



**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MINUTES
TELECONFERENCE
JUNE 11, 2009**

I. ROLL CALL

Committee: Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study; Brian Dickson, DeKalb-Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Commission; Rita Black, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Linda Wheeland, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning and Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study; Angie Stenson, Danville Area Transportation Study; Mike Maddox, Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning. *Others:* Bi-State Regional Planning Commission: Chelsey Waterman and DeaBaya Snap; Ed Barsoti, Illinois League of Bicyclists; and Marta Perales, Illinois MPO Advisory Council.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. McCullough entertained a motion to accept the minutes of January 22, 2009. Mrs. Mautino motioned to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Dickson. All members voting aye.

III. FALL PLANNING CONFERENCE/MIDWEST TRANSPORTATION CONFERENCE

MPO TRAINING FOR NEW EMPLOYEES

IDOT received a call from the Iowa fall planning conference and the Midwest transportation conference; to make it a Midwest planning conference in addition to the fall planning conference. When booking rooms, please use the IDOT block in order to save \$150.00. The Kankakee MPO Policy Committee is having a training course for their new policy members the day before the fall planning conference. Ms. McCullough has a 2003 MPO training CD produced by the FHWA and would like the CD be placed on the MPO Advisory Council website or the IDOT FTP site.

OTHER SUGGESTED TOPICS

Ms. Sicks asked if there any space at the conference to provide an update on the travel demand project at Champaign. Ms. Black was supportive of the idea. Champaign has gathered information from all small and midsize MPO's which part of the project. However, it is not the final project. She suggested a workshop, instead of a presentation because there may be a lot of questions on the topic. Ms. Sicks suggested it could be an element of a peer review. There was some discussion if the topic would be appropriate for MPOs throughout the Midwest. Ms. Black feels the data is more targeted to Illinois MPOs and doubts it would be appropriate for other states because it is not finalized. Ms. McCullough believes the next conference will follow the previous conferences followed by tours and concurrent sessions. She requested a tentative agenda for the fall planning conference. Ms. Perales believes there is still time for additional input and she will follow up with IDOT.

IV. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION MAPS

Mr. Lammey stated for a number of years IDOT maintained and distributed the functional classification maps after they have gone through policy approval and ratification by IDOT. He was initially told that IDOT were no longer doing it but recently received an email from Mr. Nunes that they are attempting to get the maps update to date. The IDOT map for Kankakee has a number of mistakes on it. Ms. Sicks stated that McLean is doing their own. However, the McLean county map is more than eleven years out

of date and she did not see Champaign on the IDOT list. Ms. Black affirmed that Champaign was nowhere on the website. Ms. McCullough indicated that many MPOs have GIS capabilities and this may be an opportunity for MPOs to produce their own maps and submit them to IDOT, as long as there was some mechanism in place. Mr. Lammey expressed his concern whether IDOT were maintaining these maps or not. Ms. McCullough stated with the stimulus funds out at this time, there is more interest in what are federally eligible roadways and believes it is important for transparency that those maps are up to date as soon as possible showing the accurate boundaries.

Mr. Lammey stated his concern over units of government that gone through their lobbyists in Washington and have obtained high priority projects monies for roadways that are not on the classified system. Kankakee is putting them in the Transportation Improvement Plan later. Sometimes the lobbyists don't know what the rules are and nobody bothers to tell the MPOs what they are lobbying for. Mr. Dickson indicated DeKalb sent their lobbyists their existing maps and where the proposed changes would be on a different map.

Ms. McCullough referred to correspondence to Springfield on showing proposed federally functionally classified roadways. Iowa shows the proposed roads are not in non-existing roadways but were showed as dashed federally functionally classified routes so that they would be eligible for construction. Ms. Wheeland indicated the roads had been show in the past and now there seems is a new policy at IDOT that they will not be shown. She further stated federal regulations stipulate that the state will keep the official map. Without having all the information on that map, it is hard to plan for projects at the local level and know which projects can be eligible for federal funding.

Ms. McCullough requested the issue be reporting out of the Technical Committee and placed on the MPO Advisory Council agenda for further discussion. She further stated that as we get into reauthorization, requests for high priority projects and which roadways that may or may not be eligible are of major concern. Ms. Sicks stated the new census cycle with possible new urbanized areas boundaries n two years that will have to be reconfigured for functional classifications and in addition to the federal mandate for citation. She further stated she has a map of a functional classified system but it not official by IDOT. Ms. McCullough agreed and especially approaching the census and we don't know where we are at today; than how do we make the changes from that point.

Ms. Perales informed members that Mr. Nunes sent an email a few minutes prior to the teleconference to clear up some of the issues related the map. According to the email, some of the maps are still being created and not available at this time. She will forward the email to the Technical Committee members. Ms. McCullough asked staff to follow up with IDOT and ask whether this will be done at the district level or central office level so MPOs have a vehicle to work through when issues arise.

