

Minutes of Meeting
SATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
November 7, 2013

ATTENDANCE**Technical Committee Voting Members**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nathan Bottom, Chair	City of Springfield
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tim Zahrn, Vice Chair	Sangamon County
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mike Williamsen	Village of Chatham
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Frank Squires	Springfield Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Norm Sims	Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Laura Mlacnik*	Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT): Region 4, District 6

* Represented by Sal Madonia

Technical Committee Advisors – Non-Voting

<input type="checkbox"/>	Thomas Caldwell	IDOT: Urban Program Planning
<input type="checkbox"/>	JD Stevenson	Federal Highway Administration: Illinois Division Office
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Terry Fountain*	IDOT: District 6: Local Roads and Streets
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Stead	Illinois Commerce Commission
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mark Hanna	Springfield Airport Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>		IDOT: Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation

* Represented by Ron Rybolt

Others

Jim Moll - Hanson Professionals
 Tim Landis – State Journal-Register
 Kristin Timmons – Crawford Murphy and Tilly
 Elliott McKinley – Springfield Park District
 Ed Dougherty – IDOT District 6 Community Liaison
 Brad Mills – Regional Planning Commission
 Dale Schultz – Regional Planning Commission
 Linda Wheeland – Regional Planning Commission
 Neha Soni – Regional Planning Commission
 Brian Sheehan – Regional Planning Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Nathan Bottom called the meeting of the SATS Technical Committee to order at 8:30 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –SATS Technical Committee Meeting

Chair Bottom asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the October 3, 2013 Technical Committee meeting. Tim Zahrn made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted and Norm Sims seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

III. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**A. Update**

Linda Wheeland announced that the 2040 update to the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) would begin shortly, with the potential schedule distributed to committee members (see attachment). Wheeland stated that first on the document were components of the SATS Public Participation Plan related to the update of the LRTP. A Citizens' Advisory Committee will be formed as well as a Community Advisory Committee, composed of communities that are not represented on SATS.

Wheeland posed the question as to whether the township road districts should be included on the Community Advisory Committee. Tim Zahrn stated that he believed it was a good idea to include said

districts. Without any other comments coming from the committee, Wheeland stated that she would follow through with extending the invitation to the road districts, as well as the Springfield Park District.

The plan also indicates the inclusion of “Interactive Activities” such as workshops, forums, and technology-based opportunities to facilitate public engagement. Wheeland summarized the tentative schedule for the creation of the 2040 LRTP, which includes the use of the INVEST System Planning Module to help SATS go above and beyond the requirements of MAP-21 in the update of the LRTP. Specific details on the development of the 2040 LRTP, with an expected completion date of March 2015, may be found in the attachment at the end of this document.

Tim Zahrn asked Wheeland when she expected the “Survey of Citizens” element of the Public Participation Plan (PPP) to be completed. Wheeland stated that it would be done no later than May, as she believed it would be important to complete it early in the process in order that it properly influence the LRTP update. She also hoped to work with the Citizens Advisory Committee to create the survey.

IV. FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

A. Amendment #1 (High Speed Rail Crossings)

Mike Stead introduced Amendment #1:

RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE FY/2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS), in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Transportation, has a comprehensive, cooperative, and continuing (3C) planning process for transportation planning in compliance with Federal regulations for the urbanized area; and

WHEREAS, the Springfield Area Transportation Study approved the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY/2014-2017 on October 10, 2013; and

WHEREAS, conversion of the Union Pacific Railroad corridor to a high-speed facility through Sangamon County presents public safety issues; and

WHEREAS, proper investigation has been made of the circumstances surrounding four crossings in the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) at Woodside Road, Walnut Street in Chatham, Ostermeier Road, and Cherry Grove School Road and four crossings outside of the MPA located in southern Sangamon County at Hambuch Road and Washington Street, Madison Street and W. Divernon Road in Auburn; and

WHEREAS, in consultation with the Union Pacific Railroad, Sangamon County Highway Department, Chatham Township Road District, Village of Chatham and the City of Auburn, the Illinois Commerce Commission and the Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Railroads have determined that the installation of four-quadrant flashing light signals and gates with a bell, controlled by constant warning time circuitry at these eight crossings is in the best interest of public safety; and

WHEREAS, the project to install the safety equipment will be funded through the Grade Crossing Protection Fund (GCPF) and a grant from the Federal Highway Administration’s Railway-Highway Crossing Hazard Elimination in High-Speed Rail Corridors (R-HCHEH-SRC) program; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Transportation District 6 and the Illinois Commerce Commission request that the FY-2014 Annual Element of the FY/2014-2017 TIP be amended by adding the project as shown below; and

Project Description and Funding:

