



## **Policy Committee Meeting Minutes June 9, 2005**

The meeting was held at the Chicago Area Transportation Study, Cunningham-Williams Conference Room, 300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

**Tim Martin (Chairman)**

**Marty Buehler**

**Tom Cuculich**

**John DeLaurentiis**

**Don Gismondi**

**Bruce Gould**

**Jack Groner**

**Luann Hamilton**

**Ken Koehler**

**Wally Kos**

**John McCarthy**

**Leann Redden**

**Thomas Rickert**

**T. J. Ross**

**Jeff Schielke**

**Norman R. Stoner**

**Ron Thomas**

**Anne Vickery**

**Illinois Department of Transportation**

**Lake County**

(Representing Suzi Schmidt)

**DuPage County**

**Regional Transportation Authority**

(Representing Paula Thibeault)

**Federal Transit Administration**

**Will County**

(Representing Sheldon C. Latz)

**Metra**

(Representing Jeffrey Ladd)

**Chicago Department of Transportation**

(Representing Miguel d'Escoto)

**McHenry County**

**Cook County**

(Representing James Eldridge, Jr.)

**Private Transportation Providers**

**Illinois State Toll Highway Authority**

**Kane County**

(Representing Karen McConnaughay)

**PACE**

(Representing John Case)

**Council of Mayors**

**Federal Highway Administration**

**Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission**

**Kendall County**

**Transportation Operators, Planning Officials and Municipal Staff**

Vanessa Adams	FTA
Randy Blankenhorn	IDOT-OP&P
Linda Bolte	NIPC
Chris Byars	FHWA
Ken Dallmeyer	NIRPC
Bob Dean	DMMC
Chris DiPalma	FHWA
Neil Ferrari	IDOT
Pam Heimsness	FHWA
Jon-Paul Kohler	FHWA
Joe Korpalski	McHenry County
Jim LaBelle	Chicago Metropolis 2020
Fredricka Lightfoot	EIRGO
Les Nunes	IDOT-OP & P
Hugh O'Hara	WCGL
Bob Pilat	Village of Niles
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Chad Riddle	IDOT-Dist. 1
Patricia Schroeder	Patrick Engineering
David Seglin	CDOT
Jeffrey Sriver	CTA
Don Storino	WCMC
Heather Tarczan	IDOT
J. P. Varma	FHWA
Mike Walczak	NWMC
Laura Wilkison	Patrick Engineering

**Other**

Jan Metzger	CNT
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**Staff**

Don Kopec  
Patricia Berry, Kermit Wies  
Bill Kiley, Tom Palzer, Matt Rogus, Mark Thomas  
Tom Goldstein, Ryan Herren, Jon Hallas, Patrick Hill,  
Michelle McFarland-McDaniels, Ross Patronsky, Patricia Tinnelle

***I. CALL TO ORDER***

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Chairman Martin.

***II. OLD BUSINESS***

**A. Approval of Minutes for March 10, 2005.**

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Rickert, the minutes of the meeting on March 10, 2005 were approved.

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

Mayor Schielke reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on May 23. The Committee approved adjustments to the STP programming marks to help each council in their efforts to spend down any past STP balances. He said that the Committee also voted to accept additional UWP funding of \$28,000 (federal) for Kane Council to hire a second planning liaison to aid in their work on behalf of Kendall County. Mayor Schielke reported that the Federal Railroad Administration published its Final Rule on April 27 which gave a temporary reprieve to communities that have existing “quiet crossings” until a peer review is conducted as a part of FRA’s re-analysis of the data and statistical methods that were used in the initial rule. He said that communities seeking new quiet crossings can now use the FRA regulations published in April.

Mayor Schielke stated that NIPC Executive Director Ron Thomas gave an overview of how the draft 2040 Regional Framework Plan was developed and how the Plan would be used in conjunction with the CATS’ Regional Transportation Plan.

There was quite a bit of discussion on two legislative matters – the formation of a regional Policy Board and the need for transit funding reform.

