CHICAGO AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY

WORK PROGRAM COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 17, 2006

The meeting was held in the Cook County Conference Room at the CMAP office at 233 South Wacker Driver, Chicago, Illinois.

1. Call to Order

Work Program Committee Chairman Groner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Work Program Committee Members Present:

Jack Groner, Chairman, Metra
Vanessa Adams, FTA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
Rodney Bettenhausen representing Wally Kos, Cook County
John DeLaurentiis, RTA
Chris DiPalma, FHWA, USDOT Chicago Metro Office
LuAnn Hamilton, CDOT
Don Kopec, CATS
Clarita Lao, IDOT-District One
John Loper, representing Chuck Tokarski, DuPage County
Jeff Young representing Jason Osborn, McHenry County
Thomas Rickert, Kane County
Mike Rogers, IEPA
David Simmons, representing Jeffrey Sriver, CTA
Dick Smith representing Les Nunes, IDOT-OP&P
Lorraine Snorden representing Rocky Donahue, Pace
Steve Strains, NIRPC
Paula Trigg, representing Martin Buehler, Lake County
Mary Wells, ISTHA
Tom Zapler, Class 1 Railroad Companies

Work Program Committee Members Absent:

Bruce Gould, Will County
Benet Haller, CDOP
Fran Klaas, Kendall County
Paul Losos, Private Transportation Providers
Arlene Mulder CATS Council of Mayors

John Rita, MTDs
Jason Tai, IDOT-DPIT

Others Present

Bruce Christensen
Mark Cinabro
Joe Heinrich
Mike Klemens
Tam Kutzmark
Matt Maloney
Beth McCluskey
Carl Mikyska
Hugh O'Hara
Holly Ostdick
Chad Riddle
Bill Reynolds
Adam Rod
Dave Seglin
Holly Smith
Vicky Smith
John Tomczyk
Marie Choco Urban
Mike Walczak
Tammy Wierciak
Erin Willrett

CMAP Staff

Patricia Berry
Janet Bright
Teri Dixon
Tom Murtha
Suzanne Lanzafame
Ross Patronsky
Gordon Smith
Tom Vick

1. Call to Order

Work Program Committee Chairman Groner called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes of the Meeting of July 28, 2006

On a motion by Ms. Snorden, seconded by Ms. Lao, the minutes of the September 29, 2006 meeting were approved.

3. Updates and Status Reports

a. Committee and Task Force Meetings

There were no questions or comments on the committee and task force meeting summary report.

b. Status Report on the Implementation of Projects

Ms. Lao reported that November letting is today. Approximately $25 million in state projects are on the letting. Key projects are intersection reconstruction of US 6 at US 45, bridge replacement and intersection reconstruction at IL 50 over the north branch of the Chicago River near US 14, resurfacing of Grand Avenue from IL 131 (Green Bay Road to IL 137 (Amstutz Expressway), bridge replacement at 147th St and Boca Rio ditch and some fencing, landscaping and guardrail.

There was no status update from RTA.

Mr. Seglin stated since the last WPC meeting, the City had two projects obligated at $2.5 million. To date, This is 3.7% of Chicago FY 2007 STPL program. There has be one 2007 city of Chicago project obligated at $1.66 million.

Mr. Patronsky advised the Committee that obligation information through July has been received; the CMAQ program is just under 80% obligated. This breaks down to 86.2% for TEA-21 and 54.5% for SAFETEA-LU. He also noted that two projects were on the September 22, 2006 letting for $760,000.

Mr. Patronsky said that the CMAQ Project Selection Committee continues to consider options for improving the management of currently programmed projects. A staff recommendation will be reviewed by a working group in the near future.

c. Council of Mayors Update

Mayor Mulder was unable to attend the meeting. Gordon Smith gave the Mayors' report in her absence.

4. 2006 JARC and New Freedom Projects

Mr. Reynolds stated that he was at the WPC committee meeting to ask for the committee's endorsement of the 2006 JARC/New Freedom Program. He had made the same request before the joint meeting of the Community Mobility Task Force and the Task Force for Persons with Disabilities on Monday.

Mr. Reynolds refreshed everyone's memory on the process that was followed to get to this point based on the feedback and discussion at Monday's meeting. The work for the JARC and New Freedom funds began in June. The goal was to select multiple sustainable projects that could be implemented in the shortest possible timeframe. An aggressive timeline was set to accomplish that goal. Working with CATS and the service boards an application was developed, a call for projects time table set and established a set of selection criteria were put in place.

The timeline that was established tied directly to the regularly scheduled meetings of the various CATS committees as well as the need to get the program before the RTA Board in December. In lieu of an extensive public outreach effort like the one that will accompany the 2007 Human Services Transportation Plan effort CATS committees were to help in getting the word out.

The call for projects went out in August. Proposals were due on November 1st. Twenty-six (26) applications totaling $13 million dollars were received.

Unfortunately the region has roughly $5.6 million dollars available between the JARC and New Freedom programs. This amount is reduced even more after the RTA took the allowable 10% off the top to develop the 2007 Human Service Transportation Plan. That leaves approximately $5.1 million available for projects between the two programs.

A selection committee made up of two staff members from CATS and RTA reviewed and ranked the applications. We met on November 7th to discuss the applications and reach a consensus on the recommended projects.

The following three projects are recommended for the New Freedom program.

