

Tier 2 Consultation Meeting  
April 21, 2005

Participants	
Vanessa Adams	FTA
Patricia Berry	CATS
Teri Dixon	CATS
Jon Hallas	CATS
Don Kopec	CATS
Michael Leslie	USEPA
Tom Murtha	CATS
Les Nunes	IDOT/OP&P
Ross Patronskey	CATS
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Gordon Smith	IDOT
Mark Thomas	CATS
Kevin Ward	FHWA
Kermit Wies	CATS

1. Approval of the March 1, 2005 meeting summary

Mr. Rogers offered changes to the third draft meeting summary which were accepted by the team. The final (fourth draft) March summary is attached.

2. Supplemental Conformity for the 8-hour ozone standard

Approvals by agencies discussed. Mr. Leslie said that USEPA would be signing off on the approval today. Mr. Rogers said the IEPA letter is also ready to go. Mr. Ward said that given that schedule for the USEPA and IEPA letters, he anticipates the USDOT approval early next week.

3. FY05-09 TIP and MPA Boundary

Mr. Patronskey reviewed the MPA and TIP letters and draft proposed responses. There was discussion about the responses and assumptions that could or could not be made about some of the comments the public made. It was agreed that the consultation group should resist the inclination to try to discern the intent of the question and should instead respond to the questions as posed. After substantial discussion, the team agreed on draft responses to be presented to the Work Program Committee for consideration. See April 29 WPC files for those responses.

The process for excluding Goose Lake Township from the MPA was clarified. There is an existing agreement approved by the Governor excluding both Aux Sable and Goose Lake from the MPA. This agreement and Governor's approval is required because the two Grundy County townships are included in the non-attainment area. Although the excluded area is being reduced, a new agreement should be put in place. Mr. Rogers took the agreement between IEPA, Grundy County, IDOT and CATS for signature. It is anticipated that the Grundy County and IDOT signatures would be acquired next and

that CATS can sign once Policy Committee action occurs on June 9. The agreement and the Policy Committee's resolution will then be transmitted to the Governor's office through IDOT.

Existing CATS products, including the RTP and the TIP, will include the expanded area in updates subsequent to June Policy Committee action. An insert will be prepared for distribution with existing documents describing the revised MPA.

#### 4. Transit program revisions

Ms. Dixon reviewed the TIP revisions to be considered at the next WPC meeting. While every effort was made to maintain consistency between the proposed TIP released for public comment in March and that to be considered at the June Policy Committee meeting, it was necessary to make changes to the state/regional resources table and to Metra's program to reflect the use of tollway credits and stay consistent with the RTA's approved programs. There was an acknowledgement by all present that there will be further TIP changes once the amount of federal dollars available are clarified.

#### 5. Zemke Road

Mr. Murtha presented a regional model schematic diagram and explained why Zemke Road should be considered "not regionally significant" project. The consultation team concurred.

#### 6. Travel demand models and the revised MPA

At this point, Kendall County and Aux Sable Township in Grundy County are not part of the endorsed NIPC Regional forecast. The consultation team concurred that it is acceptable for CATS to use currently available planning assumptions for these areas as it does now for the two and a half townships in Kendall County already included in the MPA. The long-term objective is to have endorsed forecasts for the entire MPA.

#### 7. Recommendations of the CATS/NIPC Coordinating Committee

A one page summary of the Coordinating Committee's recommendation was distributed. Updates will be posted on the CATS web site.

#### 8. CATS/SEWRPC

It was agreed that the update to the March Policy Committee Resolution documenting the existing cooperative relationship between CATS and SEWRPC will be revised. In place of the Resolution, an agreement will be forwarded to the Committee for consideration. A conflict resolution mechanism and the addition of signatures from IDOT and Wisconsin DOT are the primary updates.

#### 9. Unified Work Program Proposals

Mr. Thomas reported that the UWP Committee has finalized the proposed FY 06 UWP and it will be considered by the WPC in April. Ms. Adams said the FTA is hoping that there will be some improvement to the selection process. The current discussions are focusing on whether the selection process should be an allocation approach or a project merit approach. It is likely that there will be some combination of merit and

allocation. Mr. Smith, Chair of the UWP Committee, said the UWP committee is examining the process in order to address concerns with the selection process.

#### 10. PM 2.5 Conformity

Mr. Wies participated in a workshop on the topic and said there was not much new information available. Mr. Leslie said that the USEPA would be pushing for things like diesel retro-fits. It is anticipated that more guidance on PM 2.5 will come in the Supplemental Rulemaking documentation that should be published this summer. Mr. Rogers said the CMAQ Project Selection Committee may consider an emphasis on projects that address PM 2.5.

#### 11. Other Business

Mr. Wies noted that CATS is seeking a qualified consultant to produce a comprehensive inventory of household-based activity and travel behavior. The product will be a fully-functional state-of-the-practice database for use in regional transportation planning applications in the greater Chicago region.

Mr. Ward reminded the team of the NTI conformity class to be held at CATS on June 15-17.

#### 12. Next Meeting

The next meeting was left on call.