



CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Work Program Committee

MINUTES

April 28, 2006

The meeting was held in the Cook/Cunningham-Williams Conference Room at the CATS office at 233 South Wacker Driver, Chicago, Illinois. Those present at the meeting were:

Work Program Committee Members:

LuAnn Hamilton, Vice Chairman, CDOT	Arlene Mulder, Council of Mayors
Chuck Abraham, IDOT-DPIT	Jason Osborn, McHenry County
Randy Blankenhorn, IDOT-OP&P	Mark Pitstick, RTA
Rocky Donahue, Pace	Thomas Rickert, Kane County
Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA	David Simmons, CTA
Don Kopec, CATS	Mike Rogers, IEPA
Clarita Lao, IDOT-District 1	Chris Snyder, Cook County
John Loper, DuPage County	Ron Thomas, NIPC

Transportation Operations/Planning Officials/Public Participants:

Rachel Bishop, McKinsey & Co	Hugh O'Hara, WCGL
Matt Fuller, FHWA	Holly Ostdick, McHenry COM
Tim Gustafson, McKinsey & Co	Steve Schlickman, RTA
Joe Heinrich, SSMMA	Dave Seglin, CDOT
Chalen Hunter, NWMC	Gordon Smith, IDOT-OP&P
Tam Kutzmark, DMMC	Holly Smith, Kane County
Jill Leary, WCMC	Jeffrey Sriver, CTA
Beth McCluskey, NCCOM	David Tomzik, Pace
Tom McKone, CCA	Mike Walczak, NWMC
Carl Mikyska, IDOT-OP&P	Erin Willrett, KCO
Les Nunes, IDOT – OP & P	

CATS/NIPC Staff:

Patricia Berry
Claire Bozic
Ralph Coglianesse
Bola Delano
Teri Dixon
Craig Heither

George Johnson
Bill Kiley
Tom Murtha
Ross Patronsky
Joy Schaad
Kermit Wies

1. Call to Order – Chairman

Vice Chairman Hamilton called the meeting to order at 10:05.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of February 17, 2006

On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Ms. Lao, the minutes of the February 17, 2006 meeting were approved.

3. Updates and Status Reports

a. Committee and Task Force Meetings

Mayor Mulder noted that as the representative of the Council of Mayors on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force, she is compelled to share their concerns regarding the handling of rescissions, particularly for the CMAQ and enhancement programs. The programming process currently in place will always result in unobligated funds. IDOT and CATS must address the programming process for enhancement and CMAQ funding so that over the course of SAFETEA-LU, funds from the ITEP and CMAQ programs are not inordinately hit.

b. Status Report on the Implementation of Projects

Clarita Lao – IDOT

For the March letting – ten projects were awarded for approximately \$4.8 million. Highlights include an experimental high tension cable to prevent crossovers and reduce fatalities on I-57 from I-80 to US 30, from US 30 to the Will County line, and from the Cook County line to the Kankakee County line.

For the April letting, the bid opening is today and nine projects were scheduled for letting totaling \$14 million. Another high tension cable to prevent crossovers is scheduled for this letting for I-80 from the Grundy County line to I-55. Resurfacing of the Kennedy Expressway from East River Road to the Edens is also on the April letting. Ms. Hamilton asked if this median treatment is newly approved. Ms. Lao said it had gone through FHWA review. Mr. Kohler said this approach is possible in some locations. Slopes must be 4:1 or flatter and there

must be enough distance in the median so that vehicles are not deflected into travel lanes. It is a fairly new treatment and has been used in South Carolina. He suggested that perhaps a presentation on this treatment could be made at a future Work Program Committee meeting.

Mark Pitstick – RTA

RTA's Capital Program Report for the fourth quarter of 2005 was included in the WPC packet. Highlights of each service board's program are included.

Dave Seglin – CDOT

STP

Since the last WPC meeting, Chicago STP-L had one project obligated with a total dollar amount of \$7.68 million.

To date, Chicago STP-L had 7 projects obligated with a total dollar amount of \$13.7 million. This is 22.5% of the Chicago SFY2006 STP-L program. The City has twenty-two project agreements with IDOT awaiting approval.

CMAQ

Since the last WPC meeting, there was one SFY 2006 Chicago CMAQ project obligated with a total dollar amount of \$50,000.

