



FINAL MINUTES

November 13, 2009, 11:00 a.m.
Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
211 Fulton, Suite 207 – Peoria, Illinois

I. ROLL CALL

Committee: Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission; Norm Sims, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Maggie Martino, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Brian Dickson and Steve Maney, DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Mike Maddox, Jon Paul Diipla and Michael Hren, Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning. *Others:* IDOT – Tom Kelso, Diana Nevitt, Henry Judy, John Edmondson and Radha Hemmige; John Donovan, FHWA and Marta Perales, Illinois MPO Advisory Council. *Teleconference:* Rita Black, Champaign Regional Planning Commission; Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study, Jennifer Sicks, Bloomington Normal; Angie Stenson, Danville Area Transportation Study; and John Donovan, FHWA.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. McCullough entertained a motion to accept the minutes of June 11, 2009. Ms. Martino motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dickson. All members voting aye.

III. FEDERAL FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAPS

Henry Judy of IDOT presented members with an IDOT functional classification and urban limit submittal process flow chart. The main concern of IDOT is for MPOs to keep local entities notified of the proposed change. IDOT prefers a resolution from the technical committee indicating all stakeholders agree with the change in the map. Mr. Judy presented the Contact List for each IDOT district with a listing of counties respective to that region. He also presented members with a quick check list for MPOs to utilize to make a submittal.

He noted item #4 of the check list will be on the IDOT intranet and stressed this is still a work in process and all maps should be available in a couple of months. Maps submitted in 2009 will be updated by June 2010 with maps running a year out of date. Ms. McCullough questioned if the cycle of mapping are bulk produced and put up, when is the actual acceptance of a roadway's change in a functional classification or does it need approval all through the state level and we get a letter confirming that so that we can use it? Mr. Judy indicated it will be accepted when you get an approval letter and the first sentence will have an approval date by the FHWA. Even though it is not on the map, please refer to the approval letter date.

Mr. Lammey asked if it was up to the technical committee was or policy committee to approve the proposed change. Mr. Judy indicated it is up to the MPO to set up this policy and it is normally delegated to the technical committee as long as one of the committees submits a resolution indicating all stakeholders and staff are notified. Mr. Donovan further indicated FHWA assumes the MPO policy committee will undertake this task unless it is delegated to the Technical Committee. Mr. Soltau asked how long does it normally take to get a change. Mr. Judy responded that it would roughly two months and if there was some reason they need it quicker, than reach out to the district contact person and have them contact Mr. Judy.

Ms. McCullough asked how best to address mapping errors. Mr. Judy responded that mapping errors and the FHWA approval indicates the correct area, than IDOT can simply change the map. However, this will be handled on a case by case basis. Ms. McCullough further asked about the differences of opinion about proposed roads; in other areas it has been discouraged or not allowed. Mr. Judy indicated that proposed roads should be classified and should seek approval. However, the proposed road will not show up on the classification map regardless if they are been approved. They will not show up on the map until they are built. This policy was directed by the Secretary of IDOT. There was an incident where a proposed road was on a map and some of the locals were upset because it would have demolished homes and businesses.

Ms. McCullough asked if MPOs can get a listing from the state of which roadways and with a fair amount of staff transition, there may be MPOs that do not know of the proposed roadways. Mr. Judy recommended they contact their district contact person or his office directly. Mr. Lammey expressed his concern that some maps do not print the labels. Mr. Judy will bring up the issue with the graphics department and will follow up with the MPO Advisory Council staff.

V. TRAVEL DEMAND USERS GROUP

Ms. Black indicated that based on conversations at the IDOT fall planning conference, there is an interest in creating a travel demand users group. She will be attending an IOWA users group in December. Iowa normally schedules their meetings from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00- 3:00 p.m. with lunch provided. She requested committee members provide a few dates in January and a few agenda items to consider for the first meeting. Iowa usually invites the FHWA that has been dealing with data, like Ed Christopher. Mr. Christopher handles the census transportation planning package data. She also suggested inviting someone from the FHWA Research Center in Olympia Fields, Illinois. She further recommended speakers from various consultant companies in the State.

Ms. Black requested the need for all MPOs to send documentation from the model because the next step is to augment documentation to see what kind of data and model they have. MPO interviews were completed but the next phase is gathering data from the MPOs and still awaiting from a few MPOs the necessary information. She cannot ask for specific information since each MPO utilizes a different level of documents. Ms. McCullough stated that each MPO will be different since it data can be defined as exemplary to 'needs review'.