Mayor Schielke said that at the conclusion of the meeting, the Committee thanked the outgoing members for their great service to the Council of Mayors and gave awards to the mayors in attendance. He noted that Executive Committee members Mayors Rupp Srch, Kravcik, Damisch, Robison, Randich, Klinkhamer, Cornue, Rossi and Koske have left municipal office.

Mayor Schielke concluded his report; noting that a special presentation and bus tour of the \$44 million Grand Avenue Underpass project were given and that the next meeting of the Executive Committee is planned for September.

## **C. Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Kopec informed the committee that on April 18 and 19, fifteen staff from CATS and member agencies met to begin work on a strategic plan for CATS. While activities are taking place that may result in a restructured process for transportation and comprehensive planning in northeastern Illinois, improvements can be made that will work with whatever structure is finally put in place. The group was able to identify priorities and objectives for the agency within the categories of learning and growth, business practices, program delivery and customer satisfaction.

Using these priorities and objectives and with the able assistance of IDOT’s John Webber, we have developed a draft mission statement for the CATS staff. It is “to communicate future transportation trends and issues, clarify expected outcomes of plans and programs and promote practical solutions.”

Mr. Kopec noted a couple of major efforts for which the agency is gearing up. First, with co-location of CATS and NIPC staff on the horizon and given the fact that we now have 38 staff members working within an organization designed for over 90, it is time to reorganize and realign agency responsibilities and resources. This will be done in a way that facilitates any level of merger with the NIPC staff.

Second, the household-based activity and travel behavior inventory is closer to becoming a reality. This effort will be significant to the region in several aspects. First, other than the decennial census, it will be the most extensive effort to gather travel behavior information since the 1970 Home Interview Survey. Second, it promises to provide us with the type of information to improve our capabilities through the use of activity-based demand estimation models. And third, recognizing the multi-state aspect of travel in this region, we are including several counties in Wisconsin and Indiana and exploring the possibility of partnering with SEWRPC and NIRPC whereby their entire regions could be covered.

Mr. Martin commended Mr. Kopec and his team for their initiative in developing the mission statement and beginning the process of reorganization. He praised staff for their inclusiveness in the strategic planning effort, noting that CATS does not operate in a vacuum and thanking the member agencies that have been participating.

#### **D. Revisions to Designated Recipient Resolutions**

Ms. Berry presented corrections to the designated recipient resolutions approved at the last meeting. She noted that the corrections have been transmitted and the Work Program Committee recommends the corrections. Resolutions 05-04 and 05-05 were revised to note the correct amounts on a motion by Mr. Groner, seconded by Mayor Schielke.

#### **E. CATS/NIPC Coordinating Committee**

Chairman Martin noted that much work had been done by the Coordinating Committee resulting in the legislation recently passed by the General Assembly. He thanked everyone for their efforts in moving forward to bring together the land use and transportation planning processes. Mr. Blankenhorn noted that the legislation creates a 15 member board. It calls for a transition period of up to three years to bring together the functions of CATS and NIPC. Mr. Blankenhorn called the legislation a good step in the right direction. He congratulated all for working together and said the next steps may depend on the expertise of member-agency staff. Mr. Blankenhorn will be contacting various staff in the near future. It is anticipated that something will be in place by late summer, early fall.

Mr. Martin noted that the final report was distributed and is available on the CATS Web site. Mr. LaBelle thanked everyone involved and noted that the region had come a long way in the past year. He appreciated the spirit of cooperation and compromise and promised to help in any way possible. Mr. Blankenhorn emphasized that the legislation was truly an effort between government and the private sector.

On a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Thomas, the report of the CATS/NIPC Coordinating Committee was accepted.

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

#### **A. 2040 Regional Framework Plan**

Mr. Wies reviewed Resolution 05-11 intended to record Policy Committee support for NIPC's 2040 Regional Framework Plan. The resolution cites the intent of the Interagency Agreement for Regional Planning, the resulting Prospectus that outlined development of the 2030 Socioeconomic Forecasts, the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan and the 2040 Regional Framework Plan. The resolution observes that the 2030 RTP and 2040 Framework Plan complement each other and resolves to continue improving transportation and land use planning integration in upcoming regional planning efforts. Mr. Wies said that CATS staff has worked with NIPC staff throughout the process. The RTP and Work Program Committees have provided feedback to NIPC on the 2040 Regional Framework Plan and recommend approval of this resolution as a record of support.

