

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

## **QUARTERLY REPORT**

for the quarter ending June 30, 2006

### **CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES**

#### **GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

The following are highlights from the recent quarter:

- A paper titled *Where is the 2000-2005 Growth in Metropolitan Chicago: Collar or Fringe Counties?* was completed and is attached to the report.
  - Several planning meetings have been held with Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, World Business Chicago, Center for Supply Chain Management and World Business Chicago for joint sponsorship of a Seminar "Making the Chicago Region More Competitive in the Global Supply Chain: A Forum for Business, Government and Freight Industry Leaders" on November 21. Larry Wilson, IDOT- DPIT has been invited to attend the planning meetings.
  - Staff is providing ongoing advice to Champaign-Urbana and Peoria in the area of travel demand modeling.
  - Staff is working with IDOT ITS Office and FHWA to jointly sponsor ITS Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) Training on August 16 and 17.
  - METSU is providing in-kind match funding for two proposals to the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center (MRUTC); Making Truck Rail Intermodal More Competitive and Asset Management and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.
- Below is a description of progress during the quarter.

#### **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

##### **Attitude Surveys**

Research into commuters attitudes regarding the impact of congestion, the value of congestion relief and the willingness to pay through taxes or user fees is being examined. The UIC Survey Research Lab (SRL) was contacted in order to determine the status of the annual state survey undertaken by SRL. A recent attitude survey undertaken by RTA has been obtained to determine the applicability of their investigation.

##### **Safety Analysis**

During the quarter, a Problem Statement on Roadway Safety Analysis was submitted to the Illinois Center for Transportation but was not selected. A contact was made in an attempt to obtain Cook County traffic citations in order to evaluate enforcement efforts.

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

Kazuya Kawamura continues to chair the Research and Planning Subcommittee of CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF). He is also serving on the organization Committee for the Global Supply Chain Forum, the event jointly sponsored by the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, UIC and others.

##### **Making Truck-Rail Intermodal Competitive**

Dr. Kawamura is the principal investigator for the proposed study that focuses on finding the

public policy options that help intermodal become more competitive in the broader segments of freight markets including medium and shorter trips. METSI is providing matching support for a proposal to the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center for funding.

### **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 is participating in Sen. Susan Garrett's Reverse Commute Committee and assisting in the development of a early morning reverse commute train on Metra UP North Line. A JARC application will be made to provide one half of the cost of the demonstration.

### **McHenry County Transportation Study Implementation**

Meetings were held of the McHenry County Transportation Study Implementation Task Force (ITF) on April 20 and June 15. The ITF is overseeing the consultant, Trans Systems, who was hired by the county to assist in implementing the transit plan. Two Sub-Committee Working Groups have been formed: Coordinated Paratransit Services and Taxi Vouchers. Staff is represented on both Committees.

### **Highways and Sprawl**

The work on Sprawl and Public Health is complete and our current sprawl-related work continues with Census 2000 and ACS:

#### **Census 2000 and ACS**

<http://www.uic.edu/cuppa/utc/publications>. Analysis continues with the 2000 Census and the American Community Survey (ACS). The most recent effort examines the population change in the Chicago area and compares it to other major counties in the nation. The report, the third METSI report this year, titled *Where is the 2000-2005 Growth in Metropolitan Chicago: Collar or Fringe Counties?* is attached and available on our web site at [www.utc.uic.edu/Publications](http://www.utc.uic.edu/Publications). In March ACS released national data on population change from 2000 to 2005 by county. Locally the media focused on two counties Cook and Kendall. Cook had the largest absolute decrease in population in the nation and Kendall was the fourth fastest growing county. This compares apples with oranges- absolute change in one case and percentage change in the other. Since this is misleading we prepared a report that interprets the population change more completely. Another finding is that population change data has transportation implications partly because Will County is clearly the fastest growing in absolute change in the Chicago area and the Ryan construction is impacting those individuals in areas where they need to drive. The report also shows Cook County's population continues to decentralize, as it has for over one hundred years, but the percent population decline is not in the top ten in the US. While it makes interesting reading in the press to report that Cook County had the largest absolute decline of 73,000 residents, but size matters and the percentage change is more important. More importantly the six-county region grew by 3.3 percent from 2000 to 2005, a rate that exceeded the roughly 2 percent ten-year growth rate in the 1970s and 1980s. In effect, the region's growth in five years was not much less than the growth in twenty years between 1970 and 1990. There was, however, a spurt in population growth in the 1990s when the six-county area grew by 11.4 percent and perhaps some of this momentum extended into the first half of the current decade.

### **Sprawl and Public Health: Obesity**

The report on Urban Sprawl and Obesity is complete and is available on our web site [www.utc.uic.edu/Publications](http://www.utc.uic.edu/Publications).

<http://www.utc.uic.edu/Publications?BMI>

### **Emergency Ride Home (ERH)**

Developed a region-wide demonstration program and received approval and CMAQ funding for the project. Seeking verification of a commitment of soft match funding using toll revenues in order to proceed with the demonstration project. Also, discussing a joint project with Pace suburban bus.

