

CMAQ Project Selection Committee

September 8, 2003

Meeting Agreements

1. The most recent recession to the FY 2003 highway funds is not expected to affect the CMAQ program. CATS staff is confident there will continue to be a CMAQ program in the future. The most recent information indicates that there will be a continuing resolution with funding at approximately the \$60 million dollar level.
2. A summary of the public comments received and the staff recommended responses was presented. The Committee approved the staff recommended responses to the public comments received. Staff will respond individually to the commenters on their points.
3. The deadline for responding to the annual follow-up questionnaire was September 5. To date, staff has received 24 responses from the 51 projects. The staff will obtain responses to the remaining follow-up questionnaires and report to the Committee at the next meeting.
4. The Committee agreed to continue monitoring the Des Plaines River Trail from IL 64 to Maybrook Ct project (TIP ID 04-97-0015). The Forest Preserve District of Cook County indicated that they would be looking to include the project in their FY 2004 budget, assuming that bond funds will be unavailable. Staff will distribute the District's design alternatives to the Committee.
5. The Committee agreed to remove the DuPage County Forest Preserve District's project, Salt Creek Greenway (TIP ID 08-96-0032) from the current follow-up list. The District has received preliminary design approval for the project.
6. The Committee approved a cost increase for the sidewalk portion of East Hazel Crest's project, 171st Street Sidewalk from Wood to Ashland (TIP ID 07-99-0026) in the amount of \$84,755 federal for a revised project cost of \$436,755 federal (\$545,943 total). The Committee agreed that the Village should seek other funding sources for the retaining wall portion of the project.
7. The Committee approved a scope change requested by Algonquin Township for its Algonquin Township Sidewalks project (TIP ID 11-02-0001) to include right-of-way acquisition. The Township will use currently approved funds for the right-of-way with the understanding that they may request an increase for construction at a later date. Currently the township has \$545,130 federal remaining for right-of-way, engineering-II and construction.
8. The Committee approved the cost increase for the City of Chicago's Mid-City Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TIP ID 01-94-0186) in the amount of \$640,000 federal for a total of \$1,440,000 federal and approved a cost decrease for the Red Line Extension from 95th to 103rd project (TIP ID 01-94-0006) in the amount of \$640,000 federal for a total of \$1,120,000 federal.

9. The City of Chicago Heights has not decided whether or not to proceed with the Old Plank Road Trail Extension from Western to Euclid (TIP ID 07-01-0004).
10. The proposed scope change and cost increase for the Village of Lake Zurich's US 12/Rand Road at Ela Road project (TIP ID 10-02-0007) is at least partially ineligible for federal funding. The Village has been encouraged to restructure their request.
11. The Committee approved the request of the CTA for reprogramming unused funds in the amount of \$80,000 from the Ethanol Fuel Cell Bus Program – Demonstration of Ethanol Reformer – Participation in National Project (TIP ID 16-95-0039) to the proposed FY 2004 Express Bus Service for #79 79th Street, #22 Clark Street, #9 Ashland project (TI01040736).
12. The proposed FY 2005 CMAQ Program Development schedule was presented to the Committee with no objections.
13. The staff informed the Committee that work was being done to revise the current evaluation methods for Commuter Parking, Bicycle Facility and Pedestrian Facility projects. The committee requested that staff work with the RTA on developing a method for Transit Signal Priority projects.
14. CMAQ Financial Summary Tables and Charts for the fiscal years 1992 to 2003 were presented to the Committee by staff. The Committee decided that the charts showing "Withdrawn" funds were not useful if those funds were reprogrammed. Instead they would like to see the funds that were withdrawn from projects that were dropped. The Committee requested a report on project "overhang" (unfunded construction).
15. The Committee requested that staff respond in writing to the Surface Transportation Policy Project concerning their report, "Clearing the Air", and address the misleading information on CMAQ obligations verses programmed amounts.
16. The next meeting will be determined via fax to the committee members.

The above summary is based on staff meeting notes. Anyone who takes exception to the information contained in this summary should forward comments to Ross Patronsky at (312) 793-3474 within one week of the submission date noted below.

Summary submitted by Ross Patronsky September 18, 2003.