Mr. Sims suggested an agenda item to include some commonalities or some problems that people are having with their models. Ms. Black stated that this can be done once the documentation is received from various MPOs. Ms. Sicks recommended Ms. Black suggest three dates for members to consider since Champaign is hosting the event. Ms. McCullough suggested inviting Ed Christopher to the first meeting since most of the data is census driven. Ms. Sims suggested one or two MPOs provide a case study on how the MPOs have used their model for problem solving or a case study showing how used it in a unique way. Ms. Black will send an email to those interested in joining the group and asked member to consider meeting quarterly or twice a year. She expressed an interest in utilizing training funds for travel demand modeling through the MPO Advisory Council.

VI. HSTP UPDATE

John Edmondson provided an HSTP update to members. Regional coordinators will have an extensive familiarity with the local human service agencies in their regions and counties. They will also become more involved in the 5310 application process in their regions. IDOT will expand the role of the coordinators to ensure all applications forwarded to IDOT are actually complete and they are communicating with the human service agencies about necessary requirements and what types or

programs they are eligible for. They will be proactive in researching alternatives to JARC/New Freedom with a call for projects in January 2010. IDOT will also transition regional coordinators from a role of pure planning into a mobility management role to implementing new services. Within the next two fiscal years, IDOT will bring on 24 new transportation providers. IDOT will be expanding their federally funded program and it will shift the landscape with more public transportation providers with a greater availability of funding new programs.

Mr. Lammey asked if any 5310 applications were turned down? Mr. Edmondson stated some applications were put on hold because a transportation provider had not been participating in the process. As long as the eligibility is met than the 5310 application was approved. Mr. Soltau asked if the 24 new transportation providers are in rural or urban areas. Mr. Edmondson responded that in the ICCT process, if the provider is within a metropolitan region, they are brought into the process from the very beginning. Mr. Soltau asked if there is a list or a map. Mr. Edmondson stated ICCT in conjunction with Western Illinois University will provide that list. The maps indicate which counties are in the first, second, third or final phase. Mr. Edmondson will provide a map to the MPO Advisory Council staff. He further stated only eight counties are not participating, and at a minimum, IDOT wants a 90% funded rate for the counties and they are confident over the next few years that other counties will become more involved. He introduced Radha Hemmige, a new research analyst to help with the HSTP process.

VII. FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE – FEEDBACK

Ms. McCullough requested members provide feedback from the IDOT Fall Planning Conference. Both Ms. Sicks and Ms. Black recommended the peer to peer exchange should be more of a peer to peer discussion. They liked the informational aspect of the morning session but would prefer more discussion between the MPOs.

Ms. McCullough asked if there were any other topics that information should be exchanged. Ms. Sicks recommended a topic of what are the successes, instead of receiving descriptions of what staff thinks is happening. Mr. Lammey suggested the Technical Committee Chairperson should have a seat at the table when it comes to planning the conference. Ms. McCullough stated there were some challenges since it was also paired with the Midwest Transportation Conference and how to blend it with the IDOT Fall Planning Conference.

Mr. Kelso stated IDOT initially went to the peer exchange format since the assumption was that the MPO Advisory Council was meant to bring MPO staff together for discussion. Ms. McCullough stated that face to face meetings are more productive. Mr. Sims felt that IDOT would be very pleased to have the topics brought up earlier in the planning process. Ms. Perales recommended this agenda item can be placed in early spring to present the findings to IDOT by late spring. Ms. McCullough also stated acquiring speakers to attend can be challenging during these economic conditions and a few organizations had traveling restrictions. Several MPO staff agreed a September conference was preferred.

I. TRAINING TOPICS

Ms. McCullough asked members for comments from the training topics proposed and welcomed any new training topics. There are a few areas of the State that are in attainment today but facing potential non-attainment; so there's interest in transportation conformity related to the air quality situation. USEPA also continues to look at the standards on a cycle to be ratcheted down further for various air quality pollutants. The travel demand modeling user group is being worked on by Ms Black at Champaign. Climate change and how transportation planning impacts global climate change is one topic. There will be anywhere from 2-4 training sessions for in 2010. Ms. McCullough suggested training sessions will be

conducted throughout Central Illinois in Springfield, Peoria and Bloomington to provide same day travel for all MPOs.

Mr. Soltau indicated the sooner we can get into performance standards, the better. Ms. Black was in Washington, D.C and was invited by the operations group at the FHWA to have a peer exchange regarding performance measures. The performance measures discussed was mainly about integrating operations in LRTPs, and that was the important aspect discussed. They are ready to publish a document by January 2010 about performance measures and they will be providing training.