### **Northeast Lake County TMA**

Assisting employers and municipalities in improving Metra UP North Line service. This was discussed at Sen. Susan Garrett's Reverse Commute Committee meetings on May 15 and June 22. Metra is developing a proposal to add an early morning rush hour train in each direction on the UP North Line and staff is on a sub-committee to identify and seek funding for the service.

### **Database and Library**

Staff continues developing a database and library of UTC and METSI as a project-level resource. In addition, the UTC website has been updated.

### **Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee**

Staff developed a scope of work for a paratransit coordination study in Lake County and submitted it to RTA as an RTAP grant application. A draft Paratransit Provider Survey was approved by the Committee at their April 19 meeting and a distribution plan was approved at their May 25 meeting. Completed surveys have been received and will be summarized and analyzed.

### **Transit Check Ridership Analysis**

Continue advocacy for commuter choice benefits and prepared a scope of work to undertake a study of the impact of Transit Check usage on ridership volume and patterns and was submitted to the RTA as an RTAP grant application. Awaiting grant approval.

### **Locomotive Horns**

Staff is participating in a CATS Work Group to develop a strategy to deal with the FRA regulations regarding blowing of locomotive horns at highway grade crossings. Developed a proposed budget to undertake statistical analysis. There was no activity during the quarter.

### **Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Data**

Developing a scope of work to utilize LEHD data developed by IDES and the Bureau of the Census to improve transit planning, especially job access and alternatives analysis.

### **Asset Management and Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

The project will undertake a state of the practice, identify gaps in regional needs and explore tools to support asset management on the regional level. Providing matching support for a proposal to the Midwest Regional University Transportation Center for funding.

### **Moss Thesis Proposal**

Advising a graduate student undertaking a thesis proposal to identify what, if any benefits can moss as applied to vertical concrete walls bring to noise, air, visual and temperature pollution mitigation efforts along transportation corridors.

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

#### **Association for Commuter Transportation**

Participate as a member on the Board of Directors and to develop jointly sponsored workshops.

#### **CATS Community Mobility Task Force and CATS Task Force on Seniors and Persons with Disabilities**

These two task forces have been holding combined meetings. There were no meetings during the quarter. Provided review and comments on CATS statement to FTA regarding the Human Services Transportation Plan required by SAFTEA-LU.

#### **CATS Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF)**

Continued participation with the Task Force and Subcommittees and attended task force meeting on May 16. Provided review and comments on CATS Strategic Regional Freight Systems document.

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

Participating with the Task Force on a proposal to develop a private enterprise demonstration project to get low income residents to jobs as a regional JARC project. Attended task force meeting on May 17.

#### **CATS TDM Annex**

There were no meetings during the quarter.

#### **CATS Transportation Management and Operations (TM&O) Work Group**

Reviewed and commented on the draft Specific Plan, responded to the Strategy Solicitation and provided rankings to TSM strategies.

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

Participated in various Transportation and Research Committee meetings.

#### **Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation (ICCT)**

Participated in a meeting held on May 4 and reviewed the study "Potential and Feasibility for Coordination of Transportation Services in Illinois" undertaken by Illinois Council of Developmental Disabilities.

#### **Information Coordination Advisory Committee**

No meetings were held in the past six months. This project will be closed.

#### **Peoria MPO**

Staff has provided comments on the Peoria Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's consultant assessment of the MPO modeling needs and has provided the comments to IDOT as well. Staff is waiting to hear from IDOT and the MPO regarding the next course of action.

### **Champaign MPO**

The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission has provided us with details about their 2002 Travel Survey and asked for assistance with the trip generation component of their travel demand modeling suite. Staff has begun working on the issue.

### **Center for Supply Chain Management and Logistics**

Providing in-kind match to the project which received seed funding from UIC. Also assisting in planning for the Global Supply Chain Workshop.

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

#### **ITS Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) Workshop**

Working with IDOT ITS Office, located facilities on campus with computers and work stations for jointly sponsored workshop with IDOT and FHWA for August 16 and 17.

#### **Making the Chicago Region More Competitive in the Global Supply Chain: A Forum for Business, Government and Freight Industry Leaders**

Participated in meetings on April 6, May 2 and June 28 in preparing the program and planning for the meeting to be held on November 21.

#### **Improving Railroad Classification Terminal Performance Using Concepts of “Lean Railroading” Teleconference**

Held a teleconference jointly with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on May 12.

#### **The 411 on 511: How Advanced Traveler Information System Compliments and Competes with TDM**

Held a webinar jointly sponsored with University of South Florida and the Association for Commuter Transportation on June 1.

#### **TRF Chicago Chapter**

Held an officers meeting on June 6 to plan for summer and fall activities. The summer session will be a discussion of the Intermodal Volume III report undertaken by CATS to be held on August 3.

#### **Rail~Volution Chicago 2006**

Assisting IDOT and RTA plan the program and mobile workshops for the Annual Rail~Volution meeting to be held in Chicago on November 6, 7 and 8. Developed and presented a mobile workshop for consideration.