Ross Patronsky – CMAQ

The CMAQ program is 75.8% obligated. This breaks down to 85% for TEA-21 and 41.5% for SAFETEA-LU.

Three projects are on the April 28 letting for a total of \$1,183,370.

The review of FY 2007 proposals continues. Missing information was requested for just over 90 proposals. FY 2007 apportionments and rescissions were discussed at the SAFETEA-LU committee and will be addressed under agenda item 10.

c. Council of Mayors Update

Mayor Mulder reported that the Executive Committee had not met since the February 17th Work Program meeting, but that the Council of Mayors has been working with IDOT and the Illinois Municipal League to encourage State adoption of a state-wide appropriation for the local STP program. She added that IDOT has also put a \$25 million appropriation in their highway program for "LOC" that is "Local Only Contributions" to cover the additional local match above 20% that is common in many of the COM projects. She further stated that she hoped the action would serve the dual goals of advancing needed STP projects as soon as they are ready and spending down the unexpended STP balance that has built up around the State.

Mayor Mulder then announced that the next meeting of the Executive Committee will be the annual business and luncheon meeting on May 24th at the Joliet Arsenal Redevelopment Site in Elwood. She said there will be featured presentations and a bus tour of the BNSF Railroad's Intermodal Transfer facility, the Center Point Intermodal Center, the Abraham Lincoln Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Lastly she stated that invitations went out to all the region's mayors, to members of the Regional Planning Board and to agency partners. She encouraged members of the Committee to attend.

4. FY 05-09 TIP Changes and State/Regional Resources Table

Ms. Dixon noted that the TIP changes were distributed with the packet and the State/Regional resource table, developed with IDOT and RTA, is available for review. The State/Regional resource table was revised to accommodate the rescissions. On a motion made by Mr. Blankenhorn and seconded by Mayor Mulder, the TIP changes were approved and the State/Regional resource table was accepted.

5. Regional Planning Act

Ms. Bishop and Mr. Gustafson of McKinsey & Co presented two options for governance of the Regional Planning Board. The power point presentation is available on the RPB's website. Ms. Bishop explained that McKinsey is a management consulting firm and most of their work is in the private sector. She said they had been brought in to provide an objective view of what the potential governance structures will be. She noted that governance was not prescribed in the Regional Planning Act (RPA) legislation and the RPB will decide which course to take. Mr. Gustafson said that he and Ms. Bishop had worked pro bono for eight weeks gathering facts and interviewing Executive Directors, including those for L.A., D.C. and Kansas City. McKinsey staff then presented the power point presentation with the Work Program Committee.

Mr. Schlickman said that, as the CATS representative to the Regional Planning Board, it is important that he be aware of the Policy Committee's take on these options. RPB Chair Gerry Bennett has asked CATS to take a position by June. There followed discussion of what the best approach to a recommendation would be. Each member was asked to brief the agency they represent on this important topic.

Requirements for re-designating an MPO were discussed and the history of the establishment and ratification of the CATS Policy Committee as the MPO was reviewed. Mayor Mulder reiterated concerns about local input to the process. Ms. Bishop said it is more important to develop plans that people want to adhere to and not to have a top down approach. She said that a large portion of the RPB's members are local mayors and it may be necessary to state that the

county representatives must be mayors. Mr. Schlickman said that he understood that the legal details of the two options are still being reviewed and asked when an update would be available. Ms. Bishop said the first option would definitely require re-designating the MPO, but the second option probably would not. The first option would mean a whole lot of next steps and if the consensus is to support option B, many of those steps would not be necessary. She pointed out that the RPA allows for local control.

Mr. Seglin asked about the sequence of events if the decision is to re-designate the MPO. There are at least three things required: a report to the legislature, new legislation and the endorsement by local elected officials representing 75% of the population. He asked in what order the steps would be taken. Mr. Blankenhorn said the enabling legislation stating that we will not re-designate the MPO would have to be changed and NIPC's charter would have to be changed. Mr. Thomas said he assumed that NIPC's charter would be changed no matter what course of action is taken. Mr. Blankenhorn agreed that that was probably the case.

Mr. Gustafson said full integration is not the easiest approach, but may be the best. Mr. Blankenhorn said that the political capital it will take to re-designate the MPO must be discussed by the RPB, the Policy Committee and the NIPC Commission. Ms. Bishop said that's why a step-by-step transition might be the best. Many regions will be watching what happens here. The region has the opportunity to be a big leader and may be able to get 90% of the way with less challenge.

