



## **WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

### **MINUTES**

June 23, 2006

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

#### **1. Call to Order**

Work Program Committee Chairman Groner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

#### **Work Program Committee Members Present:**

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra

Chris DiPalma, FHWA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office

Rocky Donahue, Pace

Neil D. Ferrari, representing Jason Tai, IDOT-DPIT

Don Kopec, CATS

John Loper, representing Chuck Tokarski, DuPage County

Les Nunes, representing Gordon Smith, IDOT-OP&P

Jason Osborn, representing Holly Ostdick, McHenry County

Mark Pitstick, representing John DeLaurentiis, RTA

Thomas Rickert, Kane County

Mike Rogers, IEPA

David C. Seglin, representing Luann Hamilton, CDOT

David Simmons, representing Jeffrey Sriver, CTA

Chris Snyder, Cook County

Ron Thomas, NIPC

H. J. Wiaduck, representing Arlene Mulder, CATS Council of Mayors

Rick Young, representing Clarita Lao, IDOT-District One

## **Work Program Committee Members Absent:**

Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office  
Marty Buehler, Lake County  
Bruce Gould, Will County  
Benet Haller, CDOP  
Fran Klaas, Kendall County  
Paul Losos, Private Transportation Providers  
John Rita, MTDs  
Mary Wells, Illinois Tollway  
Tom Zapler, Class 1 Railroad Companies

### **2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of April 28, 2006**

Ms. Berry noted that the Other Business section of the April 28 minutes should reflect the Work Program Committee's presentation to Randy Blankenhorn recognizing the outstanding contributions he made during his years on the Committee. On a motion by Mr. Seglin, seconded by Mr. Pitstick, the corrected minutes of the April 28, 2006 meeting were approved.

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### **3. Updates and Status Reports**

#### **a. Committee and Task Force Meetings**

There were not questions or comments on the report

#### **b. Status Report on the Implementation of Projects**

There was no report from IDOT.

Mr. Pitstick informed the committee that the capital program report for the first quarter of 2006 is available on the website in addition to the copies available at the meeting.

Mr. Seglin noted that the city has obligated 12 STP projects totaling \$46.6 million. That brings the total to date up to \$61.15 million. Four CMAQ projects have been obligated totaling \$3.2 million.

Mr. Patronsky informed the committee that just over 76% of the program has been obligated. Three projects were on the June letting totaling \$5.1 million. The FY07 program is under development. Rankings should be available soon on the website.

**c. Council of Mayors Update**

Mayor Wiaduck informed the Committee that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee met on May 24 at the Joliet Arsenal Redevelopment site. He said the Mayors approved STP advance funding requests from the Lake and Central Councils totaling \$6.5 million. He also stated that IDOT's Dick Smith gave a presentation on recent and possible future Congressional and State legislation and trends that have or will affect the Council of Mayor's STP program. He then reported that the Committee had a lively discussion on the governance options that were being considered by the Regional Planning Board. He told them that after the meeting there were several short presentations and a tour of the Joliet Arsenal Redevelopment

He then reported on the STP program accomplishment with 6 projects on the April letting totaling \$7.7 million, 6 on the June letting for \$3.6 million and 5 projects scheduled for the August letting totaling \$8.1 million. He stated that the next meeting of the Mayors Executive Committee was tentatively planned for July 20<sup>th</sup> but may be pushed to late August to coincide with the release of the draft of the RPB's report to the General Assembly. He said it is expected that negotiations with the City of Chicago on STP distribution will have taken place by then as well.

**4. FY 05-09 TIP Changes**

Mr. Ross Patronsky noted that there were just under 200 projects involved in the TIP change. The list is posted on the web site. On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. Kopec the changes were approved.

