

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

**QUARTERLY REPORT (REVISED)**  
for the quarter ending September 30, 2004

### **CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES**

#### **GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE**

During the quarter, an Advisory Board meeting was held on August 25. Two new members were announced: Diane O'Keefe, IDOT District 1 Engineer and John Roberson, Dept. Of Aviation for the city of Chicago. Also attended the CATS Open House and a reception for outgoing RTA Chairman Tom McCracken on August 5.

With the new semester, two new Research Assistants will be working on METSI projects: Mary Kaufman, who will be working on Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) and NEPA related projects and Amanda Eichelkraut, former Executive Director of Citizen's Action Illinois will be Editor of the *UTC Connector*. A significant effort has been undertaken to plan for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and International Workshop to be held on October 28 and the Annual Fall Symposium on October 29. The title of this years symposium is "Non-Traditional Approaches to Fund Transportation and Manage Demand." The keynote speaker is Glenn Lyons, Professor at the University of West England who will present the results of the congestion pricing experience in downtown London.

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

#### **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](http://www.catsmpo.com) and is a regular contributor to the News.

##### **Freight Impact Analysis Methodology: Phase Three**

Work continues on the study that uses parcel level data for the city of Chicago and traffic count data from the CDOT to analyze the relationship between the several traffic characteristics, such as night time truck volumes, daily traffic volume data, peak hourly traffic volume, etc. and the value of single family residence properties. The project has been completed. The paper based on this research effort titled "Hedonic Analysis of the Impacts of Traffic Volumes on Property Values" has been accepted for presentation at the Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting to be held in January, 2005. A copy of the paper will be sent under separate cover.

### **Large Scale Dynamic Simulation and Optimization Tools for Chicago Freight Infrastructure and Operations**

As a member of the team led by the Transportation Center at the Northwestern University, Dr. Kawamura is responsible for assessing the benefit of various innovative strategies to improve efficiency of Intermodal truck operation in Chicago including reducing empty truck movements and constructing truck-only facilities. Dr. Kawamura continues to wait for the data from the simulation group to begin the calculation of the benefits.

### **Development of Integrated Economic Impact Analysis Tool for Equity Sensitive Projects**

Dr. Kawamura is collaborating with Dr. Ranier Vom Hoffe to develop the Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) model for the Chicago six-county region to assess the economic benefits of reducing truck congestion. Current tasks include modifying the Social Accounting Matrix, a crucial input to the CGE model to treat in-house freight transportation as a separate industry sector and calibrating the CGE model. To accomplish the former, it is necessary to find a factor that can be used to translate inter-industry transactions specified by the National Transportation Satellite Account for the six-county Chicago region. Preliminary analysis based on the Vehicle Inventory and Use Survey, Commodity Flow Survey and Economic Census indicates the total employment is a powerful estimator of the in-house freight transportation activity level.

### **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 it is planned that the survey will be administered electronically (email, webpage) and followed up with telephone calls to assure a high return rate and to gather missing information.

### **McHenry County Transportation Study**

The consultant, TransSystems, has undertaken telephone survey, employer and employee surveys, the public outreach program, data collection, stakeholder interviews and the Existing Conditions report. A status meeting will be held at the County Administration Building on October 22 to review progress of these items.

### **Sprawl**

As in the previous quarterly reports our current sprawl-related work continues in three areas:

**Census 2000 and ACS:** We are still in the early stages of our efforts to analyze the Census of Transportation Planning Package (CTPP). The CTPP data have been rather slow in delivery to the region. Currently, we are comparing data with the American Community Survey (ACS) principally focusing on employment data. The ACS will be the replacement for the census long form that asks questions about the location of work and the journey to work. The quality of this data and the differences between ACS and CTPP will provide important clues as to the differences between the two for assessing journey-to-work data. Lake County was an early test site for ACS and we are examining the currently available information and assessing its potential for planning and modeling work with implication for policy analysis.

**Census Public Micro-Use Data (PUMS):** We are also examining the PUMS files. These include data from Census 2000 have two important differences. First, the information is by household, rather than by census tracts or traffic-analysis zones (TAZs). Second, the zones used to report geographic locations, e.g., place of work, are by large areas of more than 100,000 residents and therefore the geographic detail falls far short of what is available by TAZs. For several applications, the geographic limitation is far outweighed by the advantages of having household level data. The effort here is on journey to work.

**Sprawl and Public Health -- Obesity:** We have now received the driver's license data that had been requested from the Secretary of State's office. It is an exceedingly large data set with approximately 5 million records (over 600 MB of data). The file also includes data for state ID cards. The records have all the information requested including addresses for zip codes. The study area includes the counties in the Chicago metropolitan region. We are in the process of computing body mass index and will associate that with place of residence.