#### **Annual Meetings**

Attended the annual meetings of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce on June 6 and the TMA of Lake-Cook on June 7.

## **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

### **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

**Attitude Surveys-** Identify potential survey methodology and continue research and review of similar attitude surveys.

**Safety Analysis-** Follow-up on previous efforts and develop research ideas.

**Making Truck-Rail Intermodal Competitive-** Await MRUTC grant approval.

**Regional Intermodal Freight Planning-** Continue participation on CATS IATF and the Global Supply Chain Forum.

**Job Access Reverse Commute-** Continue communications with project partners and pursue the private providers demonstration project.

**McHenry County Transportation Study Implementation (ITF)-** Participating in Committee activities including the two sub-committees on paratransit and taxi vouchers.

**Highways and Sprawl-** Research continues in the areas of Census 2000 and ACS and Sprawl and Public Health-Obesity.

**Emergency Ride Home (ERH)-** Certify the availability of soft match to the CMAQ grant and begin to develop a region-wide demonstration project.

**Northeast Lake County TMA-** Continue participation with employer group and identify funding for reverse commute train on Metra UP North Line. The next Reverse Commute Committee meeting is scheduled for July 31.

**Database and Library-** Continue development of a database of transportation information for use in determining research focus and to provide data to constituent transportation and planning agencies. Also, continue development of library and associated website.

**Lake County Coordinated Transportation Services Committee-** Continue accumulating completed surveys and begin analysis. Begin work on the Paratransit Coordination Study upon RTAP grant approval.

**Transit Check Ridership Analysis-** Continue commuter choice benefits advocacy and begin work upon RTAP grant approval.

**Locomotive Horns-** Continue participation with and await direction from CATS Work Group.

**Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Data-** Continue to develop work scope and submit to federal or regional partners for funding.

**Asset Management and Metropolitan Planning Organizations-** Await MRUTC grant approval.

**Moss Thesis Proposal-** Participate in thesis defense.

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

**ACT-** Continued activity on Board of Directors and seek to continue co-sponsoring workshops.

**CATS Community Mobility Task Force and Task Force for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities-** Ongoing assistance to CATS and attend meeting on July 24.

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

**CATS Private Providers Task Force-** Ongoing assistance to CATS.

**CATS TDM Annex-** Ongoing assistance to CATS.

**CATS TM&O-** Ongoing assistance to CATS.

**GNMAA-** Ongoing assistance GNMAA Transportation Committee.

**ICCT-** Planning to attend meeting on September 7.

**Peoria MPO-** Await comment from IDOT and continue to assist Peoria metro area in the development of travel demand models.

**Champaign MPO-** Continue providing assistance on the trip generation component for the Champaign metro area.

**Rail~Volution Chicago 2006 Program Committee-** Continue to assist Planning committee to develop program for November 6, 7 and 8.

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

**Intermodal Volume III: Serial Measuring, Tracking and Anticipating Levels of Activity for Northeastern Illinois-** Planning a TRF Chicago Chapter event for August 3.

**ITS Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) Workshop-** Planning to jointly sponsor the workshop with IDOT and FHWA on August 16 and 17.

**Making the Chicago Region More Competitive in the Global Supply Chain: A Forum for Business, Government and Freight Industry Leaders-** Planning to jointly sponsor the Seminar with Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, Center for Supply Chain Logistics and Metropolis 2020 on November 21.

**Rail~Volution 2006-** Continue participation on program planning committee.

**PROJECTS COMPLETED DURING CURRENT CALENDAR YEAR**

**How To Make TDM Programs Boom with the Boomers Net Conference**  
**TRF Chicago Chapter Luncheon- RTA Cook-DuPage Corridor Market Analysis**  
**North Michigan Avenue By The Numbers- Transportation Section**  
**Homeownership in the Chicago Area: Trends Leading the Nation**  
**Are Sprawl and Obesity Related? Evidence from the Chicago Area**  
**Where is the 2000-2005 Growth in Metropolitan Chicago: Collar or Fringe Counties?**  
**TRB Annual Meeting Presentations**  
**TRF Annual Meeting Presentation**  
**9<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Advanced Technology Presentation**  
**National Urban Freight Conference Presentation**  
**George Krambles Distinguished Lecture**  
**Why Your University Should Achieve the Best Workplaces for Commuters Designation**  
**Analyzing the Effectiveness of Commuter Benefit Programs Webinar**  
**The Case for Searches on Public Transportation Webinar**  
**The 411 on 511: How This Advanced Traveler Information System Compliments and Competes with TDM Webinar**  
**Improving Railroad Classification Terminal Performance Using Concepts of “Lean Railroading” Teleconference**  
**Information Coordination Advisory Committee**  
**Annual Meetings of Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce and TMA of Lake-Cook**  
**Business and Site Specific Trip Generation Methodology for Truck Trips**  
**Cargo Oriented Development**  
**Sprawl and Public Health: Obesity**

07/06/06