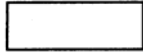




Chicago Area Transportation Study



## MEETING NOTES

**Project:** *Implementation of the ITS Component of the RTP (UWP-5328.02)*  
**Task Force:** *Advanced Technology Task Force*  
**Date:** *September 15, 2004*  
**Location:** *CATS, 300 West Adams, Chicago*

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

### Attendees

Members:	Bob Dean	<i>DMMC</i>	Jeff Galas	<i>IDOT TSC</i>
	Carl Jackson	<i>CTA</i>	Jerry Kotwica*	<i>Pace</i>
	Duana Love	<i>RTA</i>	Dean Mentjes	<i>FHWA</i>
	Vonu Thakuriah	<i>UIC</i>	David Zavattero	<i>IDOT ITS</i>
Interested Parties:	Monte Chen	<i>Wilbur Smith</i>	Karen George	<i>Iteris</i>
	Violet Gunka	<i>RTA</i>	Scott Mitchell	<i>IDOT</i>
	Taqhi Mohammed	<i>Pace</i>	Scott Lee	<i>IDOT ITS</i>
	Jim Powell	<i>Parsons</i>	Gary Rylander	<i>Edwards &amp; Kelcey</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.

### SUMMARY OF COMMENTS:

- 1. Approval of meeting notes from July 28, 2004 Task Force meeting** – The notes were approved as submitted.
- 2. Statewide ITS Plan Update** – Scott Lee gave an overview of the Statewide ITS Plan and Architecture development work underway. The completion deadline to comply with federal regulations is April 8, 2005. The projects tasks are:
  - Public Outreach*- This task is nearly finished: all workshops have been held and interviews are being wrapped up. Over 100 stakeholder surveys were received and an outreach document is being prepared. A few items were consistently at the top of the list of needs developed from the regional workshops: construction and maintenance;

Advanced Traveler Information Systems; improved communications; and Advanced Traffic Management Systems.

*Inventory of Existing Systems* – The inventory was developed from many sources including regional and statewide Transportation Improvement Programs, Multi-Year Highway Improvement Plans, regional Long-Range Transportation Plans, regional ITS Plans, transit ITS plans and ITS architectures. The GCM and northeastern Illinois architectures are in place, with the remaining regional architectures under development.

*Draft Concept of Operations* – This is the first step in the Systems Engineering process and it identifies roles, responsibilities and services. It describes how the planned statewide architecture will work. It is the basis for architecture development and information flows. The infostructure is based on a regional hub concept that will feed into the statewide hub. Scott Lee presented an example of work being done to integrate a number of systems at different agencies under the umbrella of Commercial Vehicle Operations (CVO).

*Regional Architecture Development Plan* – This document was designed as an aid to the developers of each regional architecture and is based on FHWA guidance. A draft version of the document is available on the project website ([www.ilits.org](http://www.ilits.org)).

Jim Powell commented that incident response did not seem to be in the top part of the list of regional needs from the outreach workshops. Scott Lee stated that improved communications partially covered incident response because there may be a small number of responders in rural areas. Mark Thomas noted that the northeastern Illinois architecture did not do much with CVO and asked how it would be reflected in the statewide architecture. Scott Lee presented a slide mapping existing CVO operations from a public agency inspection and registration perspective.

Next steps in the Statewide ITS Plan include finalizing the project documentation and finishing the statewide architecture. Turbo Architecture training will be held in Springfield on October 19-20 to assist architecture developers. A Regional Architecture Development Process seminar will also be scheduled in the future. Dave Zavattero encouraged the use of the project website as a way to post comments and hold discussions.

- 3. GCM Corridor Action Team Update** – Jeff Galas provided an overview of the GCM Corridor Action Team (CAT). This group was formed to exchange information about construction projects near the Illinois\Indiana border occurring over the next few years (affecting the Borman, Skyway, Dan Ryan, Tri-State, Bishop Ford, Kingery, and IL-394 expressways). The CAT also works cooperatively to pass traveler information about the corridor along to motorists using existing technology including websites and variable message signs (VMS).

Jeff Galas felt one of the biggest benefits of the CAT has been improved communications between the affected agencies in Illinois and Indiana. The CATS Rideshare program is involved with the CAT and has even promoted its service on VMSs in Indiana. Work is on-going to try to improve the communication structure of the CAT. The group was able to successfully react to a truck fire on the tollway but faced some obstacles in responding when a sign fell on an expressway in Indiana.

Jeff Galas stated the CAT is trying to increase public outreach, is working to improve the consistency of messages on portable VMS and is working to receive better information from the GCM's Wisconsin participants. Dave Zavatiero noted that the CAT could work to provide better multimodal coordination.

- 4. Illinois Terrorism Task Force Tabletop** – Duana Love relayed her impressions of the tabletop exercise hosted by the Transportation Committee of the Illinois Terrorism Task Force, which focused on responding to an incident in the Central Business District. There are a large number of issues involved in planning a response to a major event, such as where shelters will be located. From a transit provider perspective, the time of day in which an event occurs is important in terms of how quickly equipment can be mobilized to transport large numbers of people. Duana Love noted that Metra has an agreement with the American Red Cross: Red Cross personnel will handle communications between people and hospitals during such an event, so that Metra personnel can focus on transit operational issues.

