

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT INITIATIVE (METSU)

QUARTERLY REPORT

for the quarter ending December 31, 2004

CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

During the quarter, the 25th Anniversary Reception and International Workshop was held on October 28 and the Annual Fall Symposium on October 29. The title of this years symposium was "Non-Traditional Approaches to Fund Transportation and Manage Demand." The keynote speaker was Glenn Lyons, Professor at the University of West England who presented the results of the congestion pricing experience in downtown London and road pricing in the UK. U. S. Rep. Danny Davis received an award for his support of the Urban Transportation Center. Also during the quarter, the following events occurred:

-Presentation of the Statewide Database of Transportation Funding was given to the Governor's Office, CATS, IDOT and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation.

-A meeting was held on November 15 with Kathy Ames, IDOT to discuss the status of METSU projects.

-The UTC has been contracted with to undertake technical support and analysis of transportation data for the Special Committee on Mass Transit for Northeastern Illinois chaired by Rep. Julie Hamos.

-The Subcommittee on Paratransit chaired by Rep. Kathy Ryg has asked for a presentation on a description and history of ADA and paratransit in the region.

-The UTC has been asked to assist IDOT in developing a Regional Freight Summit.

Below in the progress report on the activities of the Research Program, Technical Assistance, Workshops and Training during the recent quarter.

Please note that papers referred to in this report will be provided in separate mailing.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Regional Intermodal Freight Planning

Kazuya Kawamura and Sue McNeil continue to chair the subcommittees of CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF). Involvement continues with the Data Working Group whose objectives are to identify the freight data needs and gaps and also develop a strategy to fill the data gaps. Dr. Kawamura also serves on the editorial board of the IATF News an e-newsletter available at www.catsmpo.com and is a regular contributor to the News.

Business and Site Specific Trip Generation Methodology for Truck Trips

This project is funded from the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center with a match provided by METSU. The first task, Conceptual Model Development obtained input from logistics companies to identify independent variables. The second task, Data Collection has developed a contact list and a data wish list to be completed by businesses. A paper has been submitted and approved for presentation at the TRF Annual Meeting in March.

Location, Design and Operation of Future Intermodal Rail Yards

The objective of this project is to address the desirable traits, including the location, design and operation of intermodal freight facilities using the information obtained through structure interviews with key stakeholders in the Chicago area. Thirty-two individuals have been interviewed to date and the key findings have been documented in papers to be presented at TRB and TRF Annual Meetings in January and March respectively.

Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC)

Staff continues 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 has developed a phase 3 project to the JARC funded Clearinghouse project for consideration by RTA and a child care van project with the City of Chicago Mayors Office of Workforce Development (MOWD).

Economic and Productivity Impacts of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Developing a proposal to undertake this research project. Continue the development of the data needs for economic productivity analysis in the Chicago region. This project has been chosen as a thesis by one of the student research assistants.

Exploration of Tools for Regional Transportation and Land Use Modeling

As the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) continues with the Common Ground project, we are providing technical support and developing a framework for evaluating the project. Current activities include a review of existing plans of municipalities and counties in the region as well as developing an understanding the role of transportation measures in the stakeholder input software.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Planning Process

The research team has completed the literature review, the draft survey instrument and is putting together a list of contacts from the states identified by IDOT as crucial to learn from. The survey has received approval from the Institutional Review Board (IRB) and are awaiting input and direction from IDOT before proceeding.

McHenry County Transportation Study

A status meeting was held at the County Administration Building on October 22 to review progress of the consultant. The following items were reviewed: Labor Analysis, Resident Phone Survey Findings, Employer Survey Findings, Transit Needs and Opportunities, Draft Newsletter and the proposed revised schedule, which has been extended to March 31, 2005.