**5. 2030 RTP Update**

Mr. Wies reported that the RTP Committee met on June 15<sup>th</sup> and will meet again on July 13<sup>th</sup>. The Committee reviewed the draft capital element of the plan. It will be posted on the web at the beginning of the month. The capital element, along with the conformity analysis and proposed TIP will be presented for your review and consideration for release for public comment at your next meeting. We will also be presenting this to the

Planning and Priorities Committee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

## **6. Regional Planning Act**

Mr. Kopec began by explaining that there were two tracks of activities going on regarding the new Regional Planning Board – the board level and the staff level. There has been significant discussion about the governance issue at both a Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting and Policy Committee meeting. There is still a lot of work to be accomplished, but with open lines of communication everyone seems to be much more comfortable about the relationship between the MPO and CMAP. He noted that the board has created the Citizen's Advisory Committee with 33 members. They had over 200 applicants and intend to somehow keep the non-selected applicants involved in the process. He urged the committee to follow the work of the board, particularly the development of the report due to the legislature this September.

Regarding the staff organization, Mr. Kopec noted that they are really beginning to function as a single staff, not simply as two separate staffs located on the same floor. He mentioned the appointments of Kermit Wies as the Deputy Director for Technical Analysis and Gordon Smith as the Deputy Director for External Affairs. It was mentioned that there will be changes regarding committees of the MPO and reporting structures, but that these should not be viewed negatively. It is hoped that the final organizational structure of both staff and governance will provide an effective process for both transportation and land use planning and programming. Finally, it was noted that the list of Citizen Advisory Committee members was posted on the website of CMAP.

## **7. Congestion Management Process**

Mr. DiPalma provided the committee with an overview of the requirement from SAFETEA-LU for a Congestion Management Process and how that differed from the current Congestion Management System. He emphasized that this is intended to enhance the planning process. This is not to be thought of as a stand alone process, but rather really integrated into the metropolitan planning process. FHWA had found a number of regions simply creating a document, placing it on a shelf and pretty much ignore it. There will be some steps that will need to be taken to move from this region's congestion management system to the congestion management process. We will work to identify those steps within the next twelve months. Currently the region's congestion management system takes a regional approach. The new process will be more of a project level analysis. Also, projects currently entering the implementation phase would not be affected by this requirement.

One of the first steps that needs to be taken is the identification of performance measures. >From there, these will be worked into the planning process. One of the major concerns expressed by committee members would be having to go back and redo existing work such as New Starts Alternatives Analyses and other environmental documents. Everyone was encouraged to review the proposed planning regulations and any guidance that may come out on the congestion management process. Mr. Kopec reminded everyone that the region does have a congestion management system accepted by USDOT so we would not be starting from scratch.

#### **8. FY 07-12 Transportation Improvement Program**

Mr. Patronsky informed the committee that the staff has received all the non-exempt projects and will begin modeling shortly. The TIP and conformity analysis will be presented at the next meeting of the Work Program Committee for consideration to release for public comment.

#### **9. SAFETEA-LU**

Ms. Berry noted that the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Commission has begun meeting. The USDOT has a tremendous amount of information on this activity. Also the Policy Committee discussed the national strategy to reduce congestion and directed staff to become involved to the maximum extent possible. The Notice of Proposed Rule Making for the Planning Regulations has been released. It is a voluminous document and will be reviewed by staff and the SAFETEA Committee. The committee will also be looking at how to implement the new Job Access and Reverse Commute program and the New Freedom Initiative.

#### **10. Local Agency Flexible Match Program**

Mr. Allen explained that although a version of this program was available earlier, SAFETEA-LU codifies its availability. Basically, local governments can get credit for donated services, either their own or private donations, along with materials and engineering services performed. These donations may be used for the local match required. However, that reduces the amount of actual funds available for the project. Following a discussion about the particulars of the program, there was a question regarding the statement asking for an approval letter from the MPO. This is an area that will have to be worked out between the state and MPO. Staff was directed to work with IDOT and report back to the committee the results of implementing this provision of SAFETEA-LU.

**11. Other Business**

Mr. Chris Snyder was recognized for his many years of service with Cook County and his involvement in the MPO process. He is taking a position with DuPage County.

**12. Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Work Program Committee will be July 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

**13. Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Donohue, seconded by Mr. Rickert the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patricia A. Berry', is written over a light blue horizontal line. The signature is cursive and includes a long, sweeping flourish at the end.

Patricia A. Berry  
Secretary