

Chicago Area Transportation Study
Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
November 1, 2005
FINAL

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

1. Approval of the September 20, 2005 meeting summary

Mr. DiPalma asked about the disposition of the comment reviewed and discussed at the September meeting. Ms. Berry reported that she spoke to Mr. Jason Osborn of the McHenry County Highway Department who had authored the comment. Mr. Osborn is completely satisfied with the response. The final (first draft) September summary was approved on a motion by Mr. Smith, seconded by Mr. Rogers.

2. PM_{2.5} Conformity Update

Mr. B. Brown informed the team that the PM_{2.5} Conformity Documentation for Northwestern Indiana is currently out for public comment through November 30, 2005 and that the NIRPC Board will consider approving the documentation and making a conformity determination at their December 8, 2005 meeting.

Mr. Leslie asked about how the joint conformity determination would be presented. Mr. Wies indicated that the CATS and NIRPC conformity documentation will each be separate documents with a common section. CATS will fill in the blanks in Table 9 of its conformity documentation with the numbers from the NIRPC determination and submit that table to the federal agencies for review and approval. The team agreed that CATS and NIRPC will each make conformity submittals to the Federal agencies for approval of the PM 2.5 conformity. Mr. Leslie and Mr. DiPalma agreed that this would be appropriate.

Mr. Rogers asked about technical corrections, such as the wintertime gasoline sulfur not being handled correctly in the MOBILE model. Mr. B. Brown said that at the

October 14 meeting, Pat Morris and Brian Calahan accepted the analysis approach. Mr. DiPalma asked if IDEM had also concurred, Mr. L. Brown replied affirmatively.

3. TIP Changes

Mr. Thomas presented the team with details on TIP changes for three projects. The three projects are an add lanes job on I-55 from Naperville Rd to just south of US 6, an add lanes job on the IL 60 overpass at I-94, and the extension of Haligus Rd in McHenry County. The TIP changes will allow for further design work on these projects, though none will be open to traffic prior to the October 2006 conformity determination. Staff became aware of the McHenry project during the call for FY 07-12 TIP projects. While this project is not as far along as the other two, it will likely need phase 1 design approval prior to the next conformity and so it was decided to include it in today's discussion.

The team agreed that an analysis and memorandum similar to that done for the Busch Rd-Busch Pkwy-Deerfield Pkwy project change would be sufficient for the conformity determination. The memorandum will include the results of the analysis including the three projects. Mr. Leslie stated that this would be satisfactory. The changes will then be brought to the November WPC meeting with a request to release a TIP amendment for public comment. Any comments will be discussed with the Consultation Team and, if all concur, the TIP amendment will be presented to the Policy Committee for consideration of approval in January 2006. While the only project change requiring public notification is the add lanes on I-55, it was agreed that since all three projects are being acted on, the post card announcing the public comment on the TIP amendment card will provide a link to information on all three. This will not set a precedent for future TIP changes. It was agreed that the post card language and the language to appear on the CATS website would be distributed for comment to the consultation team prior to finalization.

4. RTP/TIP/Conformity

The schedule for the 2030 RTP update, FY 07-12 TIP and conformity analysis was discussed by the consultation team. Ms. Berry noted that the first deadline for the implementers is to have new or revised modeled projects to CATS by November 14. Mr. Wies noted that there have been isolated negative comments about conducting public comment periods during the month of August. Team members indicated that the August comment period was acceptable because the public is being notified of the entire schedule for the plan update and TIP development well ahead of the documents being released. Given that the comment period is thirty days, people have plenty of opportunity to provide comments.

5. Other Business

No other business was presented to the consultation team.

6. Next Meeting

The next meeting was left on call. It is anticipated that the team will meet in late December to consider requirements for the upcoming analysis of the 2030 RTP update and the FY 07-12 TIP and to review any comments received on the proposed amendment.