Sprawl

Professor Soot's sprawl-related work continues in these two areas:

Census 2000 and ACS: We are continuing our work with the 2000 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) principally focusing on employment data. The 1999 to 2000 annual summaries for Lake County show trends that have important impacts for transportation systems. In Lake County automobile ownership is rising while transit use to work is declining. Also, the proportion of the population in the labor force is increasing but the percent of the age-appropriate population that is employed is declining. This means

unemployment is up noticeably. These latter statistics suggest a declining per capita demand for transportation services, particularly in peak periods. Also noteworthy is a decline in the median income while house values are increasing. This may imply fewer resources are available for transportation (if there is a trade-off between housing and transportation as has been established in the literature for decades).

Sprawl and Public Health -- Obesity: We are now processing the driver's license data that had been received from the Secretary of State's office. It is an exceedingly large data set with approximately 10 million records. The file also includes data for state ID cards and we are working on eliminating duplicate data for individuals that have both. The records have all the information requested including addresses for zip codes.

We have computed the average body mass indexes by 327 Zip-code areas in Northeastern Illinois and the average values range from approximately 23 to 27 BMI (Body Mass Index). The 'normal weight' range for individuals is from 18.5 to 24.9. The map in Figure 1 Attached (a preliminary draft not for publication) shows the highest values in the city of Chicago and the far fringe of the region. The lowest values are in the established suburbs in northern Cook County, southern Lake County, southeastern half of DuPage County and the lakefront in Chicago north of downtown.

Routine Use of Locomotive Horns

The work on this project has been completed. A paper was presented in October at the International Cooperation on Theories and Concepts in Traffic Safety (ICTCT) conference in Europe and the paper will appear in their conference proceedings. Another paper "Effects of Whistle Blowing Bans on Accidents at Gated Rail-Highway Crossings: the Northeastern Illinois Experience" was published in the Fall Issue of the Journal of the Transportation Research Forum.

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center Proposals

Two proposals to MRUTC have been prepared and submitted; Mode Matters: A Tool to Measure Impacts of Air Quality of Multi-Modal Investments and An Impact Analysis of Changes in the Warehousing and Distribution Industry on Modal Investments in Freight Transportation. Nothing new to report.

Traffic Impacts of In-fill Development

Partial support is being provided a project to develop a case study on the traffic impacts of in-fill development. The project will explore brownfield vs. greenfield development traffic impacts. A student research assistant has chosen this project for their thesis.

CATS Household Travel Survey

Staff continues the ongoing effort to assist CATS in developing the data requirements for CATS travel forecasting models to support regional modeling activities. This is in support of the future CATS Household Travel Survey.

Emergency Ride Home (ERH)

Presented the region's ERH program to the CATS Air Quality Transportation Management Task Force on October 13 and convened a working group meeting with the Schaumburg Business Association on November 10.

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

Working with IDOT and the CATS Regional Councils to develop, facilitate and disseminate information pertaining to Context Sensitive Solutions. Developing two seminars, one for IDOT employees and one for stakeholders and public officials.

Rural Public Transportation Brokerage Research Project

METSI provided 30% match for this IDOT project. The research determined whether transportation brokers can provide more efficient service, what entities should operate, how brokers dispatch rides and how brokerages can be implemented statewide. The final report has been submitted to IDOT, to an academic journal for publication and for presentation at the TRB Annual Meeting in January, 2005.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Special Committee on Mass Transit for Northeastern Illinois

Undertaking data analysis at the direction of the Committee chaired by Rep. Julie Hamos. Attended a Hearing on December 16 in Buffalo Grove and a Meeting with the Committee on December 21 to discuss scope of the project. The first deliverable will be a report on other major metropolitan areas funding mechanisms to be presented in January.

CATS Community Mobility Task Force

Participated with the Task Force meeting held on October 27.

CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF)

Continued participation with the Task Force and Subcommittees (See Regional Intermodal Freight Planning project). Attended IATF meeting held on December 15.

CATS Private Providers Task Force

Participating with the Task Force and providing assistance in the areas of inventorying private transit providers and on JARC and ERH issues. Participated in a meeting held on November 18.

CATS Task Force on Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

At the request of CATS, a presentation of Transportation Database was given to the Task Force at their meeting on October 5.

CATS TDM Annex

At the request of CATS, participated in the meeting held on October 7.

