Proposed Criteria for RTOC review of CMAQ projects

Topic: Regional Transportation Operations Coalition (RTOC) role in CMAQ process

Background: On January 20, 2011, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) announced at the RTOC meeting a revision to the programming process for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement. The revision includes an enhanced role for RTOC that will include prioritizing projects submitted to CMAQ during the "call for projects" based on goals and objectives defined by the group. CMAQ has assigned the following project categories to the RTOC group:

- Arterial and intersection improvements
- Bottleneck Relief
- Intelligent Transportation System improvements (ITS) including signal interconnects/traffic management centers/transit signal priority systems.

Out of that meeting, it was determined that a list of performance measures be developed as well as a list of projects and have them sent to CMAP prior to the next meeting on February 18, 2011.

Priorities & Performance Measures: After a long discussion, it was decided that the best way to look at congestion was to prioritize routes. With that in mind, projects will be reviewed on roadways based on their given classifications:

- Strategic Regional Aerials (SRA) Routes,
- Primary Routes
- Secondary Routes
- Other roadways.

Performance measures for the three categories were also discussed along with the types of projects that could be included in these categories.

Intersection Improvements & Bottlenecks:

Performance Measures

- Delay experienced
- Benefit – Cost comparison
- Hours of Congestion
- Congestion limits

Types of Projects

- Addition of Turn Lanes
- Update intersection control
- Roundabouts

ITS improvements

Performance Measures

- Professional Judgment considering region as a whole.

Types of Projects

- Traffic signal interconnects
- Traffic signal modernizations
- Traffic Signal controls (Central office, Adaptive, etc)
- Traffic Management Centers
- Transit Signal Priority
- Traveler Information
- Incident Management

Next Steps: A map has been created by each of the Counties looking at known congested locations. Congested locations are defined as vehicles taking more than once cycle to get through a congested intersection during the peak periods.