

# **METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT INITIATIVE (METSII)**

## **QUARTERLY REPORT** for the quarter ending September 30, 2002

### **CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES**

#### **GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

During the quarter, several major accomplishments were achieved. In September, we held an Advisory Board meeting where the new Dean of the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Robin Hambleton, was introduced. There was a very active discussion on regional planning issues. The Advisory Board also welcomes a new member; Christine Johnson, FHWA Regional Administrator, an alumnus who received a PhD in urban planning from UIC. Also in September, we held our annual fall symposium "Fortuitous Failures or Missed Opportunities: From Hindsight to Foresight." The featured luncheon speaker was Mark Pisano, Executive Director, Southern California Association of Governments who discussed the Challenges of Implementing the Alameda Corridor." Attendance exceeded eighty individuals. Also during the period, attended the IDOT Fall Planning Conference, the IPTA Fall Conference, the ACT Board of Directors Meeting and the Annual APTA Conference. Below is a progress report on the activities of the Research Program, Technical Assistance, Workshops and Training during the recent quarter.

#### **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

##### **Regional Freight Planning**

Kazuya Kawamura continues to chair the Research and Planning Subcommittee of the Intermodal advisory Task Force (IATF).

##### **Intermodal Freight**

The proposal to the NSF by Northwestern University and UIC has been selected for funding. The project will receive \$600,000 over three years to develop a decision support tool for freight infrastructure planning and operation. The UTC team will contribute in the areas of cost and benefit calculations and coordination of stakeholders. There is nothing new to report.

##### **Freight Impact Analysis Methodology – Impact of truck traffic on the Value of Land**

This project, started in September, 2002 will use hedonic pricing model to determine the effect of truck traffic on the land value. Since land value captures market's valuation of both negative and positive attributes, the findings from this research will be used in monetizing the perceived impact of truck traffic. The land value data at parcel level will be obtained from the Center for Urban Economic Development (CUED), a research unit in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at UIC.

### **Job Access and Reverse Commute**

Staff is working cooperatively with various agencies in the state and the region to assist in the development of a plan, strategy and goals to address access to work and reverse commute issues in the Chicago region and the state of Illinois. Staff is also participating in CATS Community Mobility Task Force and the Environmental Justice Measures Subcommittee.

### **Environmental Justice**

A preliminary report addressing Tier I measures has been submitted to CATS staff for review and Tier II measures are being developed. There is nothing new to report.

### **Kane County Transit Opportunity Assessment**

The phase 1 draft report is being finalized by inclusion of comments by various stakeholders. Phase 2 of the project, funded by Metra will outline specific transit recommendations.

### **Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Collision Report**

Undertook an analysis of highway grade crossing accidents for CATS pertaining to the whistle ban issue in northeastern Illinois. A preliminary phase one report has been submitted to CATS for review and we are awaiting their comments. A phase two report is underway.

### **Commuter Choice**

Developing a program to market commuter choice benefit program jointly with RTA utilizing their Transit Check to facilitate the use of the tax free transit benefit for employers and employees through the use of payroll deduction.

### **Asset Management**

Developed a proposal jointly with the University of Wisconsin, Madison titled the Evaluation of Transportation Private Sector Asset Management Practices. During the quarter, revised the final report based on comments received.

### **Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Civil Infrastructure Systems**

Completed drafting case study analyzing the 1997 Commodity Flow survey and submitted a proposal to NCHRP for continued work.

### **UIC Campus Shuttle Program**

Developing a real time traveler information system on the UIC Campus Shuttle service that would identify the current location of the shuttle bus via GPS location technology and map the progress of the vehicle on the University website. Currently developing a base map and time points.

### **Economic and Productivity Impacts of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)**

Developing a proposal to undertake this research project. Completed a literature review and developing the data needs for economic productivity analysis in the Chicago region.

### **Developing a Regional Focus for Integrated Transportation and Land Use Planning**

Developed an outline of a scope of work to support the development of a strategic, regional transportation and land use plan in conjunction with IDOT, NIPC and the RTA.

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Planning Process**

At the request of IDOT staff, developed a research proposal entitled Statewide Transportation Planning Process and NEPA: Its Effectiveness, Issues and Solutions for submission to IDOT staff for review, comment and approval.

