

**CATS Task Force for Seniors and People with Disabilities  
And  
Community Mobility Task Force**

**Meeting Date:** October 17, 2005

**Meeting Location:** CATS

**Meeting Time:** 1:30 p.m.

**Attendance**

Eric Weakly	Northern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging
Alice Segal	Anixter Center
Kimberly Robb	RTA
Beth McCluskey	NCCOM
Mary Beth Clark	Pace
David Spacek	IDOT
Dia Cirillo	Work, Welfare and Families
Don Kopec	CATS
Kerwin Terry	Council for Jewish Elderly
Jim Ferneborg	Metra
Virginia Chandler	Metra
Jacky Grimshaw	CNT
David Seglin	CDOT
Marcus Arnold	South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Jason M. Clark	Pioneer Center of McHenry County
Sally Ann Williams	Pace
Bob Jans	CDT
David Tomzik	Pace
Tom Groeninger	Pace
Dr. Ayo Maat	IMPRUVE and BNICEH
Claire Bozic	CATS
Russell Pietrowiak	CATS
Tom Murtha	CATS
Christine Montgomery	CTA
Ed Marshall	MM Tech
Mary Pepperl	Workforce Board of Northern Cook
Rob Borchert	AID
Marcia Halbert	Mather Lifeways
Bill Kiley	CATS
Joe DiJohn	UIC

**Introductions**

The task force members and others in attendance introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the August CMTF/TFSPD meeting were approved with one change: Northeastern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging (Eric Weakly) asked that the notes be corrected to reflect that meetings have been held with county and municipal leaders within Kendall County, not township officials.

### **JARC Updates**

Metra (Virginia Chandler) reported on the 5 JARC program shuttles that Metra is partnering with Pace to provide. Ridership is exceeding expectations. Lake Forest has 150-160 daily trips, Bannockburn 50-70, Willow Road 140-150 and Deerfield about 80. Metra continues to meet with and send direct mailings to suburban employers. They get about a five percent response rate from their mailings, which result in "transit events." There is, however, no way of tracking the impact of the transit events on transit ridership. The Metra reverse commute continues to grow, and is now at 14,000 riders per day.

Pace (David Tomzik) The #511 Joliet Arsenal route from downtown Joliet has been in operation one year, and will be evaluated as a part of the south restructuring. There were five workshop vanpools. Of the routes funded by JARC, the three-year limitation on JARC funding has expired for two of them, but the service continues. Six more projects are now operating as a part of the regular budget. The Lutheran General to Evanston route has expanded to serve O'Hare Airport.

UIC (Joe DiJohn) reported that the RTA clearinghouse project has been closed out. The UIC JARC project has also closed out, but FTA has continued to fund UIC at 100 percent federal funding to do a national evaluation of the JARC program.

The members discussed the importance of collecting reports on a number of projects that were not reported on at this meeting: Ray Graham in DuPage County, Illinois Ways to Work, DuPage County (People's Resource Center), CHA and the CTA projects. The group agreed that a written report on the JARC program had been discussed in the past and should be written. CATS staff will produce the report.

UIC inquired whether there were unexpended funds in the region that could be reprogrammed for other projects. Mr. Kopec responded that the only unexpended funds were earmarked and can't be redirected. In essence, with the transportation bill reauthorization the region is starting with a clean slate.

### **Regional Updates**

CATS (Tom Murtha) reported on two workshops held on October 11 and 12. The workshops focused on the process of providing accessible facilities in the public right-of-

way. The October 11 workshop was part of the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Professional Development Series Seminar, and the workshop on Oct. 12 was a CATS-hosted workshop to assist communities and transportation agencies in providing accessible facilities in the public right-of-way. Some of the areas covered during these two days included a background on the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); legal requirements; US DOT and FHWA policies and funding opportunities; accessible driveways and curb ramps; accessible street crossings, including crosswalks, overpasses and underpasses; medians & islands; pedestrian signs and signals, including accessible pedestrian signals; temporary facilities and construction areas.

Northeastern Illinois Area Agencies on Aging (Eric Weakly) thanked CATS for speaking to the Lake County Coordination Committee about funding opportunities under SAFE TEA-LU. The group's by-laws will be sent to the local governments. The group is interested in undertaking a study of paratransit in the county, and inquired as to whom to approach. UIC volunteered that they had helped some other areas and would discuss the project with them. Mr. Weakly further reported that Kendall County doesn't have a public transportation system and the County, with Oswego and Yorkville, is interested in improving transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

Kane County Paratransit Coordination Committee (Rob Borchert) reported that they are re-signing existing agreements, and that their development of a subsidized taxi program is moving ahead.

