



CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

April 8, 2005

The meeting was held at 10:00 AM at the Chicago Area Transportation Study, Cunningham-Williams Conference Room, 300 West Adams, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

Unified Work Program Members

Gordon Smith, <i>Chair</i>	Illinois Department of Transportation
Vanessa Adams	Federal Transit Administration
Ralph Coglianesi	NIPC
John Kravcik	Council of Mayors Executive Committee
Mark Pitstick	Regional Transportation Authority
Dusty Powell	Lake County
David Seglin	Chicago Department of Transportation
David Simmons	Chicago Transit Authority
Lorraine Snorden	Pace
Thomas Weaver	Metra
Mark Thomas	CATS

Transportation Operators, Planning Officials and Interested Parties

Chuck Abraham	IDOT DPIT
Linda Bolte	NIPC (<i>Alternate Member</i>)
Bruce Christensen	Lake County DOT
Bob Dean	DMMC
Ernestine Flient	CTA (<i>Alternate Member</i>)
Jill Leary	WCMC
Patty Mangano	RTA (<i>Alternate Member</i>)
Beth McCluskey	NC Council of Mayors
Janice Metzger	CNT
Vicky Smith	SW Conference of Mayors
David Tomzik	Pace (<i>Alternate Member</i>)

CATS Staff

Claire Bozic	Bill Kiley	Joy Schaad
Parry Frank	Russell Pietrowiak	Tom Vick
Craig Heither	Gerald Rawling	

MEETING SUMMARY

A. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Tomzik requested the wording “has considered” in the last sentence in section C and Mr. Seglin requested the wording “proposal #204, CDOT - Preliminary Planning, directly meets federal requirements” in the second sentence of the second paragraph in section B. On a motion from Mr. Powell and seconded by Mr. Pitstick, the minutes of the March 23, 2005 committee meeting were approved with the changes.

B. Discussion of Recommended UWP

Mr. Smith stated that IDOT staff had developed a proposed FY 2006 UWP, as requested at the last UWP Committee meeting, and described the proposed program as a starting point for discussion. He also requested comments on the procedure that IDOT used to develop the proposed program.

Mr. Coglianesse had hoped for more of a prioritization of regional projects and thought the proposed program would identify how the emphasis areas were being met. He noted that the program did not fund all of NIPC’s staff costs for the projects identified, and that it did not fund all of the operations costs. It also may not make practical sense to fund only one element of a project. Mr. Coglianesse expressed concern that if land use modeling was not funded, there may be repercussions related to MPO certification.

Mr. Weaver stated that Metra’s funding level was acceptable, but asked to make the funding-neutral change of moving \$75,000 from #602, Program Development to #603, Station/Train Boarding and Alighting Counts to maintain the integrity of the consultant effort. Mayor Kravcik noted that a decision needed to be reached today so that local budget negotiations could begin. He stated the Council of Mayors would accept the figures even though the funding for data collection was insufficient, and that Kane County’s funding for planning liaison staff was not up to the level of other counties with an additional staff member. The mayor noted that discussions with CATS and IDOT had begun about getting additional funding for data collection.

Mr. Seglin noted that Chicago and the CTA were the only agencies receiving less UWP funding than the prior year under the proposal. Nonetheless, the city could live with the proposal but would have liked for ADT collection to have been fully funded. He also suggested that the concept of distributing funds to agencies has been unfairly vilified and that there is nothing more important than participation of the agencies in the regional planning process.

Ms. Snorden stated Pace found the funding acceptable but also would have liked to have had the Customer Satisfaction Index fully funded. Mr. Pitstick stated the proposal was similar to previous apportionments and had hoped for a more regional project prioritization. Mr. Simmons stated that CTA’s share of UWP funding had declined for the past six years and felt it reflected poorly on the region’s support of transit.

Mr. Powell stated IDOT staff did a good job of looking at what it takes to fund CATS, NIPC and the Council of Mayors staffs, and then used the priorities and emphasis areas to develop a sound proposal. He stated the counties were prepared to support the proposal and that if funding levels are not acceptable that the committee should find a way to get more money for the program. Ms. Adams noted it is up to the region to decide on the UWP but felt that projects meeting the needs of the region are what should be funded. She also suggested that we develop some naming conventions for projects that are similar among agencies.

Ms. Bolte stated NIPC would like to redirect some of the funding in the proposal and noted some projects may not be viable at the proposed level. Mr. Weaver agreed that agencies should have the flexibility to move funding around, as long as the agency total does not change and no new projects are added. Ms. Bolte stated NIPC could not say today how they would need to adjust their program to meet the mark IDOT proposed, and that it may be necessary to drop projects to make other ones whole.

Mayor Kravcik asked what additional language would be needed to pass a motion accepting the project list and dollar amounts per agency that IDOT proposed. Mr. Coglianesi noted staffing dollars should have flexibility. Mr. Simmons stated the CTA could not endorse the proposal because of its decline in funding. Ms. Flient stated the CTA would like to remove #311, Regional Traveler Behavior Study from the program and apply its funding to #310, Rail System Planning Using On-Track Software, a higher priority project for the agency, and would like an additional \$250,000 to fund #302, Automation of CAT Bus Run Time and Recovery Time Allocation.

C. Vote to Recommend FY06 UWP to Work Program Committee

Mayor Kravcik made a motion to recommend IDOT's proposal as the FY06 UWP to the Work Program Committee with the following conditions: 1) Metra's requested funding change will be applied to its projects, 2) CTA project #311 will be replaced by project #310 at the same funding level, and 3) agencies will have the flexibility to shift funding between projects and remove projects from the list as necessary to make them whole, but cannot add additional projects to the list. The motion was seconded by Mr. Seglin. During discussion of the motion, Mr. Simmons moved to amend the motion by giving the CTA an additional \$250,000 in funding by reducing NIPC's total by that amount. The motion for the amendment was seconded by Mr. Powell.

The amendment was defeated on a vote of 3 in favor (Chicago, CTA, Metra) and 4 opposed (Council of Mayors, NIPC, Pace, RTA), with 1 abstention (Counties).

The original motion was approved on a vote of 6 in favor (Chicago, Council of Mayors, Counties, Metra, Pace, RTA) and 2 opposed (CTA, NIPC).

D. Other Business and Adjournment

Mr. Smith stated the FY06 UWP work will be finished through the Work Program and Policy committees. He also stated the committee will meet in the next couple of months to begin working on the process for developing the FY07 UWP. Mr. Thomas asked that any project updates involving revised task lists be sent to him for inclusion in the final documentation.

Ms. Adams noted that the federal MPO planning certification review for CATS will likely occur in August, and that she will be leading the discussion on the UWP portion of the review.

On a motion from Mr. Powell and seconded by Mayor Kravcik, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

NEXT MEETING - The UWP Committee will meet in May or June to begin discussions on the process for developing the FY07 UWP.