Commuter Choice

Continuing efforts with RTA, CATS and ACT to market Commuter Choice benefit program and the RTA Transit Check to facilitate the use of the tax-free transit benefit for employers and employees through the use of payroll deduction.

Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA)

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

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)- Ongoing assistance the EPA in their Partnership for

Clean Air program by promoting Best Workplaces Campaign (BWC) designation in conjunction with the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC) and the RTA.

City of North Chicago

Nothing new on the effort to develop a Transit Management Association (TMA) with Abbott Labs and Great Lakes Naval Training Center.

City of Waukegan

At the request of CATS, gave a presentation on transportation options to the Waukegan Citizens Council on December 1.

Olive Harvey College

At the request of RTA, undertake a needs assessment and investigate the feasibility of a campus shuttle. Meetings during the period were cancelled due to a work stoppage at the college.

Transportation Research Forum (TRF)

Investigating the feasibility of establishing a local Chicago Chapter of the TRF. Contacted members of the academic, transportation and planning communities to gain input on the idea.

Statewide Funding Database

The Database was developed as a result of a contract with IDHS and the predecessor to the current Coordinating Committee. The database has been transmitted to IDOT- DPT and the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation. CATS has also requested we participate in developing a Chicago regional database as a UWP funded project.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

IDOT Fall Planning Conference

Attended the Conference held in Galena on September 30 and October 1.

Business Leaders for Transportation

Attended the meeting held on December 3.

Welcome to the Network!

Jointly sponsored teleseminar with EPA on November 3.

Paying for Performance: Cash for Commuters

Jointly sponsored webinar with ACT on November 4.

Regional Freight Summit

At IDOT's request, assist in the development of a Regional Freight Summit.

Tour of CTA Control Center and International Workshop

Toured the CTA facility with students, faculty and Glenn Lyons from UK and held an International Workshop on October 28 to discuss transportation in Chicago and London.

Annual Fall Symposium and 25th Anniversary Reception

Sponsored the 5th Annual Symposium and 25th Anniversary Reception on October 28 and 29.

This years topic was “Non-Traditional Approaches to Fund Transportation and Manage Demand.”

Work Welfare and Families Annual Summit

Participated in a panel and gave a presentation on November 12 titled “Low Income Families: Moving Ahead or Falling Behind.”

Visiting Government Officials from China

Presented the regions transportation to visiting government officials from China on October 25.

Lake-Cook TMA

Attended meeting of the TMA on December 6.

MPC Annual Luncheon

Attended the annual luncheon on October 7.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Regional Intermodal Freight Planning- Continued participation with the CATS IATF.

Business and Site Specific Trip Generation Methodology for Truck Trips- continue data collection and analysis.

Location, Design and Operation fo Future Intermodal Rail Yards- continue analysis of survey data.

Job Access Reverse Commute- continue communications with project partners, pursue second phase of the Transportation Information Clearinghouse project and identify local match for child care van project.

Economic and Productivity Impacts of ITS- continue the development of data needs to estimate economic productivity due to ITS in Illinois.

Exploration of Tools for Regional Transportation and Land Use Modeling- continue to provide technical support and review of existing municipal plans in the region.

NEPA and the Planning Process- administer and follow up with the survey of state departments of transportation experience with the NEPA process and planning issues. The survey will be implemented in the next quarter as a Research Assistant has been identified and assigned to the project in the fall semester. Awaiting direction from IDOT before proceeding with the survey.

McHenry County Transportation Study- attend status meeting on January 7 where the Employee Survey results, the Proposed Service Plan and the Public Involvement Plan will be reviewed and discussed.

Sprawl- Research will continue in the areas of Census 2000 and Sprawl and Public Health-Obesity and the National Household Travel Survey. Will complete driver's license analysis.

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center Proposals- awaiting status.

Traffic Impacts of In-fill Development- explore traffic impacts of brown and green field development.

CATS Household Travel Survey- Complete the identification of data needs and develop survey questions that satisfy data needs and prepare final report recommendations.

Emergency Ride Home (ERH)- Will discuss the region's ERH program to the CATS Air Quality Transportation Management Task Force.

