



WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Friday, November 18, 2005

The meeting was held in the Cunningham-Williams Conference Room at the CATS office at 300 West Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois.

Those present at the meeting were:

Work Program Committee Members:

Thomas Rickert, Chairman	Kane County
Vanessa Adams	FTA
Chuck Abraham	IDOT-DPIT
Randy Blankenhorn	IDOT-OP&P
Chris DiPalma	FHWA
Rocky Donahue	Pace
Jack Groner	Metra
Don Kopec	CATS
Clarita Lao	IDOT-District 1
Arlene Mulder	Council of Mayors
Jason Osborn	McHenry County
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Dusty Powell	Lake County
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Dave Seglin	CDOT
David Simmons	CTA
Chris Snyder	Cook County
Ron Thomas	NIPC
Tom Zapler	Class 1 Railroads

Transportation Operations/Planning Officials/Public Participants:

Marcus Arnold	SSMMA
Bruce Christensen	Lake County
Jay Ciavarella	RTA
Joe Heinrich	SSMMA
Chalen Hunter	NWMC

Tam Kutzmark	DMMC
Jill Leary	WCMC
Beth McCluskey	NCCOM
Jan Metzger	CNT
Holly Osttick	McHenry COM
Adam Rod	Chicago Department of Aviation
Erin Royer	Kane County DOT
Gordon Smith	IDOT-OP&P
Holly Smith	Kane County
Mike Walczak	NWMC

CATS Staff:

Patricia Berry	Teri Dixon
Bill Kiley	Ross Patronsky
Joy Schaad	Mark Thomas
Kermit Wies	

1. Call to Order - Chairman

Chairman Rickert called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. He said that a due to schedule conflicts, a request has been made to move agenda item six forward. The Committee concurred.

6. Regional ADA Paratransit Plan

Mr. Ciavarella of the RTA's Regional Services Division noted that the WPC had a preview of today's agenda item at its September meeting. He said that today, each member had a copy of the draft plan at their place.

He said that the region is on a pretty tight schedule and everyone has been working hard since the legislation was passed. He informed the Committee that public hearings had been held. Many comments have been received not on the plan, but on the proposed fare increase. Those have been forwarded to the CTA board. During the latter part of November any comments from the public hearings will be reviewed.

The schedule calls for Pace, CTA, and RTA to pass board resolutions in December and it is hoped that CATS' certification of the plan will also be obtained. Mr. Ciavarella said that that would allow submittal of the plan to the FTA by January 1, 2006 and the transition could occur as scheduled next July.

Mr. Ciavarrella thanked the WPC for its attention and invited questions. Mr. Groner requested information on distribution of the revised draft of the plan to the Work Program Committee. Mr. Ciavarella said he will forward the report to Ms. Bozic at CATS. The

report will also be available on the RTA website. Paper copies of the report will be available on request. Mr. Ciavarella also explained that due to the January 1, 2006 publication deadline, both the current fare structure discussions and the public comments and responses may not be included in the report. The CTA is continuing deliberations on the fare structure. Any changes may require an update of the plan in the first six months of 2006. Ms. Adams asked if the RTA will take comment from the Civil Rights Office. Any comments provided prior to Tuesday, November 22, 2005 will be considered.

The discussion on the Regional ADA Paratransit Plan concluded. Mr. Ciavarella reiterated that the plan will be coming back to the WPC for certification at its December meeting.

Chairman Rickert invited all those present to introduce themselves and then returned to the agenda.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of September 30, 2005

On a motion by Mayor Mulder, seconded by Mr. Groner, the minutes of the September 30, 2005 meeting were approved.

3. Updates and Status Reports

a. Committee and Task Force Meetings

Chairman Rickert noted the availability of the latest Partners In Progress report on the hand out table. There were no questions or comments on the meeting summaries.

b. Status Report on the Implementation of Projects

Ms. Lao reported that work continues on the Dan Ryan. A special letting for the northbound and southbound express lanes occurred and today's letting has \$27million for the elevated section of the Dan Ryan.

Mr. Pitstick said the third quarter 2005 RTA Reports were included in the members packets. The feature articles was on SAFETEA-LU. The Report also includes obligation and expenditure information for Metra, CTA and Pace and highlights of major projects.