Council for Jewish Elderly (Kerwin Terry) announced that the November Provider Council meeting is from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday, November 9, at St. Paul's Home, 3800 N. California. Representatives of Pace may be giving a presentation on their paratransit transition process, and CATS will be speaking about planning for transportation services in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

ICCT (Dia Cirillo) gave an update on Interagency Coordinating Council on Transportation activities. Their charge is to broaden transportation options for the transportation disadvantaged. The ICCT has four committees. The Coordination Committee will improve coordination of community-based public and specialized transportation programs. The Communications and Engagement Committee will provide up-to-date program information and communications services to local areas. The Funding Committee will promote innovative funding strategies and provide expertise and support for local transportation funding requests. The Administration Committee will establish cost-effective and efficient administrative procedures for ICCT oversight work. They have hired a staff person to assist.

IDOT (Dave Spacek) spoke about the United We Ride grant that was given last year and applied for again this year. He also addressed deliveries of 5310 funded vehicles. The 2003 deliveries should be complete by the end of this year. The 2004 program is still awaiting a state match. The 2005 program will not occur, and the funding will be

rolled over into a 2006 program which will use toll revenue credits as a local match. He also announced that Tom Ochal, director of the 5310 program, will be retiring soon.

### **ADA Paratransit Update**

RTA (Kimberly Robb) reported on the activities of the Paratransit Transition Committee and the associated ad hoc committee. RTA, Pace and CTA have worked together to send a mailing out to 22,575 people who have used the paratransit system within the last 12 months, as well as 48 "lead agencies" who will probably be receiving questions from the public on this topic. The mailing describes what is happening with the paratransit transition, frequently asked questions, and important meeting dates for public input. Finally, the mailing explains why the customer may be asked if the trip is for a medical purpose when scheduling. The service boards have been developing a system they hope will allow them to be reimbursed by Medicaid for medical trips made by Medicaid-eligible riders and ADA paratransit. Ms. Robb also described in detail the process RTA will go through to finish and adopt a new ADA paratransit plan, including the schedule of required certifications and the format of public hearings. Pace takes over the region's ADA Paratransit on July 1, 2006.

### **Regional Human Services Transportation Plan Discussion**

CATS (Don Kopec) described the process of moving from the ambiguities of the SAFE TEA-LU legislation to an understandable process. The federal government has a lot of work to do as they flesh out the implementation of the laws passed by Congress. They will be providing regulations or guidance for each of the areas in the new law. This will likely be a slow process and will also probably result in more guidance than regulation. In the meantime, CATS will resurrect the committee used each time there is a reauthorization. Last time it was the TEA-21 Committee, it will now be called the SAFE TEA-LU Committee. There are a number of areas in the legislation that will require the region to decide how we will implement our part. At this time it is unknown who the members are or when they will have their first meeting, but expect this to happen by March 2006.

As regards to the Human Services Transportation Plan and the JARC and New Freedom Program, by law the funding will flow to the designated 5307 recipient. In our region, that is the RTA. However, RTA has some discretion as to how they are involved with the program. This is one of the issues that will be fleshed out in the CATS SAFE TEA-LU Committee. Additionally, even though the formula is published and we have some idea of the amount that will come to the region, the total will also depend upon appropriations and obligations ceilings. Because of that, the total amount will be less than the published figures.

A brief summary of an FTA teleconference regarding the makeup of a Human Services Transportation Plan was provided by CATS staff.

### **Other Business**

IMPRUVE and BNICEH (Dr. Aya Maat) requested that CATS summarize the information and programs being discussed in a way that would make it more accessible to the public. CATS agreed to try to do that. Additionally, CATS offered to put together an e-mail for the group which would provide links to information about some of these topics.

CATS (Claire Bozic) announced that she received information that a new paratransit service had begun. It is being run by five townships in northwest Cook County and requires that the passenger be traveling for medical purposes, must cross a township boundary and the trip cannot duplicate existing service.

CATS (Russell J. Pietrowiak) reminded everyone about the National Transit Institute (NTI) teleconference on November 10.

### **Next Meeting**

The next joint task force meeting will be held on Monday, December 5, 2005 at 1:30 pm.