

Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
Friday, April 12, 2002 11:00 AM
Final Meeting Summary

Participants

Vanessa Adams-Donald	FTA
Patricia Berry	CATS
Steve Call	FHWA
Dean B. Englund	CATS
Mike Matkovic	IDOT-District 1
Patricia Morris	USEPA
Pat Pechnick	IDOT-District 1
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Mike Rogers	IEPA
Dave Seglin	CDOT
Susan Stitt	IDOT-OP&P via speakerphone
Mark Thomas	CATS

1. Approval of October 18, 2001 and February 13, 2002 meeting summaries

The third draft meeting summary of the October 18, 2001 meeting was approved as submitted. The third draft meeting summary of the February 13 meeting was revised to read “a fifth auxiliary lane” and approved as revised.

2. Dan Ryan Project

Mr. Englund described the work done for the conformity determination on the proposed TIP amendment for the scope change on the Dan Ryan project. Mr. Rogers corrected the TCM credit for 2005 to 5 tons per day with a resultant change in the total emissions to 154.51, still well below the budget amount of 163.4.

There followed a discussion of what the public comment document should consist of. It was agreed that Ms. Berry would write up the language for the post card and distribute it for review and comment among the consultation team. The post card will describe what’s being done and why and the description and tables included in Mr. Englund’s memo will be posted on the CATS Web site. The Work Program Committee will be asked to approve a public comment period on the conformity determination on the proposed TIP amendment. The comment period will run through May 27 and CATS staff will present the results to the Work Program Committee at its May 31 meeting.

Mr. Matkovic asked if documentation would be produced indicating that the project could proceed with the revised scope. Once the Policy Committee approves the TIP amendment, it will be submitted to IDOT-OP&P who will submit it to USDOT. The USDOT letter approving the TIP amendment will be provided to District 1 for its use.

3. Eight hour standard

Ms. Morris said that USEPA has a Web site with idea papers on implementing the eight-hour standard. The address is www.epa.gov/ttn/rto/ozonetech/03imp8hr/03imp8hr.htm. Public meetings have been held to obtain comments on the proposed eight hour standard. There was not much feedback on conformity issues and it was recommended that CATS consider weighing in on this issue.

Mr. Englund asked if the non-attainment area is being changed. Mr. Rogers said that the June 2001 submittal included a recommendation that the one-hour and the eight-hour area boundaries should be the same.

4. Attainment status

Mr. Rogers said that IEPA would be submitting the request for re-designation to a maintenance area some time around June or July. Each of the three states will be making its own submission. Wisconsin plans to submit at the end of June. Indiana is probably on a similar timetable.

Mr. Seglin asked what the effect of the re-designation would be and if existing restrictions on point sources would be eased. Mr. Rogers said that no existing regulations will be eased, but new sources will not have as stringent of restrictions on them.

Mr. Seglin expressed concern over the loss of CMAQ funds and the resulting decrease in "clean air" projects. Mr. Rogers said that the CMAQ program is only a small part of the region's effort to reach attainment. Ms. Morris pointed out that the maintenance plan anticipated growth and shows how the region will continue to meet the standard.

Mr. Rogers agreed, but said that the growth projections are very broad brush. Mr. Call said, going back to CMAQ funding, there would not be less funding overall because of minimum guarantees, it would just not be CMAQ funds. Ms. Stitt said that would have to be looked into. Mr. Rogers said he had figured it would be about a \$30 million decrease. Mr. Call said that doesn't mean that the total transportation funds available would decrease.

Mr. Englund asked if, in terms of timing, we would be submitting our re-designation request based on the one hour standard. Ms. Morris said the maintenance plan and the re-designation request would happen concurrently. Mr. Englund asked again about the eight hour standard. Mr. Rogers said that we have to wait and see what course USEPA decides on for the implementation of that standard. Mr. Englund asked if we would be looking at the eight hour standard for transportation conformity. Mr. Rogers said that ultimately there would likely be budgets based on efforts to achieve the eight hour standard, but that the maintenance plan budgets rely on projected growth in VMT and lower MOBILE5b emissions factor.

Mr. Seglin asked if it was safe to assume that the region would be re-designated as a maintenance area. Mr. Rogers said that IEPA anticipates some environmental groups saying that we are moving too fast. The re-designation could depend on what kind of a summer we have in 2002. If we have no exceedances, it will support the case for re-designation and if we have a terrible summer it is unlikely the petition will continue.

Mr. Seglin asked if we were to become a maintenance area and then have exceedances, would we be re-designated back into non-attainment. Mr. Rogers said no, the region would remain a maintenance area, but the contingency measures in the maintenance plan would come on board.

5. Other Business

Ms. Berry asked about the status of IEPA's work to update the budgets with the latest MOBILE model. Mr. Rogers said the IEPA remains committed to having those budgets in place by the time CATS needs them for conformity. Mr. Englund said that time frame could be generally stated as the summer of 2003 and CATS will start working with IEPA in the second half of 2002 to meet that deadline.

Ms. Berry noted that the CTA is working on developing additional information in support of the CMAQ eligibility determination of station improvements.

Mr. Call distributed a write-up on Michael Claggett, a new air quality modeling specialist at the Midwest Resource Center.

Ms. Stitt said that EPA is developing MOBILE6.1 for particulates and MOBILE6.2 for toxic air pollutants. AASHTO recently released a version of this model to states and MPOs for review. Mr. Englund asked if these changes will be additions instead of modifying data that already exists in the MOBILE models. Ms. Stitt said that at the information meeting she participated in, it was indicated that it would be additional data.

6. Next Meeting

Ms. Bolte joined the meeting at this point and noted that she would be inviting RTP committee members to the next meeting. It was agreed that the next consultation meeting, which will be to address RTP issues, will be scheduled for 11:00 AM on May 2.