Mr. Seglin reported that since the last WPC meeting, Chicago STP-L had one project obligated with a total dollar amount of \$1.4 million. To date, Chicago STP-L had a total of 2 projects obligated with a total dollar amount of \$4.62 million. This is 7.5% of the total Chicago SFY2006 STP-L program. He said since the last WPC meeting, there was one SFY 2006 Chicago CMAQ project obligated with a total dollar amount of \$250,000.

Mr. Patronsky advised the Committee that the CMAQ program was 74% obligated for program years through 2006, with TEA-21 projects being 85% obligated, and FY 2004-

2005 projects 63% obligated. He noted that we are still awaiting the federal eligibility determination on the FY 06 projects. Mr. Patronsky concluded his report, reminding the Committee that the call for FY 07 projects is scheduled for November 28 through January 27.

c. **Council of Mayors Update**

Mayor Mulder reported that the Council of Mayors Executive Committee has not met since the last Work Program Committee meeting. She said the Council of Mayors STP Program had 3 projects totaling \$1.6 million on the September letting, 6 projects totaling \$7.2 million on today's letting and the next letting, January 20, is undetermined. The next meeting of the Council of Mayors Executive Committee is planned for December 12.

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

Ms. Dixon requested that the Work Program Committee approve the TIP changes presented. The TIP changes were approved on a motion by Ms. Lao, seconded by Mr. Synder.

Ms. Dixon also thanked all the programmers who have submitted FY 07-12 modeled project information and stated that programmers who have not submitted their information will be contacted. She also reminded all to let her know if they would prefer to receive a hard copy of the TIP changes rather than download them from the CATS website.

5. **Selected Year of FY 05-09**

Ms. Dixon requested that attachment A of the TIP Change and Project Grouping Procedures be revised to include FY 06 as a selected year of the FY 05-09 TIP. This is important to ensure the continuity of programming as the new federal year has started. The revision of Attachment A by adding FY 06 as a selected year of the FY 05-09 TIP was approved on a motion by Mr. Blankenhorn, seconded by Mr. Powell.

Ms. Dixon concluded her report, reminding programmers that all FFY 05 line items must be moved, award or deleted no later than the January 2006 WPC meeting.

7. **2030 RTP Update**

Mr. Wies said the RTP Committee met on November 10 and will meet again on December 8. They are in the final and often most exciting phase of the process - looking at specific major capital projects. He reminded the Committee that while the timetable

for final approval the 2030 RTP Update is tied to development of the next TIP, an early public release of the 2030 RTP Update is expected in March 2006. The RTP Committee will likely meet monthly to make the early public release date. The RTP Committee is presently reviewing progress made toward refining, developing and implementing the major capital recommendations approved in the original 2030 RTP. The RTP Committee is also working toward establishing clear and transparent priorities for those recommendations. He said that as they've embarked it has become clear that the level of detail is critical. Mr. Wies clarified the role of "project champions" as distinguished from traditional "project sponsors." He encouraged implementing agencies to participate in the 2030 RTP Update effort by making themselves aware of the work that project champions and the RTP Committee are doing on their behalf. If there are projects of interest, both he and RTP Chair David Seglin are available for discussion.

8. Self-Certification of the Planning Process

Ms. Dixon requested that the Work Program Committee recommend that the Policy Committee certify the planning process. On an annual basis, the MPO is required to certify that the planning process is meeting federal requirements. The transportation planning process is documented in numerous publications - the Unified Work Program, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Regional Transportation Plan, and committee and task force meeting agendas and minutes.

The recommendation that the Policy Committee certify the planning process was approved on a motion by Mr. Seglin, seconded by Mr. Powell.

9. Flexible Funding Transferred to and Administered by the FTA in Northeastern Illinois

Ms. Dixon requested that the Work Program Committee recommend that the Policy Committee endorse CATS as a "Designated Recipient" of flexible funds for the life of SAFETEA-LU.