Ms. Hamilton asked when the legal review would be complete. Ms. Bishop said that Mayer, Brown would be working on that once an option is chosen. Mr. Blankenhorn said that Mr. Koehler and the FHWA need something to look at—they think that option A will cause re-designation and option B will not. FHWA will not go further in their review until there is more detail. Mr. Gustafson agreed and said it is not necessarily clear where the threshold is.

Ms. Hamilton asked what the WPC needs to do. Mr. Blankenhorn suggested a special WPC or SAFETEA-LU subcommittee meeting be convened so that a recommendation to the Policy Committee can be made. Mr. Schlickman said he strongly believes that the Policy Committee must consider the options before the RPB acts. He agreed that a special meeting is necessary so that the issues can be fully vetted. He said he would like to have Mayer, Brown in the room because there are points that should be clear to all. Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Schlickman agreed that a SAFETEA-LU Subcommittee to which all Policy and Work Program Committee members are invited should be called. Ms. Lao said that a legal opinion is a key factor in making a recommendation. Mr. Thomas said perhaps an administrative interpretation from the FHWA would serve in the absence of a clear ruling.

Mr. Kopec suggested that the SAFETEA-LU subcommittee be convened prior to the RPB's May 10 meeting. Mr. Blankenhorn thanked the McKinsey staff for their hard work and help on this issue.

6. PM 2.5 Hot Spot

Mr. Fuller of FHWA described the PM 2.5 Hot Spot Analysis requirements which became effective April 5, 2006 and applies to non-attainment and maintenance areas. He gave examples of projects that require this analysis, summarized the analysis and documentation an implementer must prepare, and described the procedures for obtaining an approved hot spot analysis. The power point presentation is posted on the CATS website. Ms. Lao thanked the CATS staff for their quick work in meeting these requirements for the I-55 and Dan Ryan projects.

7. Annual Report

Ms. Delano stated that the annual report is completed. The 2005 Annual report provides highlights of the MPO activities for calendar year 2005. The report is available for review and comment. The report may be viewed at <http://www.catsmpo.com/min-wpc.htm>. On a motion by Mr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Rickert, the 2005 Annual Report was released.

8. Fiscal 2007 UWP

Mr. Smith presented the proposed FY 2007 Unified Work Program developed by the UWP Committee. The UWP Committee used a two-tiered process to develop the program. The first tier focused on Core Elements that the MPO must fulfill in order to qualify for federal certification of the metropolitan transportation planning process. The UWP Committee recommendation programs \$9.6 million in Core 1 activities that directly meet MPO federal requirements and Core 2 activities that support federal requirement efforts. The second tier involved a Competitive Selection process to fund projects important for the region and that represented the principles of "good planning" using the remaining FY07 funds. The UWP Committee recommendation programs \$8.0 million for tier II projects, for a total FY 2007 program of \$17.6 million.

Mr. Smith asked for WPC to recommend the proposed FY 2007 UWP to the Policy Committee for approval. On a motion by Mr. Rickert and seconded by Mayor Mulder, the WPC approved recommending the FY 2007 UWP for Policy Committee approval. Mr. Smith stated CATS staff had sent a request asking members to provide non-UWP funded transportation planning studies that would be undertaken during FY 2007 for inclusion in the UWP. Ms. Berry noted that the request was sent to all WPC members and planning liaisons, with responses due May 12.

9. SAFETEA-LU

Human Services Transportation Plan

Ms. Bozic reported that the SAFETEA-LU Committee discussed the JARC and New Freedom Programs, and the related Human Services Transportation Plan. The two new formula programs will total about 5 million dollars per year, and will require a Human Services Transportation Plan starting in FFY 2007. There is funding available for FFY 2006, which will close in the fall. The SAFETEA-LU Committee acknowledged that a decision should be made about what organization will develop the Human Services Transportation Plan and program the funds. Also, a designated recipient must be officially named for these FTA funds. The Federal law does not require the 5307 designated recipient to be the recipient for these two grant programs, but the Illinois State law may require it. The region has given RTA the "right of first refusal" and, Mr. Kopec said talks regarding who will administer the program are ongoing between RTA and CATS. Finally, the SAFETEA-LU Committee requested that staff draft comments on the *Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities, Job Access and Reverse Commute, New Freedom Programs and Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plans: Notice of Public Meeting, Interim Guidance for FY06 Implementation, and Proposed Strategies for FY07*. CATS staff has completed a draft and received very few comments from the SAFETEA-LU Committee. Ms. Bozic stated that copies of the draft were available on the back table.