### **Routine Use of Locomotive Horns**

The work on this project has been completed. Along with Ashish Sen, TransInfo, completed the final analysis and comment on the national grade-crossing collision data. With IDOT approval, will present aspects of our work at various academic and professional societies, including the International Cooperation on Theories and Concepts in Traffic Safety (ICTCT).

### **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**

Held several meetings with CATS staff to define scope of project. Completed draft Trip Generation Review Task Report and submitted to CATS staff. The report reviewed trip generation in the CATS model, the trip generation code and identified calibration issues and recommendations.

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

In conjunction with CATS, EPA, MPC and RTA, researched and reviewed various ERH programs around the country in order to assist in the development of a program for the six-county Chicago Region.

### **Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)**

Working with IDOT and the CATS Regional Councils to develop, facilitate and disseminate information pertaining to Context Sensitive Solutions. Developed and distributed a flyer describing CSS and held discussions regarding a needs assessment among project partners.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

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

Participating with the Task Force but no meetings held during the quarter. The next meeting will be held on October 27.

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

Continued participation with the Task Force and Subcommittees (See Regional Intermodal Freight Planning project)..

### **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. Also assisting in the ERH project.

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

At the request of CATS, will give presentation of transportation databases to Task Force at their meeting on October 5.

### **CATS TDM Annex**

At the request of CATS, participating in the upcoming meeting to be 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. Their Executive Director, Russ Salzman announced he was leaving GNMAA.

**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, will be giving a presentation on transportation options to the Waukegan Citizens Council on December 1.

**Olive Harvey College**

At the request of RTA, met on August 31 with Olive Harvey College, located on the South side of Chicago, to undertake a needs assessment and investigate the feasibility of a campus shuttle.

**Transportation Research Forum (TRF)**

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

**Tollway Public Hearing**

Prepared a statement supporting the proposed Tollway program at the public hearing in Crystal Lake on September 21. A copy of the Statement is attached.

**Statewide Funding Database**

Prepared a presentation to be given to CATS Task Force for Seniors and People with Disabilities on October 5 and demonstrations to IDOT-DPT on October 12 and the Transportation Coordinating Committee on November 4. The Database was developed as a result of a contract with IDHS and the predecessor to the current Coordinating Committee. Will turn over the project to the appropriate agency and assist in implementation.

**WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS**

**Set Your Community Apart: Become a Best Workplace for Commuters-** held a jointly sponsored workshop with EPA on July 7.

**Create Ads and Public Service Announcements that Get Action-** held a jointly sponsored teleseminar with EPA on September 5.

**Prairie Stone TMA**

Presented the proposed regional ERH program on September 8.

**DuPage County Transportation Discovery Conference**

Attended the Conference held on September 10.

**Business Leaders for Transportation**

Attended the meeting held on September 14.

### **IDOT Fall Planning Conference**

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

## **PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER**

### **RESEARCH PROGRAM**

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

**Large Scale Dynamic Simulation and Optimization Tools for Chicago Freight Infrastructure and Operations-** ongoing project with Northwestern University and NSF.

**Integrated Economic Impact Analysis Tool for Equity Sensitive Projects-** developing data for calibrating modeling of factors impacting the economy from freight movements.

**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.

**McHenry County Transportation Study-** assist and review consultant work on paratransit coordination and development component, transit needs and opportunities, preliminary transit development, website, newsletter and community workshops and undertake the next steps including review of the final transportation recommendations.

**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 present update on the region's ERH program to the CATS Air Quality Transportation Management Task Force on October 13 and convene an ERH Working Group meeting on November 10.

**Context Sensitive Solutions**- Continued work with project partners including a review of incident management, traffic calming and other related policies.

#### **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 at meeting on Oct. 27.

**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**- to present database on Oct. 5.

**CATS TDM Annex**- to meet with Task Force on Oct. 7.

**Commuter Choice**- continue to develop marketing plan for pre-tax RTA Transit Check and for Commuter Choice 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). Also, planning to attend a series of four BWC Campaign Coordinator Training in July and August.

**City of North Chicago**- set up meeting to pursue formation of a TMA.

**City of Waukegan**- to meet with Citizens Council on Dec. 1.

**Olive Harvey College**- to meet with College and RTA on October 26.

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

**Welcome to the Network!**- planning to jointly sponsor a teleseminar with EPA on November 3.

**Pay for Performance: Cash for Commuters**- planning to jointly sponsor webinar with ACT on Nov. 4.

**Fifth Annual Symposium and 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**- planning for the event on October 29 on the topic of Innovative Financing. A 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reception and International Workshop is planned for October 28. The keynote speaker will be Glenn Lyons, of the United Kingdom to speak on the Congestion Pricing scheme to reduce congestion in downtown London.

### **Visiting Government Officials from China**

At the request on the Government of China, will present the region's transportation to officials from the Development Research Center of State Council on October 25.

## **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**

10/04