

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION SUPPORT INITIATIVE (METSII)

QUARTERLY REPORT

for the quarter ending September 30, 2006

CURRENT QUARTER ACTIVITIES

GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE

There has been much activity during the quarter planning, organizing and administering workshops. Listed below are some of the workshop highlights:

- Cosponsored and hosted CMAP's Economic Development Summit,
- Cosponsored and hosted RTA's Higher Education Summit,
- Assisting IDOT and RTA in planning for Rail~Volution 2006,
- Coordinating and leading a mobile workshop Neighbor Arts and Transit for

Rail~Volution, and

-Cosponsoring and hosting a Global Supply Chain Summit with Chicagoland Chamber, World Business Chicago and Metropolis 2020.

We are very pleased to announce the winners of the UIC George Krambles Transportation Scholarship Awards for 2006:

- \$1,000 to Yongping Zhang, Ph.D. student,
- \$500 to Erica Interrante, Masters student and IDOT contractor, and
- \$500 to Nicholas Christensen, Masters student.

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. We obtained two surveys, one undertaken by the Survey Research Lab (SRL) at UIC which found that a slight majority (just over 50%) of residents throughout the state of Illinois would support a 5 cent per gallon gas tax if the proceeds were to improve roads and transit. The other survey, 2002 Market Survey undertaken by RTA examined attitudes toward transit disruptions, congestion and the importance of public transit but those results have not been made public. A discussion with Dick Smith on this issue took place and staff is awaiting direction on how or if to proceed.

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, Metropolis 2020 and World Business Chicago. He will lead a panel session on Freight Development Patterns. Dr. Kawamura is also participating in the strategic planning of

the newly created National University Transportation Center at the University of Wisconsin called the Freight Research Institute. The theme of the Center is Sustainable Freight Transportation Infrastructure and Systems.

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. The study will begin upon funding availability to the Institute.

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, working with employers and municipalities and assisting in the development of a early morning reverse commute train on Metra UP North Line. A JARC application has been made by Metra to RTA requesting \$250,000, one half of the cost of the demonstration. The remainder is being requested from DCEO.

McHenry County Transportation Study Implementation

Staff continues to participate on the McHenry County Transportation Study Implementation Task Force (ITF) which is overseeing the consultant, Trans Systems, who was hired 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. Staff distributed information to the Task Force on Brokerage and Mobility Management.

Highways and Sprawl

Work continues with Census 2000 and American Community Survey (ACS). First, we finished modifications on a paper titled *Emerging Commuting Trends: Evidence from the Chicago Area* for publication in the *Journal of the Transportation Research Forum*. The article, co-authored by Soot, Berman and DiJohn focuses on the growing importance of demographic changes on commuting and congestion. The most important finding is that despite the large population increase in the Chicago area in the 1990s, after a very modest growth in the 1970s and 1980s, the impact on travel times to work was far less than expected. Conversely, the increase in the number of workers was less in the 1990s than in either of the two previous decades. The article explains how declining labor force participation was the principal reason. This is a fundamentally important reason why traffic congestion, while growing, has not increased as fast as expected. Second, we are currently working on a new report on the recent changes in commute times. We now have mean travel time data for trips to work by county. The most recent changes show large increases for fringe counties that have affordable housing and high population growth rates. In these areas job growth lags behind growth in the number of workers residing in the county.

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. There is nothing new to report.

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 July 31 and September 6. Metra is developing a proposal to add an early morning rush hour train in each direction on the UP North Line and Metra has made a JARC application (See JARC above). Employers have committed to market the program and adjust their shuttle buses to serve the new train. Staff is updating its Employer's Research Guide to Implementing Commuter Benefits for distribution to the Chambers of Commerce in Waukegan and Lake Forest.

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. RTA has informed the committee of its approval process. A Paratransit Provider Survey was distributed and completed surveys have been received. The committee requested analysis of this survey and a satisfaction survey they undertook of ADA Special Services users.

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.

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. While negotiating an agreement allowing use of the data for research purposes, staff is analyzing data from the Census 2000 to compare against the LEHD data.

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.

Ramp HOV

Providing match for the Ramp HOV project on the I-290 IL Rte. 53 corridor. The project is being funded by IDOT through CMAP.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Association for Commuter Transportation

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

CMAP Community Mobility and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Task Forces

These two task forces have been holding combined meetings. Participated in the meeting held on July 24.

CMAP Intermodal Advisory Task Force (IATF)

Continued participation with the Task Force and Subcommittees and attended task force meeting on September 13.

CMAP 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. No meetings were held during the quarter.

CMAP Jobs-Housing-Transportation Advisory Committee

Agreed to serve on the committee and attended a kick-off meeting on August 14.

CMAP Reinventing Integrated Regional Planning In NE Illinois: "Skunk Works"

Participated in think tank at the request of CMAP on September 25.