### **Sprawl**

As an extension of our work on sprawl we are currently conducting three areas of research.

**Sprawl and Pedestrian Safety-** Numerous reports on sprawl have suggested that pedestrians are at greater risk in low-density suburban areas in contrast to high-density areas. We are analyzing this premise with county-level data for the nation over the last dozen years. Our findings do not support the assertion that there are more pedestrian fatalities in low-density urban areas than in high-density urban areas. For example, in the six-county Chicago area the fatalities per 100,000 residents (combining the last dozen years) range from a high of 26.32 in Cook County and 14.63 in Lake County to a low of 9.78 in DuPage County and 7.66 in Kane County. An exposure measure (based on miles walked or minutes walked) would be desirable, but no reliable information exists. We therefore examine fatalities per capita.

**Census 2000-** Another aspect of our research is the analysis of the data from Census 2000 to update some of our earlier work and in general add to our understanding of sprawl and travel. Our initial effort included mapping median travel times to work by Chicago-area census tracts. The first version (included here) shows that the greatest concentrations of high travel times are in the City of Chicago. By contrast travel times in the inner ring of suburbs are substantially lower. Most of DuPage County is also well below the metropolitan median. Higher travel times to work are also found in the areas most recently developed, a concentric ring approximately 30-40 miles from downtown Chicago. If the inner ring of suburbs and DuPage County are representative of more mature suburban areas then one might expect the travel times in the outer suburbs to decline in the future as employers also move into the area in greater numbers than in the past.

**Sprawl and Public Health--Obesity-** We continue to seek data collected by the Secretary of State's office that is printed on driver's licenses. It includes the critical information that would facilitate an analysis of the association between the degree of obesity (self declared by expressing their height and weight) and the place of residence.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

### **Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA)**

Staff continues its participation as a member of the GNMAA Traffic and Transportation Committee and Chair of the Traffic Mitigation Committee.

### **Intercity Bus Strategic Plan (IDOT-DPT)**

The draft final report was completed but a study extension to broaden the scope was approved.

### **Computer Aided Scheduling and Dispatching (CASD) Systems (IDOT-DPT)**

The draft final report was completed but a study extension to broaden the scope was approved.

### **CATS Rideshare Project**

Continuing to assist CATS jointly with the College of Engineering Computer Center at UIC in developing an improved rideshare matching program.

### **CATS Community Mobility Task Force**

Participating with and providing Job Access Reverse Commute related assistance to the CATS Task Force.

### **CATS Private Providers Task Force**

Participating with the Task Force and providing assistance in the areas of inventoring private transit providers and in JARC issues.

### **Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)**

Participating as the vice president of ACT and in preparing a joint workshop on commuter choice.

### **Hillside Bottleneck**

Agreed to assist IDOT in funding approximately \$3,000 in expenses to undertake a traffic count in connection with the construction at the Hillside bottleneck.

## **WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS**

### **Jennifer L. Dorn, FTA Administrator Luncheon**

Jointly sponsored a luncheon with Metropolitan Transportation Association (MTA) in August.

### **Public-Private Partnerships in Transit**

Jointly sponsored a workshop with MTA and CATS in September as a part of the IPTA fall conference held in Schaumburg.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sprawl Symposium, Fortuitous Failures or Missed Opportunities**

Held our third annual sprawl symposium in September featuring luncheon speaker Mark Pisano presenting the Challenges of Implementing the Alameda Corridor.

### **Visiting Delegation from China**

Provided tours of the RTA Travel Information Center, CTA Control Center and Metra Communications Center to visiting delegation from China in August.

## **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

### **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**Regional Freight Planning-** ongoing meetings with CATS.

**Intermodal Freight**- ongoing project with Northwestern University and NSF.

**Freight Impact Analysis Methodology-Impact of Truck Traffic on the Value of Land**- identify data sources for truck traffic volumes and the functional form and the variables used for the hedonic price models.

**Job Access and Reverse Commute**- continue communications with project partners and continue seeking local match to federal JARC grant.

