



**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE
JANUARY 22, 2009**

I. ROLL CALL

Board: Brian Dickson, DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Cameron Moore, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; *Technical:* Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission; Rita Black, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Linda Wheeland, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Chandra Ravada, Dubuque Metro Area Transportation Study; Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning and Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study. *Others:* IDOT – Laura Calderon, Norm Johnson and Les Nunes; and Marta Perales, IL MPO Advisory Council.

II. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON COMMENTS

Ms. McCullough welcomed those in attendance to the first organized technical committee meeting and she welcomes all input towards this effort.

III. TRAINING ISSUES:

MPO 101

Ms. McCullough indicated FHWA produced a CD in the past about the MPO process, but it may have not been updated since SAFETEA-LU. Kankakee MPO had five new members come on board in the past year. Mr. Lammey pointed out that there was limited formal training with board members mostly learning on the job. Mr. Nunes informed members that there may be a PowerPoint available for elected officials and will check with his staff on the availability of this material. The material may be available on the IDOT Sharepoint website in the near future. Ms. Perales will utilize existing power presentations to develop an MPO 101 for the MPO Advisory Council.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Mr. Soltau informed members Wisconsin DOT has a statewide committee to work with the state and federal government in regards to performance measures. He also suggested staff produce a synopsis of best practices. Ms. Black expressed her concern that most training options provide guidance for much larger MPO's and nonattainment areas. She went on further to state that it would be helpful to find resources for smaller or mid-size MPO's. A consultant did a study on performance measures for IDOT a couple of years ago. Ms. McCullough requested that the information be pulled and put on the IDOT SharePoint website. Ms. Perales will follow up with FHWA to check the availability of training with tailored training for small or mid-sized MPO's.

MODELING

Members expressed an interest in setting up a user group. Champaign Regional Planning Commission recently signed a contract with the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana for travel demand modeling and will provide an update at the next technical committee meeting. Bi-State Regional Planning Commission just went through a travel model peer review and there was a lot of discussion about model documentation. Ms. Black suggested a checklist for MPO documentations. Mr. Ravada stated Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota have peer review groups. Ms. Black indicated they will also work with the Illinois Center for Transportation on travel demand modeling.

V. CALENDAR

Ms. Perales proposed March 12th and May 7th for this FY2009. All members indicated support for these meeting dates.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

BICYCLE PLANNING SEMINAR

Ms. Perales suggested that the technical committee consider inviting Mr. Barsotti, Executive Director of the League of Illinois Bicyclists to discuss their market research for a bicycle planning training seminar. Mr. Smith, Ms. Black and Ms. Sicks expressed an interest in the topic. Ms. Black to follow up with Mr. Barsotti to check to see if he is looking to work with the MPO Advisory Council as a group, or if he is looking for individual workshops within the state. The League endeavors to provide professional development credit through the seminar.

SMALL URBAN JARC/NF CALL FOR PROJECTS

Mr. Nunes updated members about the call for Small Urban JARC and New Freedom projects. Small urbanized MPO's throughout the state are eligible. The monies available are \$638,000 for Small Urban JARC and \$366,000 in New Freedom funds. He expressed the need to not let these funds lapse and encouraged MPO's to submit an application. Ms. Calderon from IDOT informed members that there is an online database at the University of Illinois at Chicago which lists providers in all the areas of the State. Members can search providers in their county. Funds lapse in September and applications have to be received by the MPO's by February 18th. The MPO's would have a month to get the applications to IDOT. IDOT would like for the MPO's to indicate that there is no local match required for the application and encouraged all local providers to apply for the grant.

STIMULUS FUNDS UPDATE

Mr. Nunes informed members IDOT has formed a task force to discuss the economic recovery stimulus legislation. They would like to provide a forum for MPO's to ask questions because they want as much as feedback as possible. Ms. Soltau indicated they are expecting projects have to be in the TIP to be awarded. Ms. McCullough stated that in Iowa, they don't want things from FY2009, so they can track projects in the new program. She went on further to state that Iowa does not want to amend their TIPs until the federal bill passes, so they don't jeopardize funding. They are also hearing, if a project has been authorized, you cannot switch out monies, because they are stressing the new projects. Mr. Moore informed members that he attended a meeting with the new Senate President at CMAP headquarters. Director Sees of IDOT was in attendance.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCullough adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales