Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS)
Technical Committee

MINUTES – APPROVED AS DISTRIBUTED

DATE: Wednesday, December 1, 2010
TIME: 10:30 a.m.
PLACE: Champaign County Regional Planning Commission – John Dimit Meeting Room
1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802

Technical Voting Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Present</th>
<th>Absent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Champaign County</td>
<td>Jeff Blue</td>
<td>John Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign County</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Champaign</td>
<td>Roland White (Vice Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbana</td>
<td>Libby Tyler</td>
<td>Rob Kowalski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urbana</td>
<td>Bill Gray (Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savoy</td>
<td>Dick Helton</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savoy</td>
<td>Brent Maue</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCRPC</td>
<td>Cameron Moore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIUC</td>
<td>Morgan Johnston</td>
<td>Helen Coleman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UIUC</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUMTD</td>
<td>Bill Volk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDOT Dist 5</td>
<td>Bob Nelson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDOT Dist 5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Others Present: Tom Caldwell & Tom Kelso (IDOT), Betsy Tracy (FHWA), Cynthia Hoyle (CUMTD), Ralph Langenheim (Champaign Co Board), Dave Clark (Champaign), Mike Smeltzer (UC2B), Gary Cziko, George Boyd

CUUATS Staff: Rita Black, Gabe Lewis, Sharif Ullah, Eric Hansen, Nicole George, Beth Brunk

II. Roll Call
The roll was taken by written record and a quorum was declared present.

III. Audience Participation
None

IV. Approval of Agenda
There being no changes or additions, Mr. Volk made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Helton seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.
V. Approval of Minutes
A. CUUATS Technical Committee Meeting – September 1, 2010
There being no changes or additions, Ms. Tyler made a motion to approve the September 1, 2010 minutes of the CUUATS Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. White seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

VI. New Business
A. Urbana-Champaign Big Broadband (UC2B) Presentation – Michael Smeltzer
Mike Smeltzer of UC2B gave an overview of the project to bring high speed internet to Champaign, Urbana and Savoy. An intergovernmental consortium of the cities of Champaign, Urbana and the University received funding from the following sources: $22.5 million ARRA grant, $3.5 million from the state and $3.5 million from local partners. Seven fiber optic rings will span the community to connect 273 anchor institutions including schools, social agencies, healthcare facilities, etc. that serve vulnerable populations such as the elderly, youth, disabled and poor.

The second part of the project is to expand broadband internet access to 11 census block groups (Champaign–6, Urbana–5) that are categorized as low-income areas. These underserved customers will qualify for baseline service of 5Mbps symmetrical connection to the internet at $19.99/month.

The environmental assessment has been completed with no significant impact found. The University’s Board of Trustees has approved the engineering firm of Shive-Hatterly, Inc., and it is anticipated that they will be on the job next Monday, 12/6. Construction will be bid in three packages, Champaign/Savoy, Urbana and University areas, so that these entities can control their right-of-ways. A tentative construction timetable includes bids for the project in March 2011, groundbreaking in June 2011, rings and some fiber-to-curb built in summer 2011 with the rest completed in summer 2012. Two-thirds of the grant money must be spent by 1/31/12.

Benefits from the project include redundant fiber connections throughout the community and economic development for the local economy. Once the pilot project is built and functioning in the 11 census blocks then it is reasonable to expand the system to connect other neighborhoods pending City Council approval.

IDOT wants to use the fiber in 50 locations to create an intelligent transportation system which will utilize cameras, sensors, etc. Fiber has been earmarked for IDOT to use but the grant cannot pay for the connection from the ring to the proposed IDOT sites. That expense will have to be funded from a separate source of money.

Ms. Hoyle asked who would manage the system in the future. Ms. Smeltzer responded that UC2B will most likely transition into a limited liability corporation or a not-for-profit for liability purposes within the next 2-3 months. The management structure has not yet been determined. Ms. Johnston inquired about the laying of the conduit via directional boring or trenching. Ms. Smeltzer thought that the contractor will determine whatever system is appropriate – the county roads will probably be trenched and directional boring will be used in town.

B. Approval of Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments – Gabe Lewis
1. IDOT District 5
IDOT has two projects to add to the TIP for the FY 2011 State HIP table:
- $225,000 for patching on I-57 south of Olympian Drive to Champaign County Highway 11 near Thomasboro and I-74 in Vermilion County.
- $170,000 for the replacement of the existing copper wire in traffic signals to fiber optic cable at 5 locations in Champaign-Urbana: US-45 from Race Street to Vine Street; US-45 from Burwash Avenue to Curtis Road; US 45 from Devonshire Drive to Windsor Road; US-45 from University Avenue to Kerr Avenue; and Lincoln Avenue north of I-74 to Killarney Street.
2. **Champaign County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD)**
   CCFPD intends to use $1,657,860 to convert the abandoned rail corridor to Rails-to-Trails in Champaign and Vermilion Counties - $892,580 Federal money from an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) grant and $765,280 in local match money.

3. **City of Urbana**
   Urbana also received an ITEP grant for the Main Street Bike Lane & Pedestrian Improvements project. The total allocated amount for the project is $782,414 - $625,930 from the ITEP grant and $156,483 in local match money.

**Mr. Volk** made a motion to approve all the IDOT TIP amendments as discussed. **Ms. Johnston** seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

C. **Federal Change to Ozone Standards – Betsy Tracy**
   The US-EPA is considering a reduction to the ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) set in 2008. While there is no decision to date, the new standard is anticipated to be in the range from 60 to 70 ppb. Since Champaign County’s current ozone standard is at 66 ppb, any value at 65 ppb or below would mean that the county would be designated as a nonattainment area. A program would have to be developed to reduce air pollution to the levels that are consistent with US-EPA air quality goals.

   A nonattainment designation triggers a transportation conformity requirement so that any new transportation project must demonstrate through modeling that it will not contribute to new violations, increase the severity of the current violation or delay any interim milestone for attainment. If a nonattainment area does not make sustained progress in meeting their interim goals in reducing their air pollution, sanctions such as withholding state or federal funding of transportation projects will be enacted. **Ms. Tracy** noted that some communities have formed air quality task force groups to be proactive in addressing this issue. Mr. Gray commented that green and sustainable initiatives which promote more biking, walking or efficiency in transportation such as signal coordination could play a role in mitigation if our area is classified as nonattainment.

D. **Approval of 2011 Meeting Schedule – Rita Black**
   Ms. Black noted that in May, both the CUUATS Policy and Technical Committees meet on the same day to facilitate the time constraints involved in the approval process for the UTWP and TIP documents. Mr. Blue stated that the December CUUATS Technical Committee meeting conflicts with the Bituminous Paving Conference which other members of the Committee may be attending. Mr. Helton suggested that both CUUATS Policy and Technical Committees meet on December 14th similar to the format in the May meetings. The Committee agreed.

   **Ms. Johnston** made a motion to approve the 2011 CUUATS Technical Committee meeting schedule as amended to include the date change in December. **Mr. Helton** seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

E. **Overview of CUUATS: Organization, Federal Requirements, Funding – Rita Black**
   At the last CUUATS Technical Committee meeting in September, there was discussion concerning the role of CUUATS as an MPO, the number of votes per agency and member contribution levels. As a result, Ms. Black prepared a presentation called “MPO 101, Introduction to the Purpose and Function of a Metropolitan Planning Organization” which can be found on the CUUATS website: [http://www.ccrpc.org/transportation/index.php](http://www.ccrpc.org/transportation/index.php).

   Ms. Black stated the responsibilities of the MPO staff – to provide information and technical support to the CUUATS Policy and Technical Committee members in a format easily understood so the Policy Committee can make informed decisions. Staff does not enforce the decisions approved by the Policy Committee.

   **Mr. White**, **Mr. Helton** and **Ms. Tyler** left the meeting at this time.
In 1964, all existing CUUATS Policy Committee members had one vote which is the same structure as today. As for the CUUATS Technical Committee, the number of votes per agency has changed over the years. Moving forward, Ms. Black recommended that each participating agency in the Technical Committee have one vote similar to the Policy Committee. Ms. Tracy commented that CUUATS is a unique MPO in that the University and MTD have voting rights in their Policy Committee.