Context Sensitive Solutions- Continued development of seminars.

Rural Public Transportation Brokerage Project- a paper will be presented at TRB in January.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT)- continued activity on Board of Directors and seek to co-sponsoring workshops.

CATS Community Mobility Task Force- ongoing assistance to CATS.

CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF)- ongoing assistance to CATS.

CATS Private Providers Task Force- ongoing assistance to CATS.

CATS Task Force with Seniors and Persons with Disabilities- ongoing assistance to CATS.

CATS TDM Annex- to participate in meeting with Task Force on January 19.

Commuter Choice- continue to develop marketing plan statewide and assist CATS in giving presentations and workshops.

GNMAA- ongoing assistance with GNMAA and the Traffic Operations Committee.

EPA- ongoing assistance in conjunction with Best Workplaces for Commuters (BWC).

City of North Chicago- set up meeting jointly with Waukegan to pursue formation of a TMA.

City of Waukegan- develop position paper on transit to the Waukegan Citizens Council for submission to the Waukegan City Council.

Olive Harvey College- to meet with College and RTA to discuss transit plan for college.

Special Committee on Mass Transit for Northeastern Illinois- to meet with the Committee chaired by Rep. Julie Hamos and present other metropolitan areas funding mechanisms on January 25 and present ADA Paratransit to the Paratransit Subcommittee chaired by Rep. Kathy Ryg on January 14.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

Regional Freight Summit- Assist IDOT in developing program.

TRB Annual Meeting- Several papers will be presented at the Annual Meeting of the TRB in Washington in January.

TRF Annual Meeting- Several papers including the Transportation Information Clearinghouse, County to County Transportation Trends, Trip Generation Methodology for Truck Trips and the Location, Design and Operation of Intermodal Rail Yards and will be presented at the Annual Meeting in Washington in March.

PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING CURRENT FISCAL YEAR

Bus Rapid Transit Virtual Seminar

Work Welfare and Families

Incident Command System Management Workshop

Visitors from Houston

Access Management Workshop

Presentation of Transportation Funding Database

IDOT Fall Planning Conference Presentation

Freight Impact Analysis Methodology – Impact of Truck Traffic on the Value of Land

Sprawl and Pedestrian Safety

UTC Fourth Fall Symposium

Commuter Choice Benefits Workshop

Traffic Management for Special Events

Research + Action = Results

UIC Campus Shuttle Program

General Accounting Office

Visitors from Germany

Women's Transportation Seminar Panel

Transportation, Warehousing and Logistics Work Force Summit

River North Corridor Commuter Choice Workshop

Transit Oriented Develop Webinar

Work, Welfare and Families

CATS Rideshare Project

Environmental Justice

Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Civil Infrastructure Systems

Routine Use of Locomotive Horns:Executive Summary and Technical Report

Telework & America's Greatest Employers

How Best Workplaces for Commuter Can Work for You

Conference on Research and Public Policy

Talk the Talk: Communicating TDM Concept in Business Terms
Innovative Funding Sources for TDM
Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce
Kane County Transit Opportunity Assessment
ACT Western Regional Conference
Commuter Choice/TDM Strategies Workshop
Commuter Choice Workshop
Set Your Community Apart: Become a Best Workplace for Commuters
Create Ads and Public Service Announcements that Get Action
Tollway Public Hearing
Freight Impact Analysis Methodology- Social and Environmental Impacts
Large Scale Dynamic Simulation and Optimization Tools for Chicago Freight
Infrastructure and Operations
Development of Integrated Economic Impact Analysis Tool for Equity Sensitive Projects
Census Public Micro-Use Data (PUMS)
Prairie Stone TMA
DuPage County Transportation Discovery Conference
IDOT Fall Planning Conference
Welcome to the Network!
Pay for Performance: Cash for Commuters
Fifth Annual Symposium and 25th Anniversary Reception
Visiting Government Officials from China
Tour of CTA Control Center and International Workshop
Lake-Cook TMA Meeting
MPC Annual Luncheon