

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT INITIATIVE (METSU)

QUARTERLY REPORT for the quarter ending June 30, 2003

CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

During the quarter, an Advisory Board meeting was planned for August 27, 2003, which would be the first meeting for new members Paula Thibeault, Executive Director, RTA and Mike Tryon, Chairman, McHenry County Board. With the assistance of UTC staff, the RFP for the McHenry County Transit Study was rewritten for rebid in early July. Much activity took place planning for the Fall Symposium "Circumferential Transportation Systems-Meeting the Needs of the Future?" to take place on October 17, 2003. The staff of the UTC wished fond farewell to two retiring IDOT employees; Linda Wheeler and Mike Williamsen. Attended meetings of Metropolitan Conference on Public Transportation Research (MCPTR), Business Leaders for Transportation (BLT) and Metropolis 2020.

Two major projects for IDOT- DPT were completed; the addendum to the Intercity Bus Strategic Plan and the addendum to the Computer Aided Scheduling and Dispatching Systems. One new project has begun, Traffic Impacts of In-fill Development.

Also during the quarter, received a fully executed grant contract covering the fourth fiscal year of METSU. Below is a progress report on the activities of the Research Program, Technical Assistance, Workshops and Training during the recent quarter.

RESEARCH PROGRAM

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. During the period, attended a workshop given by Northwestern University.

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

The methodology has been expanded to include the cost of pavement damage and truck labor cost using a hypothetical widening of Cicero Avenue for evaluation purposes. A paper titled "Assessment of the Relationship between Vehicle Type Mix and the Benefit of Freight Projects" was presented at the Third International Congress of City Logistics in June.

Job Access 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 with the CATS Community Mobility Task Force where a presentation is given at each of their meetings on the status of various UTC activities. Also assisting IDOT and IDHS in developing a statewide database of transportation funding for presentation next quarter.

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

Developed and provided County Transportation Department with draft outline of Phase 2 project.

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. There is nothing new to report.

Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Civil Infrastructure Systems

With matching support from the National Science Foundation and working with Carnegie Mellon University, the software has been documented, debugged and web-accessible.

UIC Campus Shuttle Program

Developed a real time traveler information system on the UIC Campus Shuttle service that identifies the current location of the shuttle bus via GPS location technology and visually show the progress of the vehicle on the University website www.uic.edu/cuppa/utc. During the period, we have revised the map and installed a remote television camera for video confirmation. Also met with Pace to discuss their Intelligent Bus Systems (IBS) project.

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.

Exploration of Tools for Regional Transportation and Land Use Modeling

Working with NIPC, developed criteria to assist in tool selection and have begun documenting the assumptions related to the transportation elements of the tools used for supporting the planning process.

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. Literature review is underway and has been revised and modified to reflect current circumstance. The draft questionnaire has been prepared and approval has been received from the Institutional Review Board.

McHenry County Transportation Study

Held several meetings with County and CATS staff and assisted in revising the scope of work for rebid early next quarter.

Sprawl

Our current sprawl-related work continues in the following three areas:

Sprawl and Pedestrian Safety: We have completed our report on pedestrian safety in Illinois. It highlights the statewide improvements in pedestrian traffic safety, the annual number of fatalities have declined from 272 in 1990 to 187 in 2000, or a drop of 31%. Cook County accounts for over 55% of the state's fatalities. Since its per capita fatality rate is 50% higher than the statewide rate there is room for improvement. More importantly there is evidence that suburban counties with low population densities have lower fatality rates than high-density urban counties, even when exposure is considered. The proportion of the working population walking to work is the measure of exposure used.

The report will shortly be available on our Web site. We are also working on wider circulation for the report.

Census 2000: We continue to map and analyze the data from the 200 Census. Our report on the county-to-county trip data released in March 2003. It reveals some important changes in commuting and the factors that effect commuting. Most importantly, for the first time in over forty years the population of the region grew more rapidly (1990 to 2000) than the number of commuters. The 11% increase in population only translated into a growth in commuters of 7%. This report was highlighted in *Chicago Tribune* in John Hilkevich's *Getting Around* column. This lead to television appearances on the local CBS and NBC news programs (TV crews were sent to the University). It at least suggests a clear public interest in stories relating to traffic and urban change. The report has also been requested and sent to a number of transportation professionals.

We still anticipate the arrival of the full CTPP. This will provide us with journey-to-work data by small area and we can further study changes in travel behavior as they relate to urban decentralization.

Sprawl and Public Health -- Obesity: We have now heard from the Secretary of State's office that the data that we requested is ready and that once the \$500 fee payment has been received it will be sent to us. I expect that to occur within the week.

