



## **Policy Committee Meeting Minutes January 12, 2006**

The meeting was held at the Chicago Area Transportation Study, Cunningham-Williams Conference Room, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Ken Koehler, Vice Chairman**  
**Randy Blankenhorn**

**Tom Cuculich**  
**Paul Fish**  
**Al Giertych**

**Bruce Gould**

**Jack Groner**  
**Cheri Heramb**  
**Wally Kos**

**John McCarthy**  
**Ed Paesel**  
**Rhonda Reed**  
**Tom Rickert**

**T. J. Ross**

**Jeff Schielke**  
**Steve Schlickman**  
**Norman R. Stoner**  
**Anne Vickery**

**McHenry County**

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
(Representing Tim Martin, Chairman)

**DuPage County**

**Chicago Transit Authority**

**Lake County**  
(Representing Marty Buehler)

**Will County**  
(Representing Sheldon C. Latz)

**Metra**

**Chicago Department of Transportation**  
**Cook County**

(Representing James Eldridge, Jr.)

**Private Transportation Providers**

**Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission**

**Federal Transit Administration**

**Kane County**  
(Representing Karen McConnaughay)

**Pace**  
(Representing John Case)

**Council of Mayors**

**Regional Transportation Authority**

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Kendall County**

**Visitors**

Vanessa Adams	FTA
Marcus Arnold	SSMMA
Dave Bennett	Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Jerry Bennett	Mayor – Palos Hills
Linda Bolte	NIPC
Del Brazil	APEX
Chris DiPalma	FHWA
Karen Greenbaum	Civic Consulting Alliance
Joyce Hollingsworth	Hollingsworth & Associates
Chalen Hunter	NWMC
Joe Heinrich	SSMMA
Norman Johnson	IDOT
Jon-Paul Kohler	FHWA
Joe Korpalski	MCDOT
Tam Kutzmark	DuPage Mayors & Managers
Clarita Lao	IDOT – District 1
Jill Leary	WCMC
Jim LaBelle	Chicago Metropolis 2020
Jan Metzger	CNT
Arlene Mulder	Council of Mayors
Les Nunes	IDOT – OP & P
Holly Ostdick	McHenry County
Bob Pilat	Village of Niles
Mark Pitstick	RTA
David Seglin	CDOT
Gordon Smith	IDOT
Holly Smith	Kane/Kendall COM
Ron Thomas	NIPC
Mike Walczak	NWMC

**Staff**

Don Kopec  
Patricia Berry, Kermit Wies  
Claire Bozic, Parry Frank, Jock Hardy, Craig Heither,  
Bill Kiley, Ross Patronskey, Patricia Tinnelle, Tom Vick

***I. CALL TO ORDER***

Mayor Schielke called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

***II. OLD BUSINESS***

**A. Approval of Minutes for October 13, 2005.**

On a motion by Mr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Fish, the minutes of the meeting on October 13, 2005 were approved.

## **B. Council of Mayors Report**

Mayor Schielke informed the Committee that the Executive Committee of the Council of Mayors met on December 16. He said discussions were held regarding the STP program which clarified that there will be insufficient State appropriations to accommodate all of the STP projects that are ready for the spring 2006 lettings, which will possibly delay some projects until the June letting. He said IDOT is hoping the situation will be improved for State Fiscal Year 2007 and will call on area mayors to help work with their legislators on this issue.

He further stated that the Executive Committee approved an advanced funding request from Lake County Council of Mayors in the amount of \$4.1 million to allow the \$10.5 million Butterfield Road add lanes project to move forward. He then said that the officers of the Committee were given the authority to prioritize projects if there were conflicts over which projects will move forward and which will be delayed if there is a lack of sufficient appropriations on any given letting.

He reported that the Committee approved three Council of Mayors requests for UWP funds totaling \$1.33 million for the Planning Liaison and Data Collection Programs, along with a new bike planning initiative. He informed them that the Committee approved a letter and position statement regarding the issue of jurisdictional transfers of unmarked State routes. A letter to both IDOT's Office of Planning and Programming and District 1 was sent asking for a meeting to discuss ways to proceed toward a uniform policy on jurisdictional transfers and that the meeting was being held later in the day.

Lastly, he notified the Committee that the next meeting of the Mayors' Executive Committee is planned for Tuesday, February 14, at 9:30 am.