**Environmental Justice**- Awaiting CATS comments.

**Kane County Transit Opportunity Study**- issue the final report and assist the County and Metra in developing an RFP for Phase 2.

**Rail-Highway Grade Crossing Report**- awaiting review of report by CATS.

**Commuter Choice**- continue to develop marketing plan for pre tax RTA Transit Check and for Commuter Choice statewide.

**Asset Management**- submit final report for review.

**Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Civil Infrastructure Systems**- submit case study for review and acquire additional data sets for analysis.

**UIC Campus Shuttle Bus Program**- complete map and time points.

**Economic and Productivity Impacts on ITS**- develop data needs to estimate economic productivity due to ITS in Illinois.

**Developing a Regional Focus for Integrating Transportation and Land Use Planning**- begin work on the two year project.

**Planning and the NEPA Process**- Upon approval, undertake literature review and develop survey for other state agencies.

**Sprawl**- Complete the Sprawl and Public Safety portion of the study and continue research in the areas of Census 2000 and Sprawl and Public Health-Obesity.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**GNMAA**- ongoing assistance with GNMAA and the Traffic Mitigation Committee.

**Intercity Bus Strategic Plan**- extension of the project is underway with an anticipated completion in December, 2002..

**Computer Aided Scheduling and Dispatching Systems-** extension of the project is underway with an anticipated completion of December, 2002.

**CATS Rideshare Project-** ongoing assistance to CATS.

**CATS Community Mobility Task Force-** ongoing assistance to CATS.

**CATS Private Providers Task Force-** ongoing assistance to CATS

**Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)-** ongoing assistance to ACT and participation on the ACT Board of Directors.

**Hillside Bottleneck-** fund traffic survey.

## **WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS**

**Commuter Choice Workshop-** planning to be held jointly with ACT in fall, 2002.

### **Visiting Scholars from Germany**

Planning a one day workshop on the region's transportation system for visiting graduate students and faculty from Trier University in Germany in October.

### **State of the Region Conference**

Assisting the Workforce Board of North Cook County and the Northwest Suburban Association of Commerce and Industry (NSACI) in presenting a transit update in January, 2003.

## **PROJECTS COMPLETED**

**Downtown Pedestrian Activities Analysis**

**South Central MTD Technical Assistance**

**Lake Cook Road TMA Technical Assistance**

**Bus Rapid Transit Workshop**

**ITS Systems for Transit: Solving Real Problems Workshop**

**Visiting Scholar from Netherlands**

**Reinventing Transit: Planning Information-Based Transit Service Workshop**

**Metropolitan Conference on Public Transportation Research**

**Managing the Cost of ADA Paratransit Pilot Workshop**

**Peoria Study**

**The Future of Public Transit in Chicago Discussion Panel**

**First Urban Sprawl Conference**

**CATS Transit Workshop**

**CTA Transit Workshop**

**Pace Management Symposium**

**Economic Importance of Transportation**

**Greater North Michigan Avenue Association Workshop For Employers**

**Travel Time Activity And Time Use Analysis**  
**Cook County TCSP Grant Application**  
**Rural Transportation Brokerage Project**  
**Visiting MIT Students**  
**Springfield Mass Transit Appreciation Day**  
**Visiting Delegation from China**  
**Visiting Scholars from Saudi Arabia**  
**ITS Presentation**  
**Rural Transportation Assistance Program Presentation**  
**I-55 Growth Corridor Study**  
**GIS Mapping of Traffic Signals**  
**Visiting Scholars from Norway**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Urban Sprawl Symposium, Transportation and Housing Symposium**  
**Suburban Job Link**  
**DuPage Area Transit Plan**  
**Atlanta Leadership Delegation**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Upper Midwest Regional Freight Transportation Workshop**  
**Big Ten Universities Transportation Conference**  
**80,000 lb. Truck Weight Study**  
**Travel Time Projections**  
**Suburban Job-Link Corp.**  
**Commuter Rail Station Vanpools**  
**Visiting Scholars from China (2)**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sprawl Symposium, Fortuitous Failures or Missed Opportunities**  
**Public-Private Partnerships in Transit Workshop**  
**Jennifer L. Dorn, FTA Administrator Luncheon**

10/02