CMAP Transportation Management and Operations (TM&O) Work Group

A meeting was held on September 26 at which time CMAP staff requested assistance in obtaining participation from the region's operators.

Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA)

No meetings were held during the quarter.

IDOT- DPIT

Met with IDOT staff to develop a scope of work for the database project for use by IDOT and the ICCT.

Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation (ICCT)

Participated in a meeting held on July 12 regarding creation of a geographic funding database and on September 7 to discuss progress in developing a scope of work for the database with IDOT- DPIT.

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 given comments of the trip generation component, maintained continuous communication and is preparing an interim report.

Center for Supply Chain Management and Logistics

Providing in-kind match to the project which received seed funding from UIC. Also providing joint sponsorship with the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, World Business Chicago, Metropolis 2020 and UIC assisting in planning for the Global Supply Chain Workshop to be held on November 21.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

Moving Beyond Congestion

Attended meeting on July 25 and agreed to partner with RTA on the project.

Working Together In The 21st Century

Cosponsored and facilitated an Interactive Economic Development Summit with CMAP at UIC on August 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 July 10, July 26, August 16 and September 7 and 18 in preparing the program and planning for the meeting to be held on November 21. Also cosponsoring the event. UIC faculty is leading two breakout sessions on Transportation Costs and Freight Development Patterns.

TRF Chicago Chapter

On August 3, Gerald Rawlings presented his working paper on Intermodal Volumes III: Serial Measuring, Tracking and Anticipating Levels of Activity in Northeastern Illinois.

International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technology in Transportation

A presentation on Computer Assisted Scheduling and Dispatch Systems for Paratransit Deployment was given at the conference in Chicago in August.

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. Attended meetings on August 23, September 18 and 28 in preparation for the event. Developed and will coordinate a mobile workshop titled "Neighborhood Arts and Transit: Cultural Excursions on the Pink Line" to be held on November 6.

DuPage Discovery Conference

Attended the workshop on September 15.

Transit Higher Education Working Group

Hosted a meeting at the request of RTA of universities and colleges in the region on September 21 to establish stronger links between higher education and public transit.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT QUARTER

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Attitude Surveys- Await direction from IDOT.

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

Making Truck-Rail Intermodal Competitive- Begin study upon MRUTC grant approval.

Regional Intermodal Freight Planning- Continue participation on CMAP IATF and the Global Supply Chain Forum to be held on November 21.

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. The journal article will be submitted as revised and the research on changing travel times to work continues.

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. Assist Sen. Garrett in obtaining JARC grant and employers in marketing the proposal.

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 provider surveys and begin analysis. Also, agreed to summarize and analyze a one page consumer survey of ADA special service users in Lake County. 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- Await direction from CMAP work group.

Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Data- Continue to develop work scope and submit to federal or regional partners for funding. Begin analysis upon execution of an agreement.

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

Moss Thesis Proposal- Participate in thesis defense

Ramp HOV- Begin work upon funding and contract approval.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

CMAP Community Mobility and Seniors and Persons with Disabilities Task Forces- Ongoing assistance to CMAP and attend meeting on July 24.

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

CMAP Private Providers Task Force- Ongoing assistance to CMAP.

CMAP Jobs-Housing-Transportation Advisory Committee- Continue participation as requested by CMAP.

CMAP TM&O- Ongoing participation and assistance to CMAP to obtain regional operators participation.

GNMAA- Ongoing assistance GNMAA Transportation Committee.

IDOT- DPIT- Complete scope of work and begin developing statewide database.

ICCT- Continued participation and planning to attend meeting on December 7.

Peoria MPO- Await comment from IDOT and Peoria regarding continued assistance to the metro area in the development of travel demand models.

Champaign MPO- Continue providing assistance on the trip generation component for the Champaign metro area and complete report.

WORKSHOPS, TRAINING AND VISITING SCHOLARS

Striving to be the Best: Employer TDM Programs that Deliver Results to Employees and Stockholders- Jointly sponsoring netconference with ACT on October 18.

Rail-Volution 2006- Continue participation on program planning committee for event to take place on November 5 through 8.

Neighborhood Arts and Transit: Cultural Excursion on the Pink Line- Leading a mobile workshop as part of Rail~Volution on November 6.

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.

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

9th 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

Locomotive Horns

ITS Deployment Analysis System (IDAS) Workshop

Intermodal Volumes III: Serial Measuring, Tracking and Anticipating Levels of Activity in Northeastern Illinois Workshop

CMAP TDM Annex

Annual Meeting of the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Annual Meeting of the TMA of Lake Cook

DuPage Discovery Conference

International Conference on Applications of Advanced Technology in Transportation

CMAP Interactive Economic Development Conference

CMAP Reinventing Integrated Regional Planning in NE Illinois: “Skunk Works”

RTA Higher Education Summit: Moving Beyond Congestion

Working Together in the 21st Century Summit

10/06/06