

Tier 2 Consultation Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2001 10:00 AM
CATS Southeastern (Sun) Conference Room
Meeting Summary (final)

Participants

Patricia Berry	CATS
Steve Call	FHWA
Dean B. Englund	CATS
Marty Johnson	CATS
Don Kopec	CATS
Patricia Morris	USEPA
Tom Murtha	CATS
Mark Pitstick	RTA
Mike Rogers (via speakerphone)	IEPA
Susan Stitt	IDOT
Kermit Wies	CATS

1. Approval of November 3, 2000 meeting summary

The November 3 meeting summary was not available. This item was deferred until the next meeting.

2. Romeoville Project

A station project on the Heritage Line is ready to go and has been conformed. This project was included in the conformity analysis as part of the Strategic Regional Transit system. For the FY 01-06 TIP update/conformity exercise, the CATS planning division included some SRT projects. Projects were not identified in the documentation. CATS has received a request from Metra to include the Romeoville project in the TIP at this time. The consultation team concurred that the project could be added.

Mr. Pitstick noted that it is possible that other projects that were not included in those tested as part of the SRT may need action in the future. Ms. Morris said the specific project would have to be reviewed. If the project is similar to another that was tested and a consistent conformity result would have been obtained, the consultation team could decide to allow it to proceed.

3. Lake-Cook Rd. Project

Ms. Stitt described the Motorola development projects that include an add-lanes project on Lake-Cook Rd. Mr Pitstick asked if the project was located on a Strategic Regional Arterial. Mr. Murtha said it was not and described the geometrics of this 1.07 mile project. He noted that there are other local street projects included with this development. Mr. Murtha reviewed the related improvements and noted that the Quentin Road project is already in the TIP. Mr. Call asked if the functional classification of that section of Lake-Cook Road would change in the future. Mr. Englund said that it could. Ms. Morris

reviewed the project location information presented. Lake-Cook Road is an SRA east of Quentin Road. A discussion of whether or not the projects should be classified as regionally significant ensued. Ms. Stitt noted that the mall is already there and open and that Motorola will be breaking ground in the spring. This is an economic development project which includes an employment commitment from Motorola. Ms. Morris said that the definition of regionally significant projects in an area as large as northeastern Illinois is challenging. She asked about the size of the mall. Ms. Stitt said that it is a fairly small mall—more than a strip mall, but less than an Oak Brook. The improvements will serve traffic to the mall and Motorola, not through traffic. The consultation team concluded that it was appropriate to allow inclusion of these projects in the TIP.

4. Conformity to 2002 and 2005 budgets

Ms. Morris said that the adequacy determination on the 2002 and 2005 budgets included in the recently released SIP is already posted and the comment period will end on February 9. Once the adequacy determination is made, CATS can proceed with the supplemental conformity. Ms. Morris asked what methodology would be employed. Mr. Englund said that the proposal is to basically interpolate the VMT from the last conformity and use that against a slightly modified MOBILE model. Ms. Morris said that interpolation is acceptable.

5. Status of MOBILE6

Ms. Morris said that the plan is to release MOBILE6 in February. Mr. Rogers said that it is likely that the one year/two year clock will start in March once the comment period has ended. There will be no eighteen month clock started by the submission of the new MOBILE6 budgets because IEPA would be submitting budget revisions, not new budgets. Planning assumptions were briefly discussed, with an agreement that a detailed discussion of the assumptions should take place because they are very pertinent to SIP development. Mr. Rogers said '96 vehicle mix data is currently being used. The mix has changes from year to year and IEPA does not have a good way to do it. They may just use model defaults which may be barely appropriate for the region. Similarly, air conditioning use is hard to get. Perhaps when MOBILE6 is released a thorough review of the planning assumptions should occur. Mr. Englund asked where MOBILE6 would be located. Ms. Morris said that she anticipates that it will be available to download on February 15 and will call Dean with the specifics.

3. Other Business

Ms. Morris announced that a two day MOBILE6 workshop will be held in April or May.

4. Next Meeting

The next meeting was left on call.