Project/Jurisdiction/Class	Description	Action/Comments	Funding Source	Total Cost
A1 Union Pacific High-Speed Rail Corridor	Termini: Woodside Road Walnut Street (Chatham) Ostermeier Road Cherry Grove School Road Hambuch Road Washington Street (Auburn) Madison Street (Auburn) Divernon Road	Installation of four-quadrant flashing light signals and gates with a bell, controlled by constant warning time circuitry.	GCPF	3,156,153
	Project#		R-HCHEH-SRC	726,912
	TIP# 20-2014-01			
Illinois Commerce Commission Minor Arterials, Collectors, Local Roads				\$3,883,065

WHEREAS, the funding used for this project will not affect any other project in the TIP; and

Norm Sims asked Stead where closings outside of the 3rd Street and 10th Street corridors would occur, and Stead stated that IDOT is already working with a number of local road authorities on the closure of many grade crossings, including many located to the south of Springfield that have already been closed. One such crossing on which agreement for closure has occurred between Chatham and Auburn is on Narmont Road just north of Auburn, which will be implemented upon the construction of a new connector road. Sims stated the importance of this was to determine how the countywide road network would be affected, especially as the closings would require inclusion in the SATS travel demand model. Stead stated that he would work with IDOT in order get that information to SATS.

Norm Sims made a motion to recommend approval of the amendment to the Policy Committee. Sal Madonia seconded the motion and the vote to recommend approval was unanimous.

Linda Wheeland announced that after the October Technical Committee meeting a public comment was received on the Draft 2014-17 TIP, which was considered by the Policy Committee, as follows:

Comment:

“The transportation improvements planned for W. Wabash Ave. are much needed and will be a welcome project for this Centennial Park resident. However, I did not see any plans to widen and repave Lenhart Road, or tying it and/or Bunker Hill into the Wabash project.”

“Lenhart Road is simply dangerous, and has much more traffic than the road was ever designed to accommodate. It is in terrible shape and in desperate need of an upgrade. Developers want to develop more and more property in this area, and it can't handle the traffic now. Trying to make a left turn onto Wabash from Bunker Hill is nearly impossible, too. Is this need on anyone's plans for improvements?”

The response from the SATS Policy Committee was as follows:

“The Wabash Avenue widening project includes the realignment of Bunker Hill Road to the Ash Grove intersection with Wabash Avenue and the installation of traffic signals. The reconstruction and widening of Lenhart Road is included in the SATS Long Range Transportation Plan but is not programmed during the four-year timeframe of the Transportation Improvement Program.”

V. TECHNICAL ADVISOR UPDATES**A. Illinois Department of Transportation: Central Bureau of Urban Program Planning**

No report was given.

B. Federal Highway Administration: Illinois Division Office

No report was given.

C. Illinois Department of Transportation: Local Roads and Streets

No report was given.

D. Illinois Commerce Commission

No report was given.

E. Springfield Airport Authority

Mark Hanna announced that the Airport Authority would be finishing up their Five-Year TIP shortly and would forward it on to SATS.

F. Illinois Department of Transportation: Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation

No report was given.

VI. AGENCY UPDATES**A. Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission**

Norm Sims announced that Planning Commission staff is continuing to work with IDOT regarding the performance measures guidance as mandated by MAP-21. The expectation had originally been that federal guidance on safety performance measures would have become available by the October meeting of the Performance Management Technical Advisory Group (TAG), but this did not come to pass, and is not expected to do so until January. Sims stated that although there is a TAG meeting scheduled to discuss performance measures on roads and bridges on December 9th, federal guidance will not be available by that date, so it may be a wasted effort.

Linda Wheeland stated, as had been previously reported, that she and Neha Soni had been invited to attend the annual meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) during the week of October 21 in Portland, Oregon. Wheeland added that the presentation on the use of the Project Development module of INVEST for Peoria Road went extremely well, and added that it was the only presentation at the conference that showed the conceptual use of INVEST on a project. Wheeland mentioned that she and Soni had been in discussion with FHWA regarding hosting a workshop on INVEST for MPOs in the state of Illinois.

In addition to SATS being the only MPO in Illinois to have used INVEST, and one of only two agencies statewide (the other being the Illinois Tollway Authority), Sims stated that at a recent meeting of an Illinois MPO working group, most MPO representatives told him they had not even heard of INVEST. Sims added that due to INVEST's points system on various measures of a project's sustainability, he believes that this will be the means through which the MAP-21 mandated performance measures will be developed.

Wheeland stated that this was the first time anyone from SATS had taken part in an AMPO conference, and added that the conference as a whole was very informative, and fit well to the work that SATS does on a regular basis, including sessions on best practices and various things happening at the federal level.

