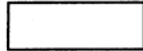




Chicago Area Transportation Study



To: CATS Policy Committee
From: Patricia Berry, Acting Deputy for Programming
Date: December 28, 2005
Subject: Public Comments on Proposed Amendment to the FY 2005 - 2009 TIP

The following is a summary of the comments received on the proposed amendment to the FY 2005 - 2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), together with proposed responses to those comments. Three comments were received. Copies of the comments are attached.

Brent Holman-Gomez

Mr. Holman-Gomez wrote a comment suggesting that adding lanes to I-55 will induce further travel and exacerbate sprawl in the Joliet/Plainfield area. He recommended encouraging public transportation use.

- This comment was forwarded to IDOT District 1 staff for review and response. They stated that, given the growth that has already occurred along this corridor, the Division of Highways is proposing to address the immediate safety and mobility needs along Interstate 55 widening it from four to six lanes between interstate 80 and Weber Road.

City of Evanston

The City Transportation Director wrote that the City is not opposed to advancing the completion of the two IDOT projects as long as Evanston projects programmed for construction are not delayed.

- IDOT District 1 staff also reviewed and responded to this comment. They stated that locally sponsored TIP projects are independent of any state sponsored projects. Therefore the state's actions concerning Interstate 55 or Illinois Route 60 would not delay any Evanston projects currently programmed for construction.

Pace

Pace submitted a comment recommending that the improvement along I-55 be constructed to allow shoulder-riding by buses.

- IDOT staff responded to this question that the Department is proposing to implement the ultimate Interstate 55 improvements in a multi-step fashion.

Step one includes widening the roadway by paving in the median. With this improvement, an additional lane and left shoulder will be provided in each direction. However, the inside or left shoulders will only be approximately 6' wide so shoulder riding will not be permitted.

The Department is currently working to include funding for construction of this improvement in its upcoming multi-year program. The ultimate improvement proposes to completely reconstruct Interstate 55 from Interstate 80 to Weber Road to provide three lanes and 12' shoulders in each direction.

Shoulder riding by buses could be considered, but would have to be independently evaluated and coordinated with the Federal Highway Administration for their concurrence.

The ultimate improvement is not funded for construction.