Mr. Ron Thomas added that the development of the RTP and Framework Plan are a good example of the level of technical cooperation that currently exists between the agency staffs. On a motion by Mr. Buehler, seconded by Mayor Schielke the resolution was unanimously passed.

#### **B. Unified Work Program**

Mr. Mark Thomas referred the committee members to the Executive Summary of the FY 2006 Unified Work Program (UWP) that was included in the mailing. He mentioned some of the highlights of the program. The total expenditure for the program will be \$13.6 million with \$10.9 million in new federal dollars. There will be no carryover this year. As discussed previously, the household travel inventory will be moved off the UWP books as the effort is currently in the contracting process.

CATS is receiving 44%, NIPC 20%, the transit agencies anywhere from 3% to 6%, the city of Chicago 10%, Counties 1% and the Council of Mayors 8%.

Categorically, regional transportation planning will receive 22% of the investment, supporting the development of the 2030 RTP Update and a large portion of NIPC's work coordinating with the development of the RTP. The TIP will receive 18% and public involvement 19%. Thus, these three categories will receive almost 60% of the funding which is up from 45% last year due to RTP and TIP development cycles. The remaining categories will receive about 40% including planning data and model development, special studies and subregional and project specific studies. And, as in previous years, the program management category will require less than one percent of the budget.

The Unified Work Program Committee focused on planning emphasis areas including those suggested by the Policy Committee and had in depth discussions about how the region meets federal requirements. The UWP Committee will continue those discussions over the summer and anticipate bringing recommendations to the Policy Committee this fall.

Mr. Martin asked about projects that are impacted by expanded budgets for RTP, TIP and public involvement categories. Mr. Thomas explained that projects in the special studies category such as implementation of RTP Plan components and subregional and project specific studies will receive less funding this year.

On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. Gould, the FY 2005 UWP was approved.

### **C. JARC**

Ms. Berry said that DuPage County and Pace are working out the details of sharing the JARC earmark and no approval of transfer is being requested.

The Ray Graham Association for People with Disabilities and DuPage County have received JARC earmarks for FY 05. On a motion by Mr. DeLaurentiis, seconded by Mr. Groner, Resolution 05-13 endorsing the County and Association as designated recipients was approved.

### **D. Proposed FY 05-09 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Patronsky said that CATS staff was requesting that the Policy Committee: a) approve Resolution 05-14 finding the RTP and FY 2005 – 2009 TIP in conformity with the current air quality regulations, b) approve Resolution 05-15 approving the FY 2005 – 2009 TIP, and c) revise the TIP to change the funding for one project, Deerfield Parkway in Lake County (TIP ID 10-04-0027).

He said that the FY 2005 – 2009 TIP and conformity analysis had been the subject of a public comment period that concluded April 20. CATS staff had drafted a response to the comments in consultation with state and federal agencies. The Work Program Committee had concurred in the responses.

The Work Program Committee had also recommended that the Policy Committee make a finding of conformity, and approve the FY 2005 – 2009 TIP.

Mr. Patronsky said that the one project that needed revision has been advanced to the July letting, and so needs approval before that time.

Following a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Ms. Hamilton, the Policy Committee:

- Approved Resolution 05-14 finding the RTP and FY 2005 – 2009 TIP in conformity with the current air quality regulations;
- Approved Resolution 05-15 approving the FY 2005 – 2009 TIP; and
- Revised the TIP to change the funding for one project, TIP ID 10-04-0027.

#### **E. CATS Interactive Web-based Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Rogus and Mr. Hill demonstrated the new web-based, TIP Internet Mapping System (TIPIMS). The application graphically displays all transportation projects in the current Transportation Improvement Program that have a specific geographic component. It includes both highway and transit projects. A discussion ensued concerning data items and reporting consistency with other data sources. It was agreed that the TIP Procedures Committee would discuss implementation of the TIP IMS before release to the public.