Wheeland added that in the wake of the lack of a quorum on the originally scheduled meeting date for

October's Policy Committee meeting, she requested that each member of the Technical Committee send a list of people who may substitute for the primary representative of an agency should he or she be unable to attend.

Wheeland noted that in the past, the SSCRPC and SATS have offered transportation planning micro-grants to smaller communities in the MPA. Four micro-grants have been awarded, all to develop pavement preservation plans. With the temporary vacancy of the transportation planning position formerly filled by Dan Begert, Wheeland suggested a continuation of the micro-grant program to specifically fund pavement preservation plans, consistent with goals and objectives in the LRTP and the SATS work program. The goal would be to target those communities that have not yet developed a pavement preservation plan. Tim Zahn noted the importance of these plans to the preservation of the existing road infrastructure through a planned fiscal program. It was the consensus of the Technical Committee to offer the micro-grants as presented.

Wheeland announced in following up from Dale Schultz's email to SATS members on the topic, that grant applications for Safe Routes to School (SRTS) are now open with some changes. School Travel Plans are no longer required, and now a 20 percent local match is needed. Infrastructure upgrades via an SRTS grant must be located within two miles of a school in the Kindergarten through 8th Grade range. The cap on funding for SRTS projects for infrastructure is \$160,000 with a \$40,000 local match.

B. Springfield Mass Transit District

No report was given.

C. City of Springfield

Nathan Bottom reported that the deck had been poured on the west side of the Chatham Road bridge (TIP # 02-2011-05) with work on the abutments presently ongoing. In addition, work on the design of the Carpenter Street underpass is ongoing, with an application in the works for money from the Illinois Commerce Commission to help pay for the costs. The hearing on the application is scheduled for November 26th.

Citing a fatal, single vehicle crash along Lawrence Avenue near Illinois Street, Norm Sims asked if Lawrence had previously been identified as a crash prone corridor. Sims stated that he had asked this due to some questions people had sent him via email regarding the topic, including whether or not the daily traffic volumes justified putting the street on a road diet. Bottom explained the city was working with IDOT to have a Road Safety Audit (RSA) conducted along the Lawrence Street corridor in the vicinity of Walnut Street and MacArthur Boulevard.

D. Sangamon County

No report was given.

E. Illinois Department of Transportation: Region 4, District 6

Sal Madonia reported that IDOT had completed work on the project along Veterans Parkway and Jefferson Street (TIP # 04-2013-06). Construction on South 6th Street Road (TIP # 04-2013-12) is complete, with final surfacing and striping to be completed by the end of the year. In addition, work on intersection lighting along IL 97 at Koke Mill, Hazlett, and Moore roads (TIP # 04-2013-15) is also underway.

In addition, Madonia announced that District 6 would be taking part in IDOT's ADA Transition Plan, and would be meeting with every community in the district, and make an inventory of all sidewalks and curb ramps along routes with IDOT jurisdiction in the district. Madonia stated that work on this project would take place over a period of 12 months.

F. Village of Chatham

No report was given.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Small Community MPO Representation (Tabled)

Chairman Bottom indicated that no SATS member had requested the Small Community MPO Representation discussion be brought off the table.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 8:30 AM

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Bottom called to adjourn. Frank Squires made a motion to adjourn. Tim Zahrn seconded the motion and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

There being no further business, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:58 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Sheehan
Recording Secretary

Attachment

2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN DEVELOPMENT

A. Public Participation Elements from SATS PPP

- 1. Survey of Citizens**
(online, paper format at various locations)
- 2. Survey of Communities**
- 3. Citizen Advisory Committee**
- 4. Community Advisory Committee**
- 5. Interactive Activities**
(such as workshops, forums, technology-based opportunities)

B. Tentative Schedule

2013

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|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November | Staff will evaluate 2035 LRTP using INVEST System Planning Module
Staff will work with LSA to complete TransCad update
Staff will prepare materials developed under 2035 LRTP for SATS |
| December | Staff will present work done during November to SATS Technical Committee for review and discussion
Staff will work with LSA to complete TransCad update |

2014

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|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| January | Staff will contact communities to form Community Advisory Committee
Staff will invite participants for Citizen Advisory Committee
SATS will continue discussion on 2040 LRTP |
| February | First meetings of Community Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee
SATS will continue discussion on 2040 LRTP |
| March – May | Public outreach activities
Advisory Committees continue meeting
SATS will continue discussion on 2040 LRTP |
| June – July | Advisory Committees' recommendations submitted to SATS. |

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| August – Dec | SATS finalizes Draft 2040 LRTP |
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2015

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| January | Draft 2040 LRTP made available for public review (30 day review period required) |
| March | SATS adopts 2040 LRTP |