With the new federal legislation, the designation of CATS as a recipient of flexible funding for the life of TEA-21 expired. Mr. Blankenhorn asked what this means and Mr. Groner asked if this is for CATS to receive funding or a pass-through agreement. Ms. Berry explained that this has been utilized in the past when a municipality receives CMAQ funds, for instance, where the funds are transferred to the FTA but are not obligated by one of the service boards. Ms. Berry also explained that traditionally CATS is endorsed as a designated recipient to receive funds for CMAQ and other funds that are transferred to and administered by FTA. Ms. Adams stated it is a small portion of projects. Mr. Groner asked what would change. Ms. Berry responded that nothing would change in how transfers were occurring, Ms. Berry also stated that staff would work with the FTA Metro Office and the RTA to ensure that the language of the resolution and fund sources listed in the resolution are accurate.

On a motion by Mayor Mulder, seconded by Mr. Seglin, the Committee recommended Policy Committee endorsement.

10. **Proposed TIP Amendment**

Mr. Patronsky introduced the proposed amendment to the FY 2005–09 TIP, which staff was requesting that the Work Program Committee release for public comment.

Mr. Patronsky said that the amendment included three projects:

- Haligus Road from Algonquin to Reed roads, Sponsor: McHenry County Council of Mayors. This is a new project extending Haligus Road.
- I-55 Stevenson Expy from Weber Rd to I-80 (corrected from agenda), Sponsor: IDOT-District 1. This project includes increasing the lanes on I-55 from 4 to 6. This conformed project is advancing across analysis years.
- IL 60 at I-94, Sponsor: IDOT-District 1. This project involves reconstruction of the IL 60 and I-94 interchange and the addition of 2 lanes on the IL 60 overpass. This project is in the TIP (engineering I only) and has not been conformed.

Mr. Patronsky noted that an air quality analysis had been performed, and that results of the analysis indicate the TIP with the proposed amendment conforms to the State Implementation Plan.

Mr. Patronsky said that if the Work Program Committee agrees, the proposed amendment will be released for public comment and review beginning November 18, extending through December 17. Following this, a recommended response to the comments will be brought to the Policy Committee at its January meeting.

Following a motion by Mr. Osborn, seconded by Ms. Lao, the proposed amendment and conformity documentation were released for public review and comment.

11. **FY 2007 Unified Work Program**

Mr. Smith described the progress on development of the FY 2007 Unified Work Program. The UWP Committee received approximately \$15.5 million in core project proposals from seven agencies on October 18, 2005. By comparison, the FY 2006 UWP effort resulted in a \$13.7 million program.

A Core Elements subcommittee comprised of IDOT, RTA and the Council of Mayors was formed to address the proposals. Their recommendation will be forwarded to the UWP Committee on December 6, 2005, and to the Work Program Committee on December 16, 2005. In addition, the UWP Committee will be asking the Work Program

Committee for recommendations on the FY 2007 emphasis areas that will guide the second, competitive, selection phase of the program.

Mr. Blankenhorn suggested that approval of the core program by the Work Program and Policy Committee could hamstring the process. He suggested that the UWP Committee come back to the WPC at its December meeting and ask for concurrence that they are heading in the right direction. It is possible that adjustments could be made to the core program during the competitive selection process. Final Work Program Committee approval of the FY 2007 UWP will be requested at the April 2006 meeting.

12. Calendar year 2006 Work Program Committee Schedule

Mr. Patronsky introduced the proposed calendar year 2006 Work Program Committee meeting schedule, for which staff was requesting Committee approval.

Mr. Patronsky said that the dates were as listed in the agenda:

01/20/06
02/17/06
04/28/06
06/23/06
07/28/06
09/29/06
11/17/06

He noted that the July 28, 2006 meeting was advanced two weeks from the corresponding 2005 meeting date to allow for adequate time to respond to comments on the proposed FY 2007 CMQ program, the 2030 RTP update and proposed FY 2007-12 TIP and the conformity analysis. Mr. Blankenhorn asked if the WPC schedule was coordinated with the RTP schedule. Mr. Wies replied affirmatively.

Following a motion by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Mr. Groner, the proposed calendar year 2006 Work Program Committee meeting schedule was approved.