Rescissions

Mr. Kopec reported on the rescissions and the impact on funding. Over the last several years Congress has balanced the budget and funded other priorities. Over \$100 million has been rescinded in Illinois. IDOT allocated the latest rescissions based on unobligated balances. As Mayor Mulder stated earlier, the programming methods used for CMAQ and enhancement funding ensures unobligated balances and hence those fund sources took the brunt. The SAFETEA-LU Committee met with Mr. Smith of IDOT to discuss these issues. I/M funds could not be rescinded without jeopardizing the Dan Ryan project. The CMAQ Project Selection Committee will tackle how to change its programming approach. Multi-year programming is one possible approach and the Committee recognized the need to institute a way to eliminate the large unobligated balances in the CMAQ program. This year, there will only be about \$24 million to program. Mr. Blankenhorn said IDOT will be looking at how the enhancement funds are programmed. He noted that the \$70 million rescission is the only one in which unobligated balances were used. Funds from the I/M program have been included in past rescissions. Ms. Hamilton noted that IDOT acknowledged that they should have had some discussions with the MPO before the decision was made. IDOT was strongly encouraged to apply rescissions proportionately. There was no guarantee, but they said they would try. Mr. Rickert noted that existing programs are not affected, it's the upcoming program. He noted that he is the Chair of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Task Force and hoped that there would

not be disproportionate reductions to the CMAQ and enhancement programs in the future. Mr. Kopec said that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee may be looking to move projects that are programmed, but not ready to go to the out years. Ms. Schaad noted that the rescissions do affect the STP program. Ms. Hamilton asked when the city/suburban split of STP funds will be negotiated. Ms. Schaad said the suburbs are ready to meet and Ms. Hamilton said she would have Ms. Athas contact CATS.

Planning Schedule

Mr. Kopec addressed the schedule for the 2030 RTP Update and the FY 07-12 TIP. Our understanding from the fall meeting with USDOT was that we could maintain our existing schedule and adopt the RTP and TIP in October 2006. CATS will then have a full four years for the next cycle. The new interpretation is that a SAFETEA-LU compliant plan must be in place by July 1, 2007 to ensure that federal actions could be taken on TIP amendments. Staff and MPO members have been working with AMPO and AASHTO to change this new interpretation, but if it is not successful we will continue on our current cycle, with a quick turn around with no project changes to meet the next deadline. Mr. Seglin said that at the meeting hosted by IDOT and held at CTA, the federal representatives from D.C. have said the opposite. Mr. Blankenhorn agreed and said that the Division offices disagree with the new interpretation. Mr. Kohler said there was quite an uproar from division staff throughout the country, but that the field offices have not been able to get the interpretation reversed.

Mr. Rickert asked about the development of the Human Services Transportation Plan discussed by Ms. Bozic. Mr. Kopec reiterated that conversations between RTA and CATS are ongoing. Mr. Rickert asked about the 06 funds. Mr. Kopec said no solicitation has been made for projects and the law requires competitive selection, so it is likely those funds will be carried forward to 2007.

10. 2030 RTP Update (originally item 5)

Mr. Wies indicated that because so many of the recommendations from the original 2030 RTP were being implemented, the original revenue benchmark of \$9B for new major capital projects was being surpassed in the 2030 RTP Update. The RTP Committee recommended seeking support from the WPC and RPB to increase estimates of projected revenues in the 2030 RTP Update to \$12.5B in the 2030 time frame. Though the additional project costs associated with this need are, in part, due to three "mega-projects" that enjoy a great deal of attention in the press and support from political leadership, the RTP Committee felt it responsible to suggest in the 2030 RTP Update that additional transportation revenues would be necessary to implement all of the RTP's major capital recommendations over the plan's horizon. Mr. Wies indicated that he would be approaching the RPB Planning and Priorities Committee with this idea during early May.

11. Other Business

No other business was brought before the committee.


12. Next Meeting

Scheduled for June 23, 2006

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mayor Mulder, seconded by Mr. Rogers the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia A. Berry", enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Patricia A. Berry
Secretary