#### **F. Metropolitan Planning Area**

Mr. Patronsky mentioned that CATS staff was requesting that the Policy Committee: a) approve Resolution 05-16 changing the boundaries of the Metropolitan Planning Area of northeastern Illinois and b) approve Resolution 05-17 excluding Goose Lake Township from the MPA.

He said that the proposed MPA changes had been the subject of a public comment period that concluded April 20. CATS staff had drafted a response to the comments in consultation with state and federal agencies. The Work Program Committee had concurred in the responses.

The Work Program Committee had also recommended that the Policy Committee approve the changes to the MPA boundaries, and approve the exclusion of Goose Lake Township from the MPA.

Following a motion by Mayor Schielke, seconded by Mr. Buehler, the Policy Committee:

- Approved Resolution 05-16 changing the boundaries of the Metropolitan Planning Area of northeastern Illinois; and
- Approved Resolution 05-17 excluding Goose Lake Township from the MPA
- Concurred in the responses to public comment.

#### **G. Bylaws Changes**

Ms. Berry reviewed the proposed changes to the CATS bylaws. The changes add Kendall County as a member of the Metropolitan Planning Organization for northeastern Illinois and include minor editorial changes. Mr. Martin introduced Kendall County Board member Anne Vickery and welcomed her to the Policy Committee. On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mayor Schielke, the Policy Committee approved the revised bylaws.

#### **H. 2005 Certification Review of the Metropolitan Planning Process for the Northeastern Illinois Transportation Planning Area**

Mr. Stoner of FHWA introduced Mr. Chris DiPalma who is the new FHWA staff person in the Metro Office. He noted that it is time for the triennial certification review of the planning process in northeastern Illinois. The core group participating in the review includes Mr. DiPalma, Ms. Adams, Mr. Donovan and Mr. Kohler. Progress made on recommendations included in the 2002 review will be discussed. There will be a desk review, on-site visit and final report. The public meeting is scheduled for August 9 and the field review will occur on the tenth and eleventh. The certification team will participate in the August 12 Work Program Committee meeting and will wrap up at the October 13 Policy Committee meeting. Mr. Gismondi reviewed the history of certification. He stressed that this is not a “gotcha” process, but a process of working together to learn from CATS and to take what’s learned to other parts of the country. He noted that August is a popular vacation month and encouraged all to submit written comments.

#### **I. Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM2.5)**

Mr. Wies gave a presentation introducing the problem of Particulate Matter (PM) pollution in northeastern Illinois. He outlined the nature of PM and the ways in which it is to be regulated. There was a brief discussion by Policy Committee members regarding opportunities for transportation planning initiatives to contribute to PM reductions in the region. Mr. Wies said that IEPA has done an immense amount of research and the SIP development is

underway. The SIP will point to what role transportation plays in controlling PM pollution.

A question was raised about CMAQ funding. Mr. Patronsky said that under current legislation CMAQ funds are not distributed based on PM, though that may change with reauthorization. Project submittals for this round do include an idle reduction program and school bus conversions and CTA has done work on clean fuels, so the region is a little ahead of the curve. Ms. Hamilton commented on how helpful Mr. Wies' presentation was, and asked if copies of the presentation are available. Mr. Wies said it is available on the CATS web site.

#### ***IV. OTHER BUSINESS***

Ms. Berry said that the Resolution documenting the cooperative working arrangement between SEWRPC and CATS has been revised to include the state DOTs and to include a conflict resolution clause. On a motion by Mr. Buehler, seconded by Ms. Hamilton, the Chair was authorized to sign the revised agreement.

Secretary Martin introduced Ms. Heather Tarczan of IDOT. She will be coordinating all congestion mitigation activities in the region. She will be located in Chicago and may be reached at 312.793.2567 or by email at [tarczahn@dot.il.gov](mailto:tarczahn@dot.il.gov).

Mr. Blankenhorn invited everyone to attend the Fall Planning Conference to be held in Chicago on October 13 and 14 of this year.

#### ***V. DATE OF NEXT MEETING***

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2005.

#### ***VI. ADJOURNMENT***

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Donald P. Kopec  
Secretary