

Chicago Area Transportation Study
Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
June 22, 2005

Participants	Representing
Patricia Berry	CATS
Bill Brown (via speaker phone)	NIRPC
Chris DiPalma	FHWA
Doug Ferguson	CATS
Michael Leslie	USEPA
Ross Patronsky	CATS
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Gordon Smith	IDOT
Mark Thomas	CATS
Kermit Wies	CATS

1. Approval of the April 21, 2005 meeting summary

The final (fifth draft) April summary was approved.

2. Supplemental Conformity for the PM_{2.5} standard

Mr. Wies presented two alternative schedules the PM_{2.5} conformity determination for northeastern Illinois. One schedule has a target of January, 2006 Policy Committee approval while the other targets October, 2005 for Policy Committee approval. Because of the demands of the Regional Transportation Plan and TIP update, CATS staff would prefer to obtain Policy Committee approval in October, 2005.

Mr. Leslie indicated that the EPA final guidance on PM_{2.5} should be available in early July. Mr. Wies and Mr. Rogers expressed a concern that if CATS is to follow the October 2005 schedule, the conformity analysis will be underway by the time the final guidance is released. Mr. Leslie and Mr. DiPalma said that this timing problem will be considered in reviewing the adequacy of the analysis. Mr. Leslie stated that there will be more flexibility with PM_{2.5} conformity procedures until a SIP is in place.

Mr. Wies indicated that CATS' travel demand model results would be based on data developed for the previous ozone analysis. Mr. Leslie did not foresee a problem with this "older" data being used. At Mr. Wies' recommendation, the forecast analysis years for the PM_{2.5} conformity will be 2010, 2020 and 2030. Mr. Leslie agreed that, while a PM_{2.5} 2002 base emissions inventory will be needed, these do not need to be based on travel demand results from 2002. Mr. Rogers indicated that IEPA would be providing the 2002 baseline emissions inventory, but that the method for determining annual VMT was still being investigated. Historically, IDOT has provided IEPA with VMT data.

Mr. Wies brought up the issue of coordinating CATS and NIRPC schedules for PM_{2.5} conformity. Mr. Brown indicated that NIRPC would be ready to begin analysis in late July or early August. He plans to start modeling the PM_{2.5} analysis in September or

October. Mr. Leslie noted that while CATS and NIRPC may determine conformity individually, both conformity determinations must be complete in order for USEPA to accept. If either agency fails to demonstrate PM_{2.5} conformity by April 15, 2006, both will enter into a lapse.

3. Busch Rd-Busch Pkwy-Deerfield Pkwy (TIP ID 10-94-0027)

Mr. Patronskey summarized the project. It is a highway project in Lake County with limits from IL 83 to the Wisconsin Central RR tracks. It includes 1.6 miles of additional lanes, one in each direction. Lake County requested a TIP change at the June 9, 2005 Policy Committee meeting to move the completion year from 2010 to 2008. The project has been included on the August letting schedule by IDOT District 1. The letting authorization date is June 24, 2005. The earlier completion date will cause the project to be modeled in the 2010 scenario year.

Mr. Thomas presented the team with memoranda from past project changes (Brisbin Rd Interchange and 143rd St) that have been brought to the consultation team for approval. Mr. Wies asked if a project-level analysis similar to that summarized in the memoranda be sufficient to meet the requirements. Mr. Leslie indicated that this would be acceptable.

4. Other Business

No other business was presented to the consultation team.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting was left on call.