



## DRAFT MINUTES

September 22, 2011  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
IDOT Fall Planning Conference  
Champaign, Illinois

### I. ROLL CALL

*Board:* Steve Ernst, Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning; Rita Black, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Jerry Blair, East-West Gateway Council of Government; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study; Norm Sims, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Don Kopec, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Maggie Martino, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Brian Dickson, DeKalb Area Transportation Study; Adam Aull, Danville Area Transportation Study; Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study; Gena McCullough, Bi-State Regional Planning Commission. *Teleconference:* Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study; Gordon Smith, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ernst entertained a motion to approve the minutes of August 2, 2011.  
Mr. Sims motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Lammey. All members voted aye.

### III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Chairman Ernst presented financial reports to members. Currently the balance is nearly \$24,000 and the grant is due to expire on September 24, 2011. Ms. Stitt stated a contract extension will be expedited by her office. Mr. Sims motioned to accept the financial report, seconded by Mr. Kopec. All members voted aye. Mr. Dickson asked about membership dues statements. Chairman Ernst stated the new ILMPO contract will have the same funding level and match, therefore the membership dues will stay the same.

### IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No action was taken and no discussion was made on the consultant contract at this meeting. Chairman Ernst stated AMPO is asking for a representative from California, Florida, Illinois and Texas to meet during the AMPO national conference for a State MPO Collaboration session. Mr. Kopec has agreed to attend on behalf of the ILMPO. If available, he will provide an update at the next meeting.

### V. STAFF REPORT

Ms. Perales indicated that there was very little movement on transportation bills over the summer. She is monitoring the gaming bill as well as the public private partnership bill. Veto Session is scheduled for late October and mid November. Ms. Perales will also be attending the CMAP legislative working group in the following week to see if advocacy groups will be pushing legislation during Veto Session. She also spent nearly 2 ½ weeks visiting MPOs to get their input on the 2011 – 2013 ILMPO UWP and expressed her appreciation for their input on the document.

There was discussion about having Ms. Perales review the individual MPO agendas that are published to look for major projects to highlight that would be of interest to the ILMPO members. This would include both planning projects and capital projects that might have unique elements that could be beneficial in a peer exchange of ideas. Ms. Perales will have to follow up by phone or e-mail with the local MPO staff to investigate these major projects or planning emphasis areas as they become known. Members are

encouraged to submit information on these activities as they mature. In future ILMPO meetings it might be appropriate to highlight some of the projects as a formal agenda item.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS**

Not For Profit Status (Champaign MPO)

Mr. Moore was not able to attend the ILMPO meeting and therefore no update at this time.

Travel Control Board Travel Guide (IDOT)

Chairman Ernst stated that the IDOT contract with his MPO stated that all travel had to meet the new guidelines. Members discussed the new travel control board travel guide and asked various questions about some of the limitations of the new policy. There was considerable discussion about certain travel situations that do not fit the new guidelines. Chairman Ernst stated that it might be possible for MPOs to get similar credentials to IDOT staff that could be used to document State rate eligibility. Ms. Stitt indicated that IDOT would prefer to issue a letter for MPO travel to help with eligibility.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS**

PUBLIC TRANSIT PROVIDER SURVEY

Ms. Stitt briefed members on an upcoming public transit provider survey, which will go out to transit agencies within the State. Ms. Black expressed concern that there is a disconnect between the IDOT regional transit coordinators and the urbanized area transit coordinators. Mr. Sims and Mr. Aull raised additional questions about the HSTP planning process and the survey. A consensus of the members indicated that a higher level of coordination between local and regional transit staff is needed. Ms. Stitt will review the survey on how best to address the coordination issue and thanked members for their input about the survey at the meeting.

2011-2013 ILMPO UWP

Chairman Ernst briefed members on the status of the draft ILMPO UWP and thanked members for providing input on the UWP. Ms. Perales briefed members on the submitted recommendations, such as: an annual transportation forum held each spring, additional attendance at the MPO meetings at least twice a year by consultant, and additional training topics to consider. At the request of CMAP, the UWP has an outline of tasks with a breakdown of consultant hours and a dollar amount affiliated with the task.

Chairman Ernst indicated that there would not be any action on the ILMPO UWP at this meeting and will ask for action at the next meeting. Members discussed the Illinois Transportation Center and some of the research projects they have undertaken.

FHWA Update

Mr. Kohler stated there was a 6-month clean extension of SAFETEA-LU through the end of March 2012. Congress extended the program and the ability to collect federal gas taxes and continue to have revenue going into the trust fund. In the Appropriations Act, the Senate has similar, but slightly lower, funding levels for 2012 vs. 2011. The House has identified a significant cut (nearly 30%) based on the trust fund balance and projected revenues. A cut of this magnitude could impact obligation authority. Mr. Soltau and Mr. Dickson asked follow up questions regarding the Appropriations Act.

Mr. Kohler reminded members about the pre-application deadline of October 3 for the TIGER 3 program. Of the \$500M available, \$350M is for urban areas and \$150 is for rural and tribal areas.

Transportation Enhancement Program

Mr. South informed members that IDOT will be soliciting applications for the Transportation Enhancement Program in October. Currently the application deadline will be sometime in February 2012. IDOT is tweaking the online application at this time and applicants can expect some revisions. Mr. South

advised there will be limited ability to put in information through the online application, so applicants will be required to send in a hard copy. There was discussion about IDOT's multi-year plan outreach sessions and the comment period is open until the end of October.

#### MPO Directors

Mr. Sims requested that IDOT carve out the prioritization of projects for smaller villages. In November 2010, their Citizens Efficiency Committee looked at sharing resources and took a look at larger capital issues and maintenance. Mr. Sims asked members if they know of any multi-jurisdictional regional discussion of operations. Chairman Ernst indicated that the Management & Operations (M & O) document that is required from the TMAs as part of the Congestion Management Process could be helpful and offered to share it with the non-TMA members.

Mr. Dickson would like to have one location that provides access to the federally-required NPO documents from across the State, such as the long-range plan, bike path plan, and HSTP. Ms. Perales indicated that she would like to add these documents to the MPO profiles section of the website in the coming months.

Members also discussed the impending designation of urbanized areas from the 2010 Census and the agglomeration guidelines that had been shown in the Federal Register notice. Mr. Aull informed members there was a decision made in late August indicating that the UA designations would follow the guidance without agglomerations and the final geography should be released in the first quarter of 2012

#### **IX. CALENDAR**

No additional meeting was scheduled at this meeting. Staff will follow up with the ILMPO Chairman for a possible meeting date in December.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Ernst entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Soltau motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Aull. Chairman Ernst adjourned the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales

In attendance:

*Others:* Jon-Paul Donovan, Norm Johnson and Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration; Bola Delano, Jeff South and Susan Stitt, Illinois Department of Transportation; and Marta Perales, Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council.