Past Bottleneck Programs

In order to show a full picture of what the status of operations is in the region, the group had a brief discussion on past efforts to systematically reduce bottlenecks. These are the two examples that were brought up.

1. Operation Greenlight. This program from the 1990's covered more than signal upgrades and included many of the project types presented at the 11/27/12 workshop. Notably, this effort resulted in the establishment of the Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) system, which is still in effect today. This program also instituted one of the region's first transit signal priority (TSP) projects along Cermak Avenue. This effort was spearheaded by the MPO (CATS) and included participation from many transportation agencies. More information on this program can be found at the following two locations:
    a. http://archive.org/details/operationgreenli00illi
    b. http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/planning/freight_planning/archive/chicago.cfm
2. 2012-2016 CMAQ program – RTOC program of projects. In 2011, the Regional Transportation Operations Coalition, a group of transportation system operators, vetted a list of projects that would benefit transportation operations in the Northeastern Illinois (Chicago) region. These projects were different from typical capital expenditure or infrastructure projects in that their focus was on improving the operations of the existing infrastructure and systems, rather than expanding them. In all, approximately 93 projects totalling about $170 million in investment were approved as part of the 2012-2016 CMAQ program for Northeastern Illinois. It's important to note that these projects were not evaluated separately, but in many cases as part of an overall system or larger corridor, thus leveraging the impact of these investments by coordinating the projects selected. For more information on this program, see http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=85d46b93-a945-429c-90f9-5463b9e7bbf0&groupId=20583