13. Regional Planning Act

Mr. Kopec reported that activity revolving around the Regional Planning Act and Board has begun. He noted that all 17 members have been named and reviewed those appointments. Gerry Bennett has been elected Chairman of the Board. The Regional Planning Board met October 20 and November 3. Their meeting scheduled for

November 17 was cancelled and a retreat has been scheduled for December 2. Committees have been established and are expected to be finalized at the retreat. CAC and GAP are assisting the Board in its work. There is much to be done by September 2006 when the report is due to the general assembly on integrating and funding land use and transportation planning.

NIPC is moving during the Thanksgiving weekend and CATS is moving the first weekend in January. As files, storerooms and the library are being cleared out, many duplicate historic documents have been unearthed. Mr. Kopec invited the members to avail themselves of the opportunity if they were interested in any of these documents. Mr. Groner asked about security in getting into and out of Sears Tower. Mr. Ron Thomas said there is no longer airport-type security and hopefully things will run smoothly accessing meetings. Mr. Ron Thomas further reported that within days the RPB website will be on line. He said that NIPC is also uncovering fascinating materials as it prepares to move. NIPC is working with the University of Illinois at Chicago to develop a planning library. The intent is to provide an active source of information to the planning community. Mr. Seglin asked about the IDOT schedule to move into the current CATS office. Mr. Blankenhorn said the IDOT Department of Public and Intermodal Transportation will move in by the end of February.

14. Other Business

PM 2.5 Hot-Spot Analyses

Mr. DiPalma reported that non-exempt projects may be subject to PM 2.5 hot spot analysis, depending upon how EPA rules on March 31. If implementers receive authorization for projects prior to March 31, 2005 there will not be a requirement to prepare a PM 2.5 hot-spot analysis. Mr. Blankenhorn requested an explanation of how the EPA policy had changed. Mr. DiPalma said that the current regional PM 2.5 process will remain and that the new guidance for the PM 2.5 hot-spot analysis may recognize the regional analysis as all that is needed for project conformity. Mr. Rogers described the new guidance as a consolidation of EPA positions as opposed to a shift in policy. Mr. Wies said there are still scientific issues to be clarified as to whether the PM issue is regional or localized.

Mr. Rickert asked if there would be an opportunity to influence the guidance and Mr. Blankenhorn said there has been no opportunity to provide input over the last two years. Mr. DiPalma said the federal guidance versus federal rule discussion is a non-issue. The EPA will likely just come out with a statement. Mr. Blankenhorn suggested that there are actually two issues. The first is the identification of a long-term need for PM 2.5 analyses, and the second is figuring out what to do with current projects that will have to fall back in the process in order to address the EPA requirement.

Illinois Planning Proposals/ Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Blankenhorn stated that Illinois Tomorrow proposals are due on December 16, 2005. Also, a public meeting will be held at CATS on December 7, 2005 on the update to the 1999 Statewide LRTP. IDOT intends to kick off a full two-year update of the Statewide LRTP, initially focusing on what should be accomplished with the new plan. Ms. Metzger asked if recent legislation on context sensitive solutions and safe routes to school would be considered. Mr. Blankenhorn responded in the affirmative describing the plan as a policy document rather than a capital projects effort.

SAFETEA-LU Committee

The Policy Committee's SAFETEA-LU subcommittee has invited the FTA and FHWA headquarters personnel to participate in a discussion of the new federal legislation the week of December 6. Ms. Adams said the FTA would be comfortable with December 13. Mr. Blankenhorn said the committee could have an opportunity to influence upcoming federal guidance and rule making. Mr. Groner asked if there are any concerns that have surfaced to date. Mr. Blankenhorn said the 4-year TIP and RTP cycles may not be allowed until after an RTP and TIP have been developed under the new legislation. There is also a need to clarify what is intended by the "human services" language. Mr. Seglin asked if the participating FHWA and FTA personnel have been identified. Ms. Adams said it would likely be Charlie Goodman and Larry Anderson, but it will depend on their schedules. Mr. Blankenhorn encouraged people to contact him or Mr. Kopec with questions and concerns so that these can be presented to the federal agencies prior to their visit.

15. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Work Program Committee will be December 16, 2005 at 10 a.m. at the Cunningham-Williams Conference room at the CATS office at 300 West Adams.

16. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Powell, seconded by Mr. Kopec, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia A. Berry
Secretary