Ms Black further stated small and medium MPOs, as well as large MPOs were invited. The first exchange was in May 2009 and the second one was last week. Ms. Black has a draft of the document that cannot be shared at this time. Ms. McCullough recommended Illinois be considered for a pilot training program by March 2010. Mr. Soltau indicated a number of MPOs are in the mist of updating their long range transportation plans.

Mr. Sims brought up the state transportation plan legislation and there is some language in the bill that would provide some performance standards. IDOT is in agreement with the bill and Mr. Sims advised with the movement of the bill and the performance measures written in the bill that it ties into the federal legislation in providing some transparency and accountability in performance measures. Ms. Perales recommended inviting the Metropolitan Planning Council to the next Technical Committee to fully explain this particular section of the bill.

Ms. McCullough stated Bi-State Regional Planning Commission had a certification review and there a need for training and a way to pair it with performance standards. The FHWA reviewed the TMAs and she can forward that information to members. It was consistent that some areas did certain things but no one met a real strong effort in terms to congestion management. Again congestion is relative, and some areas people will shrug at the notion of a congestion management problem. However, she further indicated that in some instances there are some bottlenecks in communities that need to be addressed. She recommended adding that item to the list of training.

Mr. Sims suggested adding a training topic on how MPOs can successfully encourage the increase of public participation. What other MPOs, either in this State or other states are doing to increase transparencies to the public, web pages and other avenues to inform the public of what is going on. The second training topic could be how development outpaces transportation planning. In some place they may be looking at ordinances, to try to balance out the jurisdictional desires to expand but with declining resources and the last item is how people are successfully dealing with non-vehicular transportation options.

V. UNIFIED WORK PLAN 2009-2010

Ms. Perales went through the draft UWP page by page with members. The first year focused on organizational development of the Advisory Council. However in the second year, the focus will be providing training opportunities for MPO staff. She asked members if were receiving NARC and AMPO email alerts. Ms. McCullough recommended an extra email or a summary statement stating the importance of the item for MPOs. Ms Perales further stated most of the work products are placed on the MPO website and updates usually twice a week.

Mr. Lammey recommended listing the training sessions that were proposed at the meeting into the UWP. Ms. McCullough asked for clarification for the MPO Council itself or a coordinated grant application or the MPOs would pursue. Ms. Perales indicated the MPO Advisory Council is not a recognized 501c3 but MPOs would be able to apply individually. Her goal is to identify the grants at this time. Administrative

costs are related to the fiscal duties of Kelly Murray at ILARC. Mr. Sims advised staff does not need to do all of the retailing but there may be some wholesaling of getting the MPO Advisory Council at various organizational meetings. Mr. Sims suggested producing an MPO Advisory Council brochure to pass out to stakeholders. Ms. McCullough stated based on the recommended changes by the Technical Committee that the committee motion to move the UWP to the full committee. Ms. Martino motioned to accept the UWP 2009-2010 with the recommended changes and Mr. Sims seconded. All voting aye.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Diana Nevitt stated IDOT's goal is try to make a competitive bid for projects for 5310 small urban funds. They are losing federal funds and they do not want to keep losing federal funds on the urbanized side. If small urbanized areas need help, IDOT would help get this process going. Director Dick Smith is concerned that we are losing federal funds. Ms. Black asked who the contact person is? Ms. Nevitt recommended contacting Norm Johnson. However, Dave Spacek and John Edmondson are also available for questions.

Ms. Nevitt further stated there are a lot of toll revenue credits out there which can be utilized to get our plans in place. Tom Kelso also stated Jim Stack is going back to District 8 and that the small areas under 200,000 should not be affected by STP funds at all. IDOT has received information Senator Durbin is working on getting the rescissions cancelled for small MPOs with additional information in March. There should be no PL reductions in the coming year. In the billing statements sent to IDOT, Les Nunes would like them sent to him. Please cc your metro manager. Immediately after your policy committee, IDOT needs an official resolution stating the changes that have been passed. Also please send them directly to Les with a cc to Tom Kelso.

Ms. McCullough asked members to talk about one project that the MPOs are working on this quarter. Ms. Black stated Champaign has been working on the LRTP and currently working on performance measures and/indicators and willing to help out other MPOs. Ms. Sicks stated they are going to take up Champaign on their offer since they are beginning their LRTP update which is due the spring of 2011. Bloomington has been named the Region 6 – HSTP coordinator so currently working on that. Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is updating their LRTP with a committee meeting next week. Several MPOs are wrapping up their LRTP.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCullough adjourned the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Marta Perales