Carl Jackson felt that one of the biggest lessons from the tabletop was that people would be dealing with agencies they do not usually interact with, such as the National Guard or the Federal Emergency Management Agency. During an event, people may be reporting to a higher authority that they rarely, if ever, deal with. Carl Jackson felt both the quality of the information at the tabletops and the level of involvement were improving. Dave Zavatiero and Tom Vick both felt an important lesson learned from the tabletop was transportation professionals understanding the support role transportation plays in emergency response.

- 5. GCM Update** – Dave Zavatiero provided an overview of the update to the GCM Corridor Program Plan that is being developed. The end product will identify projects, help to determine needs in the corridor and assist with determining priorities. The plan will also assess the potential for transferring technology from the GCM Corridor to the entire states of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. The schedule calls for the GCM Executive Committee to adopt the Corridor Program Plan in July 2005.
- 6. ITS Deployment Plan Update** – Mark Thomas gave a status report on the seven tasks of this project:

Accomplishments – Most of the meetings with regional stakeholders to describe ITS deployment and provide project updates are finished. Meetings with the RTA, Metra and IDOT will be held over the next two weeks.

Goals and Objectives – The summary of how ITS deployment meets *Shared Path 2030* goals is completed.

Regional ITS Architecture – The consultant will complete the task of mapping planned projects to the architecture, identifying projects not covered by the architecture, and identifying additional coordination needs and agreements. Documentation for the first three tasks is in development.

Integration Strategy/Concept of Operations – It was determined at the last meeting that the Concept of Operations prototype would deal with incident management.

Benefits and Costs – This will be a short task, with cost information coming from project implementers and the national ITS benefit/cost database.

Project Identification & Prioritization – The prioritization method has not been determined yet. A voting methodology was used in the original plan. The prioritization in the update will consider institutional issues along with logical sequencing.

Action Plan – This task will identify opportunities for agreements, funding shortfalls, equipment and staffing needs, and next steps in architecture maintenance.

Overall the project is more than half finished. In advance of the meeting with the RTA, Duana Love asked if the focus would be on the status of previously identified projects or on next projects from the RTA. Jim Powell stated both need to be addressed because long-term projects (such as the Gateway) will fall into both categories. Dave Zavattero asked that the summaries from the stakeholder meetings be distributed once they are all available.

- 7. RTOC & CDI** – Dave Zavattero informed the task force about the Regional Transportation Operations Collaboration and Coordination Demonstration Initiative (RTOC & CDI). The objective of the initiative is for FHWA to partner with two or more state, regional or local agencies to demonstrate regional collaboration in one or more operational areas. These case studies will be analyzed to develop models that can be applied to other areas of the country. Federal grants will be issued for a maximum of \$200,000. Recipients are responsible for developing a Regional Concept for Transportation Operations. FHWA will have an independent evaluator refine the concept for application in other areas. The application deadline is October 15, 2004.

Dave Zavattero proposed submitting the GCM Corridor Action Team initiative (see item #3) to the FHWA for this initiative. The CAT is an example of regional collaboration for a major construction and maintenance corridor that is multi-state. He suggested that CATS and IDOT take the lead in applying for the funds and noted that the GCM Coalition is not eligible for the funds unless it submitted through one of the state DOTs. Jeff Galas noted that the CAT, in its current form, is only intended to operate until the major construction in this corridor is completed, but that the principle could be applied to other upcoming projects. He suggested the tollway projects as an example, which will affect several counties.

The task force agreed to apply for the RTOC & CDI funding for the CAT initiative. Dave Zavattero will discuss CATS taking the lead in applying for the funds with the appropriate GCM committee. Agency representatives interested in working on developing the application following GCM approval can contact Dave Zavattero or Mark Thomas. Dean Mentjes offered to provide comments on a draft application.

This topic led to some discussion of the task force's role in operations in general. Karen George noted that the FHWA is now viewing ITS as a function of operations, and suggested this may be an opportunity for the ATTF to take on more of an operations role. Tom Vick agreed that CATS needs a committee to address operations, and that the responsibility is currently shared between the ATTF and the Air Quality and Transportation Management Task Force. Dave Zavattero felt that the Management and Operations Committee CATS had attempted to form did not focus enough on operations. Mark Thomas stated the next work item for the task force after the ITS plan update is regional architecture maintenance.

- 8. Other Business** – Duana Love noted that the RTA had held a press event for the Regional Traveler Information Kiosks. They are currently installed at six locations (including the Shedd Aquarium, Union Station and the Palmer House) and will be in place for a six month evaluation. Karen George asked how feedback about the kiosks would be received. Duana Love stated that feedback can be entered directly into the kiosk, and that the RTA will be holding some public meetings to gather comments.
- 9. Upcoming Meetings and Conferences** – The following is a list of upcoming conferences and meetings.

<u>Meeting Title</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
10 <sup>th</sup> Annual ITS Forum	Milwaukee	September 21
IDOT Fall Planning Conference	Galena	Sept. 30 – Oct. 1
RTA Signal Priority Workgroup	RTA	October 5
GCM Meetings	Consult calendar at <a href="http://www.gcmcommunicator.com">www.gcmcommunicator.com</a>	

- 10. Next meeting** – The next meeting of the Advanced Technology Task Force is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, 2004 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 September 27, 2004*