task Force*  
**Date:** *November 17, 2004*  
**Location:** *CATS, 300 West Adams, Chicago*

**David Zavattero, Chair**  
**Duana Love, Co-Chair**

### Attendees

Members:	Marty Anderson	<i>IDOT Elec. Op.</i>	Bob Dean	<i>DMMC</i>
	Jeff Galas	<i>IDOT TSC</i>	Ken Glassman	<i>ISTHA</i>
	Chad Hammerl	<i>EK / CDOT Traffic</i>	Carl Jackson	<i>CTA</i>
	Tony Khawaja	<i>Lake County</i>	Jerry Kotwica*	<i>Pace</i>
	Duana Love	<i>RTA</i>	Dean Mentjes	<i>FHWA</i>
	Chris Snyder	<i>CCHD</i>	Vonu Thakuriah	<i>UIC</i>
	David Zavattero	<i>IDOT ITS</i>		
Interested Parties:	Samer Abbas	<i>US GAO</i>	Kim Berry	<i>US GAO</i>
	Cathy Colwell	<i>US GAO</i>	Bruce Eisenhart**	<i>ConSysTec</i>
	Karen George	<i>Iteris</i>	Libby Halperin	<i>US GAO</i>
	Jeff Hochmuth	<i>Wilbur Smith</i>	Eric Holeman	<i>CTA</i>
	Gail Marnik	<i>US GAO</i>	Taqhi Mohammed	<i>Pace</i>
	Ruth Myers	<i>DuPage County</i>	Steve Peters	<i>IDOT Elec. Op.</i>
	Justin Potts	<i>IDOT</i>	Jim Powell	<i>Parsons</i>
	Gary Rylander	<i>Edwards &amp; Kelcey</i>	Govind Vadakpat	<i>Parsons</i>
	Larry Wilson	<i>Wilson Consulting</i>		
Staff:	Parry Frank	<i>CATS</i>	Craig Heither	<i>CATS</i>
	Ariel Iris	<i>CATS</i>	Bill Kiley	<i>CATS</i>
	Gerald Rawling	<i>CATS</i>	Dan Rice	<i>CATS</i>
	Mark Thomas	<i>CATS</i>	Tom Vick	<i>CATS</i>

\* Jerry Kotwica represented David Tomzik.

\*\* Bruce Eisenhart was teleconferenced.

### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

- 1. Approval of meeting notes from September 15, 2004 Task Force meeting** – The notes were approved as submitted.

2. **Government Accountability Office Study** – Samer Abbas informed the Task Force about a study on ITS deployments the US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has just begun. Its objectives are: 1) to determine what technologies are available, 2) to determine the extent to which they have been deployed and 3) to determine what impact the deployments have had on safety, traffic and congestion. The study will start with Chicago and will move to other areas of the country. The study will involve a combination of interviews and questionnaires, and will attempt to gather as much quantitative information as possible.

Dave Zavatiero asked if the study would play any role in the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill, suggesting a need to focus funds toward ITS deployments, and the great benefit of seed money for initiatives like the GCM ITS Corridor Coalition. Samer Abbas responded that it may be included in testimony. Gerald Rawling suggested the GAO also try to include the freight industry in their study, to get information from the demand side of transportation. Samer Abbas stated the first product of the ITS study would probably be testimony, with a final report probably released in the summer. He also noted that the Dallas GAO office is conducting a separate study on electronic toll collection and its impact on congestion, and may contact Task Force members. Ken Glassman noted that the TIMS system is providing valuable information on the operation of the tollways. ISTHA's consultant has now been given the task of using data archived prior to TIMS implementation to perform a before-and-after study.

3. **ITS Project Prioritization Study** – Vonu Thakuriah discussed a new project being undertaken at UIC to develop a decision support method for evaluating ITS project alternatives. This project was motivated by work done with the FTA, which uses both qualitative and quantitative factors in prioritizing project funding. There are three phases to the project:

- Scan ITS documents (such as the Strategic Early Deployment Plan) from other states and MPOs for information on how they prioritize ITS projects.

- Survey states and MPOs on the prioritization criteria they use.

- Develop prototype software that can be used as a prioritization tool.

The first phase of the project is completed and the survey is being drafted. Mark Thomas noted that prioritization involves both technical and institutional issues. Vonu Thakuriah agreed that there is a need to include "soft" issues (such as whether a project is already in the funding pipeline) in the prioritization process. Another factor may be how the staging of a project affects or is affected by other projects.

Jeff Hochmuth asked if the prioritization tool was intended to feed into the RTP, TIP or CMAQ processes. Vonu Thakuriah responded that it remained to be seen. Mark Thomas felt that it would serve as a pre-programming tool; projects are well thought-out by the time they enter the TIP process. Dave Zavatiero inquired about the schedule for the project, and Vonu Thakuriah stated that development of the survey should be finished in January, but that it must go through the university's internal review process before it can be administered.

- 4. ITS Deployment Plan** – Jim Powell reviewed the work that has been completed on the Deployment Plan. Eleven outreach meetings were held since July to probe what agencies were doing in the area of ITS and what they would like to do over the next 15 years. These meetings were crucial to developing a new project list, which will be the crux of the plan.

Jim Powell summarized the three sections of Technical Memo 1, which was distributed to members:

*Accomplishments* – This section deals at a high level and will be supplemented with comments received from the ITS Plan Workgroup on more explicitly listing what has been implemented. A section on communications may be added.

*Vision and Goals* – The section was previously finalized by the ITS Plan Workgroup.

*Mapping Projects to the Regional Architecture* – This section identifies how projects relate to the Regional Architecture. Bruce Eisenhart noted that projects were fully mapped when possible, otherwise they were mapped only at a high level or it was indicated why specific projects could not be mapped to the Architecture.