In researching other MPOs in Illinois, Ms. Black found that the agency membership fees were mostly based on population. If that formula were adopted by CUUATS, the County, Urbana and Savoy would stay at approximately the same level but Champaign’s membership fee would double. Ms. Black could not find any documentation on how the current membership payments were established. A 5% increase of agency membership fees is assessed annually to provide a buffer for the local match in case increased Federal funding occurs. There is currently approximately $20,000 in this local match reserve account.

Ms. Black presented a spreadsheet showing that the money allocated from CUUATS member agencies (local match) and federal sources pay for 60-65% of CUUATS staff time. The remaining 35-40% comes from outside contracts and grants for extra projects. Mr. Moore stated that this demonstrates the importance of consulting for CUUATS which is key to maintaining the current level of operation and staff. In the last eight years, CUUATS staff has been instrumental in acquiring $11,245,210 in grant revenue.

Mr. Volk asked what would be the most efficient way to update the CUUATS Intergovernmental Agreement. Ms. Black responded that she will modify the voting structure of the Technical Committee as discussed and make a few minor changes then distribute the updated document for member input. The comments and changes will be presented at the next CUUATS Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Langenheim would like to distribute this presentation to the Champaign County Board membership.

VII. Old Business
A. Subcommittee and Agency Reports
Mr. Volk motioned to defer Subcommittee and Agency reports to the CUUATS Policy Committee meeting on December 8th. Ms. Johnston seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously.

B. Announcements
Ms. Black had the following announcements:
1. CUUATS has hired a new planner, Eric Hansen. He has received his Master’s Degree from the University of Illinois in Urban & Regional Planning and has worked with the Land Use Evolution & Impact Assessment Model (LEAM).
2. CUUATS submitted a paper on how TRANSIMS can be used in small MPOs which was selected for presentation by Mr. Ullah at the 2011 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Annual Meeting in January.
3. FHWA has distributed a brochure, “Getting the Most from Your Transportation System Investments: Operating for Peak Performance”, which has quoted CUUATS Policy Committee member, Barbara Wysocki on using performance based approaches in the LRTP 2035.
4. The data update on performance measures for the LRTP 2035 was distributed to the Committee members for their review. Any comments should be directed to Ms. Black so that the final document can be placed on CUUATS’s website.
5. Ms. Hoyle announced that the CU-SRTS project will sponsor Mark Fenton to do work with the community on January 13-14th. He will conduct an in-service training seminar with the Urbana School District and an evening public presentation at the Art Theater on January 13th.
Mr. Fenton recently facilitated the “Equal Footing Summit” Meeting to develop a national strategy for improving walkability and pedestrian safety in the country.

VIII. Audience Participation

Gary Cziko of Urbana

Mr. Cziko mentioned the Walk Friendly Communities (WFC) program launched by the Federal Highway Administration and FedEx in October. This initiative encourages communities to improve pedestrian safety and develop a comprehensive plan for walking.

As of 11/30/10, there were 2,073 modern roundabouts in the United States. Currently we have four in the urbanized Champaign-Urbana area – three in Champaign and one in Urbana. Mr. Cziko would like to see more in our community and encouraged CUUATS Technical Committee members to attend the National Roundabout Conference in Carmel, Indiana on May 18-20th.

George Boyd of Urbana

Mr. Boyd noted that only two people represent the public at today’s CUUATS Technical Committee meeting. The public involvement process needs to be improved so community members are included at the beginning of projects. The big.small.all project is an example of a well-advertised event which promoted excellent public involvement. Perhaps getting information out on the radio or television would help increase public participation.

Mr. Boyd has seen roundabouts as small as 12’ in diameter and thinks the intersection of University Avenue and Cunningham Avenue would be an excellent location for a roundabout. The most difficult part of roundabouts is getting people to use them.

Mr. Boyd expressed his concern that many motorists and bicyclists do not understand the rules of the road.

While there is always room for improvement, Mr. Gray commented that CUUATS staff does an exemplary job in notifying the public about the transportation meetings. Mr. Volk noted that two of the three federally mandated documents, the UTWP and TIP are really internal documents that have limited public interest. However, the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a federal requirement which goes through extensive public participation every five years.

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Volk made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnston seconded. Upon vote, the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Gray adjourned the meeting at 12:36 p.m.