## **C. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Kopec welcomed everyone to the new offices and the start of the transition into a single planning agency with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission. He encouraged everyone to tour the new offices after the meeting. Staff would be available to take people around. He then informed the committee that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission has completed their analysis for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standard. Since the non-attainment area included both northeast Illinois and northwest Indiana, their successful analysis was required before anything could be submitted to the federal agencies. That joint submission was made to the federal agencies last week.

Staff is working with the region's implementers in preparing the FY 2007-2012 Transportation Improvement Program. This TIP will be presented for Policy Committee consideration at its October meeting. It should be noted that this TIP will include new projects requiring modeling and a conformity determination. The schedule called for the modeled projects to be submitted last November.

Staff will be sending implementers our understanding of their project submissions, including how it should be modeled. Once we receive concurrence that the projects are properly represented, there will be no changes to modeled projects. While financial information is not being submitted at this time, all are aware that the funding scenarios must support the modeled project information. The schedules for TIP development and the conformity determination on the 2030 RTP Update and the TIP require that modeled project concurrence occur in February.

Other ongoing work involves the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan Update, which will be discussed under a separate item on today's agenda. Significant work is being expended to provide support for Metra's and CTA's New Start projects. Related to New Start projects, Mr. Kopec noted that Metra service on the UP West Line will be expanded to Elburn beginning January 23, while service to Manhattan on the Southwest Line and expanded North Central Service begins January 30. All projects were completed on time and under cost.

### ***III. NEW BUSINESS***

#### **A. Nominating Committee for the Office of Vice-Chairman**

Mr. Kos informed the Policy Committee that the nominating committee consisting of Cheri Heramb, T.J. Ross and himself met and agreed to nominate Mr. Koehler of McHenry County for the office of Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cuculich seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations from the floor. Mr. Koehler was unanimously elected to the office of Vice-Chairman. After congratulations were offered, Mr. Koehler took over as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

#### **B. ITS**

Mr. Heither presented the Northeastern Illinois ITS Deployment Plan Update prepared by the Advanced Technology Task Force, which is a blueprint for ITS investment and deployment in the region over the next 15 years. It updates the Strategic Early Deployment Plan approved by the Policy Committee in 1999. The core of the plan is a list of 100 ITS projects stakeholders in region plan to implement over the next 15 years. The estimated cost of deploying these projects is over \$800 million, of which \$300 million is currently unfunded. This plan is a support document to the 2030 RTP Update, which can draw strategic guidance from it. It also is coordinated with the regional ITS architecture, thereby ensuring consistency with the national ITS architecture as required by USDOT.

Mr. Paesel asked if the plan includes all of the funding for projects that cross state lines. Mr. Heither stated it only includes the Illinois portion of funding for such projects. Mr. Blankenhorn noted that there is much coordination on such issues between Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana through the Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee ITS Priority Corridor. He also noted the importance of the intermodal aspect of the ITS plan, which includes many transit projects. On a

motion by Mayor Schielke and seconded by Mr. Blankenhorn, the Northeastern Illinois ITS Deployment Plan Update was unanimously approved.

**C. Report on the Shared Path 2030 Update Development Process**

Mr. Wies presented an overview of the schedule leading to approval of the 2030 RTP Update in October 2006. The 2030 RTP Update development, outreach and approval schedule is tied to the development and approval of the FY 2007-12 TIP and the air quality conformity analysis and determination required of both products. Mr. Wies added that members of the WPC had questioned whether CATS had sufficient time and staff resources to complete this work and also meet Metra's and CTA's New Starts alternatives analysis schedule. Mr. Wies replied that there are currently sufficient staff resources available at CATS to complete the technical modeling work, provided these staff are not consumed by RTP production and outreach tasks. Mr. Blankenhorn asked the Policy Committee to accept additional IDOT-funded consultant support to help ensure that all necessary RTP production and outreach work is completed on schedule. Discussion among Committee members concurred that the technical modeling work for conformity and New Starts should be the top priority for the CATS staff and that IDOT-funded consultant support for RTP production and outreach work would be acceptable. It was agreed, however, that soliciting last-minute consultant support is not a desirable long-term solution to CATS staffing deficiencies; that discussions involving the merger and reorganization of CATS and NIPC need to pay close attention to required product development schedules and ensure that the agencies are provided with the necessary resources to meet these schedules.