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center Proposals

Prepare two proposals to MRUTC; 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.

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. During the quarter, provided Metra ridership data to North Michigan Avenue and undertook a literature search on transit service to airports.

Commuter Choice

Jointly sponsored a workshop with 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. A proposal is being prepared to assist RTA in evaluating and administering their program.

Regional Freight Planning

Kazuya Kawamura continues to chair the Research and Planning Subcommittee and Sue McNeil continues to chair the Finance Subcommittee of the CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF). During the period, attended CATS IATF meeting and a presentation by the freight railroads and CDOT and provided a brief analysis to IDOT- OPP. A meeting was held with the Chair of the Committee to discuss future directions of the Subcommittee.

CATS Rideshare Project

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

CATS Community Mobility Task Force

Participating with and providing Job Access Reverse Commute related assistance to the CATS Task Force. Attended a meeting on May 22 and to give a report on the Center's JARC activities. At the request of CATS, reviewed and commented on the Regional Transportation Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities.

Work, Welfare and Families

Participating in the Transportation Working Group to address JARC transportation issues.

CATS Private Providers Task Force

Participating with the Task Force and providing assistance in the areas of inventorying private transit providers and in JARC issues. No activity in the quarter.

Transportation Coordination Committee

Offered to assist IDOT in staffing the Coordinating Committee established by the State Legislature.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

UTC Fall Symposium

Have begun planning for the annual Fall Symposium sponsored by the Urban Transportation Center to be held on October 17, 2003. This year's topic will be "Circumferential Transportation Systems-Meeting the Needs of the Future?"

Bus Rapid Transit Virtual Seminar

Jointly sponsored a "webinar" on June 12 with ACT and the University of South Florida on "Bus Rapid Transit: A New commuter Choice for your Community".

Presentation on the History of the RTA

Gave a presentation on May 13 to RTA employees at a "brown bag" lunch workshop.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Intermodal Freight- ongoing project with Northwestern University and NSF.

Freight Impact Analysis Methodology-Impact of Truck Traffic on the Value of Land- social and environmental impacts of freight traffic on property values will be analyzed.

Job Access 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- await new Chairman to obtain input on Phase 2.

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

Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery in Civil Infrastructure Systems- explore large data set issues of relevance to state departments of transportation.

UIC Campus Shuttle Bus Program- continue demonstration with hopes of implementing the full system by fall semester.

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

Exploration of Tools for Regional Transportation and Land Use Modeling- continue to document tools used to support the planning process.

NEPA and the Planning Process- complete literature review and survey document and undertake survey of state departments of transportation experience with NEPA planning issues.

McHenry County Transportation Study- rebid and assist county in review and evaluation of consultant proposals.

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.

Midwest Regional University Transportation Center Proposals- awaiting status.

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

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force- ongoing regional freight meetings with CATS.

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

Commuter Choice- continue to develop marketing plan for pre-tax RTA Transit Check and for Commuter Choice statewide and assist CATS in given presentations and workshops.

CATS Rideshare Project- monitor new system that has been installed online to determine if any changes are necessary.

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.

Transportation Coordinating Committee- offer to assist IDOT in staffing Committee.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

UTC Fall Symposium- Planning to hold the event titled “Circumferential Transportation Systems- Meeting the Needs of the Future?” on October 17, 2003. Obtained Kirk Brown, retired Secretary of Transportation as keynote luncheon speaker.

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 Paratransit Study

The Future of Public Transit in Chicago Discussion Panel

First Urban Sprawl Symposium

CATS Transit Workshop

CTA Transit Workshop

Pace Management Symposium

Economic Importance of Transportation Committee

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 of Will County
GIS Mapping of Traffic Signals
Visiting Scholars from Norway
2nd Urban Sprawl Symposium, Transportation and Housing
DuPage Area Transit Plan
Atlanta Leadership Delegation
1st 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)
3rd Annual Sprawl Symposium, Fortuitous Failures or Missed Opportunities
Public-Private Partnerships in Transit Workshop
Jennifer L. Dorn, FTA Administrator Luncheon
Visiting Scholars from Germany
Illinois State University
Abbott Labs
Asset Management Presentation to TRB
Kane County Transit Opportunity Assessment, Phase 1
Asset Management
Employee Benefit Workshop
Creating Working Opportunities Through Affordable Transportation
State of the Region Conference
Conference on Community Planning Tools
Presentation on the History of the RTA
Bus Rapid Transit Virtual Seminar
Intercity Bus Strategic Plan (IDOT-DPT)
Computer Aided Scheduling and Dispatching (CASD) Systems (IDOT-DPT)

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