

Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
Wednesday, June 11, 2003
Final Meeting Summary

Participants

Patricia Berry	CATS
Randy Blankenhorn	IDOT/OP&P
Steve Call	USDOT/FHWA
Ross Patronsky	CATS
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Gordon Smith	IDOT/OP&P (via speakerphone)
Kermit Wies	CATS

1. Approval of the April 22 meeting summary

Consultation team approval was deferred until all team members could review the summary.

2. Nonattainment Boundary Designation for the 8-hour Ozone Standard

Mr. Rogers walked the team through how we got to where we are on the 8-hour standard. He said that IEPA will hold a public meeting on June 24, 2003, to discuss and accept comment on the Agency's proposed boundaries for the Chicago 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. In 1997, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) revised the national ambient air quality standard to reflect an 8-hour averaging period. The USEPA was sued over the standards but the courts ultimately upheld the standard. The USEPA is now in the process of implementing the standard.

One of the first steps in implementation is the designation of areas that, based on air quality monitoring, violate the standard. A monitor in Cook County has measured ozone concentrations that violate the standard. Therefore, the Governor of Illinois is required to submit his recommendation for the boundaries of the Northeastern Illinois 8-hour ozone nonattainment area. The Illinois EPA is currently developing its recommendation for the Governor. The USEPA's presumptive boundaries for a nonattainment area are the boundaries of the Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area, which would include the counties of Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake McHenry, and Will. Designation of this entire region as the nonattainment area could require the Counties of DeKalb, Grundy, Kankakee and Kendall to coordinate their transportation planning activities with CATS.

The Illinois EPA has reviewed criteria including population and employment and growth projections, land use, commuting patterns, and air pollution emissions sources in developing its boundary designations. The Illinois EPA is proposing that the 8-hour ozone nonattainment boundaries be the same as the current 1-hour boundaries which include the Counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will and the townships of Aux Sable and Goose Lake in Grundy County, and Oswego Township in Kendall County.

The Illinois EPA will discuss and take public comment on the proposed 8-hour ozone nonattainment area boundaries at the June 24 public meeting. The meeting will be held at 10:30 am in Room N505 of the Michael Bilandic Building at 160 North LaSalle. The Agency will also accept public comment through July 2, 2003.

Mr. Wies asked whether any of these changes affect the way the current conformity analysis should be proceed. Mr. Rogers replied that they did not.

3. Development of the 2030 RTP, the FY 04-09 TIP and the Conformity Analysis documentation

Further discussion of the level of TCMs in the SIP and appropriate documentation occurred. Appendix C of the Conformity Analysis, which documented the TCM contribution to various SIPs from 1993 through 1999, will not be necessary for this round. A discussion of the handling of TCMS will be included in the Conformity Analysis document.

Ms. Berry noted that the NIPC Clearinghouse review would occur at the Planning Committee's September 18 meeting.

Mr. Wies said that the RTP development process had endeavored to incorporate environmental justice, TEA-21 Planning Factors and USDOT Planning Emphasis Areas into the mainstream of the planning discussions.

Mr. Wies asked Mr. Call whether USDOT, when reviewing the RTP, would prefer an explicit section describing how the plan addresses the regulations or whether their "mainstreamed" treatment in the RTP text would be adequate. Mr. Call replied that he preferred to see their discussion integrated into the plan text, rather than explicitly identified as federal requirements.

4. Other business

Ms. Berry said that discussions on the urbanized area boundary are continuing. It is expected that the McHenry and Lake Councils of Mayors will address the boundary issue in the fall.

Regarding the proposed MOBILE6 motor vehicle emissions budgets, Mr. Rogers said that Patricia Morris of the USEPA said that the adequacy determination for the 2007 budgets should be issued soon since the Illinois budget included funding for the continued operation of the vehicle inspection and maintenance program.

5. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for 9 a.m. on July 8.