RIDE DUPAGE TO WORK

This project proposes to reduce the fares for persons with disabilities and seniors to make work related trips. The current Ride DuPage's distance base fare of $3 for the first six miles and $1.50 for each additional mile has been identified by persons with disabilities as a significant barrier to using Ride DuPage for work transportation. This proposal will reduce the amounts to $1.50 and $1.00.

$400,000 in federal dollars is requested.

MCHENRY COUNTY CALL CENTER

This project will establish a central call center in McHenry County. The call center is critical to the future expansion of demand responsive service in the county. The call center will provide a coordinated system and optimize resources for future service expansion.

$84,000 in federal dollars is requested.

RIDE-IN-KANE

The objective of this project is to coordinate currently fragmented services into an amalgamated system that would optimize resources for expanding service into areas currently not served and for expansion into underserved areas. The expanded and new service will increase the mobility of older adults and persons with disabilities. A central call center will be established as part of the project. Funding for this project is split between the two funding programs.

The original application included a Ride Lake element. This component is not recommended for funding in the 2006 program.

$2,400,000 in federal dollars is requested.

THERE ARE FOUR RECOMMENDED JARC PROJECTS.

METRA UP NORTHLINE TRAIN

This project as proposed will add an additional early morning reverse commute train from Chicago to Waukegan to meet 7AM work start times of north suburban employers, basically from Lake Cook Road north.

The addition of this train will also benefit employees who reside farther north along the line who will now have a viable suburb to suburb travel option to the same suburban business centers.

An added benefit from the new service is gained because the earlier recommended outbound train necessitates an earlier pre-dawn inbound train which will serve the traditional commute market.

$250,000 in federal dollars is requested for this project.

PACE SOUTH SUBURBAN EXPRESS BUS NETWORK

This project introduces six new reverse express bus routes from under employed residential areas in south cook county to employment centers near O'Hare, Schaumburg, and the I-88 corridor between Downers Grove and Winfield were there is a surplus of jobs.

$1,050,000 in federal funding is requested for these services.

Finally there are two CTA services recommended for the program.

CTA ROUTE 65 GRAND AVENUE AND ROUTE 7 HARRISON

These two projects propose to add or extend evening service and in the case of the Grand Avenue route an increase in weekend service. Both routes serve areas of the City's Westside with employment opportunities to the east and via connections to the CTA rail system.

The Harrison route provides service to the Illinois Medical District and UIC campus. While the expanded hours will improve employment opportunities, the additional service will also support patients using the medical district facilities.

The Grand Avenue proposal would extend service to 10PM weekday and increase the frequency of weekend service enhancing employment opportunities for Westside residents along the corridor from Navy Pier and Michigan Avenue to the Brickyard Mall

near Harlem Avenue. Persons with disabilities with access to the route would also benefit from the improved service hours because the bused used are 100% accessible.

The federal dollars requested for the Grand Avenue route is $545,000.

$341,000 in federal funding is requested for the Harrison route.

The recommended 2006 program has a total federal dollar amount of approximately $5,070,000.

Ms. Reynolds then opened the floor for questions. Mr. Groner asked it cash flow was a part of the review process Mr. Reynolds stated that Kane County was working with Pace and other agencies and does expect to be able to spend all of its allocation. Mr. Simmons stated that there had been no consensus at Monday's meeting on the projects where the project were approved and sent to the WPC since the vote was 9-4. Mr. Simmons said there were questions about the process and who made the decisions and that while CTA has submitted several projects very few projects were chosen. Mr. Reynolds responded that the RTA has worked with the service boards and everyone knew the schedule and that there was a time crunch. It is not a perfect process but no one wanted to leave $6 million dollars on the table.

Mr. Groner asked what would be different about next year's call. Mr. Reynolds responded that it would be somewhat similar. The call will still be in August but the hope is that the next cycle will be different and that the public involvement component will be a much larger piece of this process. Ms. Hamilton suggested that the staffing of 2 CATS and 2 RTA staff included a broader pool of people making the decision on which projects are chosen. Mr. Groner suggested that additional agency who wanted to be involved in the process should step up now. Mr. Reynolds agreed and stated that Jay Civarella is the RTA contact.

On a motion by Mr. Kopec, seconded by Ms. Snorden the motion to approval the JARC and New Freedom projects was carried with Mr. Simmons opposed.

5. FY 07-12 TIP Changes

Ms. Dixon requested Work Program Committee approval of the TIP changes. On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Ms. Hamilton the TIP changes were approved.

6. Self-Certification

Ms. Dixon asked the WPC to recommend that Policy Committee recommend certification of the planning process. This is an annual process that meets federal requirements. Staff will be working with Metro staff to ensue that all the citations are correct. Mr. DeLaurentis inquired who was requesting the certification. Ms. Berry responded that the certification is to meet federal requirement and is an annual event.

On a motion by Mr. Rickert, seconded by Mr. _____, the recommendation for the Policy Committee to certify the planning process self-certification was approved.

7. Regional Planning Act

8. Unified Work Program

9. Election of 2007 Officers

Mr. Rogers stated that reported that the nominating committee, which included Mayor Mulder, Mr. Buehler, Mr. Donahue, and Mr. Ron Thomas has recommended Mr. Groner as the Chair and Ms. Hamilton as Vice-Chair. On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Rickert Mr. Groner and Ms. Hamilton were unanimously re-elected.

11. Other Business

12. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 2007 at 10:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Kopec the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Berry
Secretary