**D. SAFETEA-LU Planning Regulations**

Ms. Berry thanked the Policy Committee's SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee for inviting USDOT officials from their Washington, D.C. headquarters to Chicago to discuss the latest federal transportation authorizing legislation. Ms. Carolyn Mulvihill of FTA and Mr. Larry Andersen of FHWA came to the CTA offices on December 13 for a wide-ranging listening session with many of the Illinois MPOs and most of the Policy Committee agencies participating. The discussion included revisions to the update cycle for RTPs, TIPs and conformity determinations; requirements for the RTP, TIP, Public Participation, Human Services, and Comprehensive Strategic Safety Plans, programming of High Priority Program Projects, apportionments vs. appropriations and environmental review processes.

The consensus of the group and the primary message to the federal regulatory agencies was to provide direction mainly through guidance and not through rules. Ms. Berry concluded her report, noting that Ms. Mulvihill and Mr. Anderson highly recommended checking the transportation capacity building website, [www.planning.dot.gov](http://www.planning.dot.gov) regularly, as preliminary and final guidance will be posted at that site.

**E. UWP**

Mr. Smith briefed the committee on the status of development of the 2007 UWP. The UWP Committee has completed the Core Element portion of the program, which funds activities that are required for the MPO to meet federal certification. Three Core Element scenarios were presented to the Work Program Committee, which agreed with the UWP Committee's recommendation of Scenario 2. Mr. Ross asked about direction received from the WPC. Mr. Smith stated the WPC recommended that in the future the Core Element portion of the UWP move closer to Scenarios 1 or 3. Only the activities required for MPO certification should be in the core, but that did not happen this year. Mr. Ross noted that this year is a transition period for the UWP, and while it is not perfect, the program will be moving from an allocation process to a competitive one. Mr. Smith believed there would be refinement of the Core Element program next year.

Mr. Rickert stated the WPC discussion was about consensus building and appreciated the work the UWP Committee has done, even though they haven't quite reached the goal yet. Mr. Schlickman asked where the extra money would go if the lesser-funded Scenario 1 or 3 were chosen over Scenario 2. Mr. Smith stated those funds would be added to the amount available for the Competitive Selection process. Mr. Schlickman noted the Regional Planning Board will be wrestling with some of the same funding issues. Mr. Smith welcomed any recommendations the RPB may have. Mr. Blankenhorn stated that the USDOT certification review noted that it is important for the region to measure its planning successes and determine if the right projects were given funding. Mr. Smith agreed. He concluded his report, noting that the call for proposals for the competitive selection portion of the program had been issued in December, with submittals due January 24, 2006.

#### **F. Self Certification of the Planning Process**

Ms. Dixon presented Resolution 06-01, certifying the planning process. She reminded the committee that while CATS has recently received federal certification, the law requires that MPOs annually certify that the planning process is addressing major issues facing their area and is conducted according to federal laws and regulations. She pointed to the UWP, TIP, RTP and the documentation of the work of the CATS committees and subcommittees as documentation of the region's planning process. Resolution 06-01 was approved on a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Cuculich.

#### **G. Flexible Funding Transferred to and Administered by the FTA in Northeastern Illinois**

Ms. Dixon reported that the Policy Committee initially designated itself as a recipient of flexible funding under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and continued the practice under TEA-21. Such designation allows for the continued flow of federal funds to the region. With the passage (finally) of a new federal transportation bill, the endorsement of the CATS Policy Committee as a designated recipient of such funds for the life of TEA-21 has expired. On a motion by Ms. Heramb, seconded by Mayor

Schielke, Resolution 06-02, endorsing CATS as a recipient of flexible funds for the life of SAFETEA-LU, was approved.

#### **H. TIP Amendment – Approval of the Conformity Finding and TIP Amendment**

Mr. Patronsky reported that the proposed amendment had been released for public comment from November 18, 2005 through December 17 2005, following the Work Program Committee’s authorization for its release.

Mr. Patronsky continued that staff had drafted a response to the comments received in cooperation with IDOT District 1 staff, since the comments concerned IDOT projects. He said the Consultation Team had reviewed the draft responses.

Mr. Ross reiterated Pace’s interest that highway shoulders in the region be constructed to allow operation by buses. He noted that this practice was used in other areas of the country, and that the design of the I-55 project did not permit this, and included lanes that were too narrow. In response, Ms. Lao noted that the narrow “lanes” were actually shoulders, and had been reviewed by federal staff.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Policy Committee makes a finding of conformity for the TIP amendment and adopts it, the finding and amendment will be forwarded to IDOT and the federal agencies for their review and approval.

