

Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2004
Final meeting summary

Participants

Patricia Berry	CATS
Randy Blankenhorn	IDOT
Bill Brown	NIRPC
Steve Call	USDOT/FHWA
Ken Dallmeyer	NIRPC (via speakerphone)
Patricia Morris	USEPA
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Ross Patronsky	CATS
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Gordon Smith	IDOT
Mark Thomas	CATS
Kermit Wies	CATS

1. Approval of the draft September 10, 2003 meeting summary

The consultation team approved the draft September 10, 2003 meeting summary.

2. New Interchange on I-80

Ms. Berry distributed a description of the Brisbin Road interchange. Mr. Blankenhorn reported that the interchange justification study had been submitted to the FHWA on October 8, 2003. He encouraged CATS staff to work with District 3 to coordinate the timing of public involvement activities with the public comment period on the TIP amendment. Ms. Berry said she would contact Lou at District 3 to find out what the anticipated schedule is and that CATS staff would work on a project level conformity analysis to be presented at the next consultation meeting. It is anticipated that the same post card notification process as was used for the Dan Ryan reconstruction will be utilized for this TIP amendment.

3. 8-hour Ozone Standard

Mr. Rogers noted that the IEPA's logic in recommending the same geographical area in the 8-hour non-attainment area as that used for the 1-hour standard has been accepted by USEPA. The analyses and procedures leading to this recommendation are available. The December 8, 2003 letter from USEPA Administrator Skinner to the Governor on this topic was distributed. Discussion then turned to the PM problem. Ms. Berry distributed the December 19, 2003 CATS letter to the docket on the proposed transportation conformity rule amendments. A final decision on PM 2.5 is expected in December. Mr. Rogers distributed a packet on PM 2.5 nonattainment area designations in Illinois and reviewed the contents with the consultation team. IEPA is recommending the same boundaries for PM 2.5 as for the 8-hour standard: Cook, DuPage, Kane,

Lake, McHenry and Will counties as well as Oswego Township in Kendall County and Aux Sable and Goose Lake Townships in Grundy County.

4. CATS/NIRPC Planning Areas

Ms. Morris said the possibility of incorporating Lake and Porter Indiana counties with the 6-plus county Chicago region for air quality conformity analysis purposes is coming from OTAC and the OGC. She said that a decision will be made by April 15. Mr. Blankenhorn suggested investigating potential problems with this approach so that if it is necessary to talk to the Regional Administrator we can do so now and not after the designation is made. He noted that we have agreements in place and do in fact coordinate and that there didn't seem to be any advantage to the suggestion. Mr. Wies noted that planning factors require coordinating the development of the CATS RTP with NIRPC's RTP. Given the varying schedules of the two MPOs, this new requirement could be problematic. Subsequent to the meeting, Ms. Morris had further discussion with the EPA headquarters office and indicated that it will not be necessary to change the way we are currently doing conformity for CATS and for NIRPC. Ms. Morris' e-mail is attached to these minutes.

5. Other business

Ms. Berry reviewed the five action areas resulting from the 2000 census. The subregional planning staff for the McHenry and Lake Councils of Mayors, Pat Schroeder and Bruce Christensen, will be meeting with the local elected officials in the Illinois portion of the Round Lake Beach-McHenry-Grayslake, IL—WI urbanized area to describe the options available to them. RTA and SEWRPC are working on letters of understanding for FY 2003 and FY 2004 FTA section 5307 funds. The subregional planning staff from McHenry, Kane and Will counties have worked with their local elected officials and staff from IDOT-Districts One and Three and the IDOT Office of Planning and Programming to smooth the census urbanized areas. This proposed urban area boundary will be considered by the Work Program Committee later this month. CATS staff is working on developing a proposed Metropolitan Planning Area boundary for consideration by the Work Program Committee. CATS staff will also be working with SEWRPC staff to develop a memorandum of understanding documenting the cooperative planning process that already exists.

6. Next Meeting