Jim Powell asked for Task Force comments on the memo by November 29th, and Dave Zattero encouraged members to review the sections pertaining to their agency.

Jim Powell reviewed an outline for the final ITS Plan document, which will include the sections from Technical Memo 1 and the remaining project tasks: a prototype Concept of Operations for incident management, a revised integration strategy and an approach to determining project benefits, a prioritized project list and an action plan. A prototype of the project list was discussed in order to receive Task Force feedback.

The project list led to a larger discussion of what the ITS Plan is intended to be. Marty Anderson stated that some of the items are painted with a broad brush so it may be more appropriate to call them visions or goals or programs rather than projects. Even if projects are only partially implemented because of funding or scheduling issues, it is still an accomplishment. Dave Zattero stated that to some degree, the project list is a framework plan. Ken Glassman suggested that as the ITS Plan project list focuses in on issues like prioritization, priorities change after the Plan is completed and the document becomes less useful. Duana Love agreed that it can be difficult from a programming perspective to put projects into discrete boxes and assign them to agencies. The descriptions in the plan should be broad enough so that if the name of a specific deployment project changes, the intent is still represented in the Plan. Duana also suggested that individual agency visions could be summarized in the vision section of the Plan.

Dave Zattero felt there was a difference in vocabulary between the members because ITS planning work requires coordination between planning staff and operation staff. Often each of these groups uses the same terminology with varying meaning. Bruce Eisenhart stated he preferred the project label because it represents something real and relates to the National ITS Architecture. Jeff Hochmuth added that the federal government requires MPOs to use the National Architecture and its associated terminology. Dean Mentjes agreed that the project label meets the terminology in the Architecture. Mark Thomas proposed differentiating between planning projects and deployment projects in some manner, and the Task Force agreed it was a reasonable solution.

Mark Thomas commented that input from the members was needed on components of the project list, specifically: costs, funding, time frames and prioritization information. Dave Zavatiero added that information on what is currently being done to lead into the projects is needed. Jim Powell asked how members felt including the time frames. Mark Thomas believed it could help with prioritization, and Jeff Hochmuth and Ken Glassman both felt time frames are useful and help with the regional vision. Dave Zavatiero noted all of the projects probably have components that must be done soon. Vonu Thakuria suggested a cumulative or on-going time frame because some projects rely on earlier work.

Jim Powell intends to have a full project listing to send out to Task Force members for review the week of November 29<sup>th</sup>. Dave Zavatiero stated he would also like to see some text in the plan discussing how the ITS Plan relates to other plans from the GCM Corridor, other agencies and the state, and he requested some discussion of Architecture Standards. Duana Love suggested the plan state that benefits will be measured using metrics in the future.

**5. ITS Deployment Plan Remaining Schedule** – Dave Zavatiero summarized the remaining schedule for the ITS Deployment Plan update:

**November 29, 2004** – ATTF comments due on draft of Technical Memo 1

**Week of November 29<sup>th</sup>** – draft project list will be sent out for review

**January 5, 2005** – ITS Plan Workgroup working session

**January 19, 2005** – ATTF meeting with review of full draft document

**February 2005** – presentation to Work Program Committee

**March 10, 2005** – presentation to CATS Policy Committee

**6. 511 Update** – Dave Zavatiero briefed the Task Force on the status of the statewide 511 traveler information system. IDOT intends for the system to be state-of-the-art and multimodal in nature. It will make maximum use of real-time travel information, making it one of the first systems in the country to do so. The system will offer telephone and web availability but will not do itinerary planning. The department may also provide premium or subscription traveler information services and is hoping that after IDOT funds implementation that the region's agencies will support ongoing operation of the system. The RFP will come out in the next few months and IDOT intends for the system to be operational by the end of 2005.

Jeff Hochmuth asked if the 511 system will replace the highway advisory phone system the district operates. Dave Zavatiero stated both will be operating initially when 511 service begins. Ken Glassman asked how the \*999 service fits into the 511 system. Dave Zavatiero responded the system will allow callers to transfer to \*999 but that is all. He also noted that there will be an Open Forum on 511 held in early 2005, which all stakeholders and interested parties will be invited to.

**7. Other Business**

Jeff Hochmuth encouraged people to attend the ITS Midwest 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting in Indianapolis on February 9-10 because there are significant by-laws and structural

changes that members will be voting on. More information will be available on the website ([www.itsmidwest.org](http://www.itsmidwest.org)).

Duana Love stated that the RTA's Transit Signal Priority (TSP) Workgroup had met and selected Pace as the chair. The next meeting will be at Pace on December 8 or 9. RTA has received CMAQ funding for TSP deployment and will be interested in identifying potential corridors.

Dave Zavattero noted that there is currently a project with the Traffic Systems Center to activate Amber Alert messages on IDOT's dynamic message signs (DMS). Also, more camera snapshots will soon be added to the GCM traveler information website ([www.gcmtravel.org](http://www.gcmtravel.org)).

Ken Glassman noted that 9 additional DMSs had been activated on the tollway system.

**8. Upcoming Meetings and Conferences** – The following is a list of upcoming conferences and meetings.

<u>Meeting Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
RTA Signal Priority Workgroup	Pace	December 8 or 9
ITS Midwest 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting	Indianapolis	February 9-10, 2005
GCM Meetings	Consult calendar at <a href="http://www.gcmcommunicator.com">www.gcmcommunicator.com</a>	

**9. Next meeting** – The next meeting of the Advanced Technology Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 10:00AM in CATS' main conference room.

*The above is an accurate summary based on staff meeting notes. Anyone who takes exception to the information contained in this summary should forward comments to CATS within one week of the submittal date noted below.*

*Submitted November 19, 2004*