Following a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Blankenhorn, the Policy Committee adopted resolutions 06-03 titled, “A Resolution Finding an Amendment to the FY 2005 – 2009 Transportation Improvement Program for Northeastern Illinois in Conformity With the Provisions of the 8-Hour Ozone and Fine Particulate Matter National Ambient Air Quality Standards,” and 06-04 titled, “A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the FY 2005 – 2009 Transportation Improvement Program for Northeastern Illinois.”

#### **I. Regional Planning Board**

Mr. Schlickman introduced Mayor Gerald Bennett of Palos Hills, the Chairman of the Regional Planning Board. Mayor Bennett presented an overview of the work that the Regional Planning Board has accomplished. He noted that it will be quite a challenge to merge two planning agencies, particularly since many deadlines have been mandated but no funding has been appropriated to accomplish this task. Mayor Bennett described how the Board is comprised and noted that its membership represented a true regional board. By September of 2006 they will have a vision plan and they will then have two years to make it work. The RPB has been meeting for two months and intends to keep the CATS Policy Committee and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission as components of the Regional Planning Board. Whether they will still be referred to as CATS and NIPC is unknown.

He said the financial plan will be a challenge and an opportunity. The region should view this as an opportunity to make the metropolitan Chicago region a model of integrating transportation and land use planning. He stressed the need to develop a true vision for the region. Mayor Bennett said the combined budget of the two agencies is about \$15 million and there are about 90 employees. The challenge to the future staff and Policy Committee members is how to be more efficient and effectively make things work and make the vision come true. The integrated plan vision will illustrate what we see our metropolitan area as looking like in the future. Mayor Bennett thanked the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Executive Director David Bennett for securing \$240,000 from the MacArthur Foundation to assist in the Board's work. Mayor Bennett then introduced Joyce Hollingsworth of DePaul's Government Assistance Program.

Ms. Hollingsworth described the work of the Board to date, including the retreat where the beginnings of a vision plan and goals took place. A SWOT analysis occurred and 10 key short-term goals were identified, along with an action plan. The hiring of an Executive Director, development of an internal organization chart, and development of a Citizen's Advisory Committee are the first orders of business. An important activity to be undertaken once the start-up activities are completed is the definition of regional priorities.

Mayor Bennett then introduced Karen Greenbaum of the Civic Consulting Alliance, who described the process of hiring an Executive Director. Ms. Greenbaum said that a job description was developed, approved by the Board and will be posted later today. A.T. Kearney will work with Mercer and the RPB to assist in the hiring.

Mayor Bennett went on to describe how the Civic Consulting Alliance has been meeting with the CATS and NIPC Executive Directors and beginning the development of organization charts. Regarding the Board structure itself, four committees have been formed: Executive, Public Participation, Planning Priorities and Transition. He described the function of each committee. Mayor Bennett said Mr. Paesel and Mr. Schlickman will report back to NIPC and CATS and it is hoped the new organization will be in place by September.

Mayor Schielke suggested that a political action coalition comprised of the Mayors, CNT and Metropolis 2020 should be a presence in Springfield. He asked if the Board should be addressing the funding issue that the state is facing and wondered if the gubernatorial race could be used to promote the agency and secure funding.

Mayor Bennett agreed that this would be a sensible course of action. As the Regional Planning Board develops the plan, increased funding for transportation and land use planning will be required. He said the governor has come on board and committed IDOT funding for the next three years for the Executive Director's position. The financial absolutes must be in place and all will require intestinal fortitude to back up the model agency with the funds

necessary to run it. He noted that between the members of the RPB and the members of the Policy Committee, the region has a lot of influential people. Efforts of all will be necessary for the end run to the General Assembly.

Mr. Schlickman agreed that hiring an Executive Director needs to be accomplished as soon as possible. The RPB members are volunteers and need an Executive Director to do the legwork for the Board. He noted that Mayor Bennett and Ms. Greenbaum both referred to the RPB's Goal 6, the continuance of the ongoing work of CATS and NIPC. He, along with Ed Paesel representing NIPC, are on the Transition Committee of the Board and will work to assure that Goal 6 will be met.

**IV. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business for the Committee.

**V. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2006 in the Sears Tower, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago, Illinois at 10:00 a.m.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Donald P. Kopec  
Secretary