V. REVIEW OF IDOT - BUREAU OF DESIGN & ENVIRONMENTAL MANUAL

Ms. Black introduced Ed Barsoti, Executive Director of the League of Illinois Bicyclists. Mr. Barsoti discussed the Illinois Complete Streets Law of 2007. For implementation of IDOT road ways the legislation states, "bicycle and pedestrian ways shall be established." CMAP has discussed this issue in its Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force and has made recommendations to its Transportation Committee. Their organization has worked with IDOT on three main areas of its BDE policies. The first is suburban style roadways in urban roadways without any sidewalks and the main reason is with cost sharing issues. Illinois seems to be pretty far below the average than other states on the issue. The second issue is which agency has to initiate that request. Right now there is a requirement that the local agency has to initiate that request. CMAP provided a whole series of recommendations to IDOT in 2008. The other concern is the urban bicycle policy and IDOT policy currently stands and the typical accommodations is one extra foot for a 12 foot lane to a 13 foot lane. In a typical urbanized area of 35 mph road; this is not adequate.

When towns have requested that extra one foot, the IDOT policy has not provided the flexibility to do that. The third area was intersection designs in major suburban arterial intersections and pedestrians are finding it difficult to cross. With those three concerns; advocacy efforts through the years have not gotten anywhere until there was some interest in legislation.

The Complete Streets passed in 2007 and it stated that IDOT policies should be completed by 2008. However, the implementation process has been going very slowly and it wasn't until April 2009 that IDOT came out with their policy recommendations. Their organization did a careful review and produced a three page summary indicates there was no significant changes to their draft sidewalk policies.

Mr. Lammey stated the last two or three times Kankakee had a major IDOT project in their area which seems to be a room with one township person and a number of village personnel. Invariably, the township official does not want to do anything with bicycles and two years he does not have any stake in the project. Mr. Barsoti stated that it states clearly in the law; instead of each local agency requesting the sidewalk that it will be IDOT's responsibility to incorporate bikes and pedestrian sidewalks.

Mr. Sicks stated it could be a competition between municipalities and there is some reluctance. Mr. Barsoti further stated that Lake County and McHenry have bike and pedestrian policies and DuPage has a Healthy Roads Initiative. Ms. Sicks suggested that you take those suggestions to IDOT. She has two different sets of jurisdictions that have two different ways of handling bicycles/pedestrian sidewalks. Ms. Black expressed her confidence in Mr. Barsoti and whenever they can they push for bike and pedestrian facilities in Champaign. Ms. McCullough asked what is the League of Illinois Bicyclists seeking from the MPOs that you don't see happening at this point. Mr. Barsoti responded that it is helpful that CMAP is taking a lead on this point and making recommendations on the BDE manual. Also, if a couple of MPOs would also consider making recommendations to the law, it may be beneficial.

VI. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Mr. Dickson is looking to get an early start on next year's long range TIP and asked members if there any interest in getting together for some common performance standards. Ms. Sicks asked if there is any sense of where the federal government is going on this. She also wondered if we develop our own that it would not be consistent with the federal. Ms. Black stated the federal highway may be pushing for performance standards in the next federal transportation bill that all the MPOs can be used at least in terms of operation, safety and the TIP. Ms. McCullough stated some of the issues are related to energy and green house gases and there are some discussions with setting goals to reduction of green house gas emissions that might come to pass.

Ms. Black indicated the group will be meeting again in September and this is a consultant working with federal highway and if she gets information, she will share among Technical Committee members. Ms. McCullough stated for MPOs with a long range plan updates between re-authorization, there will be some concern for non compliance. Ms. Black believes there may be additional details toward the end of this year. Champaign did it for the previous transportation bill and then the covered ones will be on our webpage and you will see performance measures as it associated to it.

VII. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Ms. McCullough stated there was an issue about timing and when IDOT was providing the information. Ms. Perales stated the issue was raised last month prior to IDOT releasing their TIP in the past few weeks. Ms. Sicks was told that we must do a separate amendment prior to July. Bi-State was able to incorporate this into the program and adopt it into the TIP. Ms. Sicks stated they had two separate amendments to the TIP; one with state projects and one with local projects. This year they will wait for the 30 day public

review process and probably release the final document to incorporate the first amendment in August. Mr. Lammey stated he has not received any notice from IDOT about this issue. DeKalb and Peoria also did not receive a notice from IDOT. This issue came up from Danville and they adopted their TIP prior to the state's TIP.

Ms. Wheeland found it difficult to approve without the state projects were in it and they held it until the state projects were available for the 30 day approval and just amended the TIP to satisfy the state and the FHWA. Ms. Stenson stated they don't have any projects up for letting right away so it wasn't an issue. Ms. McCullough stated ultimately, we have different districts saying different things and we all are trying to address this issue as best as possible. She further stated from history that IDOT does their TIP from mid to late May. This is not just happening in Illinois but in also in Iowa. Bi-State was told that there wasn't a need for another public review and they folded into their review.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Lammey asked how many members were involved in the fall planning conference. Ms. McCullough stated it was mostly Executive Directors. Ms. Lammey believes that more technical committee members should be involved in the planning conference. Ms. Perales will follow up on the status of the fall planning conference. Ms. McCullough suggested meeting at the local host MPO and inviting IDOT and the FHWA.

Mr. Lammey asked if other members have an issue with the ARRA reporting. We just found out that with ARRA, that we have to send them a VIN numbers for a vehicle that we haven't received yet. Ms. McCullough requested this item be added to the next agenda to pull their thoughts together on the DIPPIT and transit issues.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McCullough adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales