

Minutes of Meeting
SATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
August 7, 2014

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 checked="" 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"/>	Jeff Myers*	Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT): Region 4, District 6

* Represented by Wes Clark

Technical Committee Advisors – Non-Voting Members

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

* Represented by Traci Cline-Carter

Others

Elliott McKinley – Springfield Park District
Stan Hansen – Crawford Murphy & Tilly
Ed Dougherty – IDOT District 6 Community Liaison
Kurtis Young – Citizens Advisory Committee
Joe Agner – Citizens Advisory Committee
Dale Lael – Village of Jerome
Brian Davis – Sangamon County
Bill Davison – Knight E/A
Amy Uden – Regional Planning Commission
Neha Soni – Regional Planning Commission
Linda Wheeland – 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 8:31 AM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES –SATS Technical Committee Meeting

Chairman Bottom asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 3, 2014 Technical Committee meeting. Norm Sims made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Frank Squires seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

III. 2035 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP)**A. LRTP Progress Report for September**

Linda Wheeland announced that staff would be putting together the 4.5 Year Progress Report for the September meeting. SATS members would receive spreadsheets in the coming days to be returned completed with the status of their projects.

B. 2040 LRTP Update

i. Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) Recommendations

Linda Wheeland reminded committee members that the recommendations of the Citizens Advisory Committee were sent out two weeks in advance of the Technical Committee meeting, in order that members had plenty of time to review them in advance of the meeting. Wheeland then introduced Joe Agner and Kurtis Young, two members of the CAC, were in attendance to present the recommendations and answer any questions committee members may have.

Joe Agner introduced himself, and thanked the committee for the opportunity for him and other members of the CAC to provide their input. Agner explained the process the committee undertook, as facilitated by Linda Wheeland. All committee members took their work seriously. Initially each committee member offered their ideas on the transportation system which were discussed by the full committee over a number of meetings resulting in 43 issues to be addressed. The committee then met in five smaller groups where the ideas were refined into specific recommendations. These were presented to and finalized by the full committee. Agner thanked transportation planning staff for their hard work in support of the CAC and then presented highlights from the recommendations.

- Among the pieces of data that the CAC considered was car ownership by household. Agner stated that he and other CAC members were shocked to see that there are neighborhoods where more than 20 percent of the households lack access to a private vehicle. Committee members eventually chose 16 percent as the threshold for identifying and prioritizing specific neighborhoods in need of improved access to SMTD bus service and improvements to facilities proposed in the bicycle and pedestrian plan.
- The CAC identified 8 priority corridors for bicycle infrastructure that could support travel by residents of these neighborhoods, particularly to jobs and education, that in turn would benefit overall economic development as well as increase the level of transportation connectivity among neighborhoods.
- Another priority consideration was sidewalk access to SMTD bus stops and schools.
- To further address access for all citizens the committee recommended developing a more robust complete streets plan.
- CAC members also support the idea of the proposed multi-modal center as not only a transportation facility, but also as an economic development focus area.
- The committee also thought the Planning Commission staff could serve as a central point for coordination and communication on plan progress so the various networks in the transportation system could develop in a cooperative manner.

Agner concluded by thanking the Planning Commission staff for their work and input in facilitating this dialogue and in helping them properly fulfill their roles

Kurtis Young added that all CAC members felt the multi-modal center would be a vital addition to the transportation system as well as a catalyst for redevelopment in the area. The facility will support travel of all citizens in Springfield.

Norm Sims asked why little discussion was made on issues related to freight transport and motor vehicles, and suggested that it may be because the transportation system is already at an optimal performance for these modes. Agner stated that there were still 12 recommendations concerning these modes. One in particular suggests using technology to communicate travel information including the

preferred corridors for freight trucks to use in the area.

Mike Williamsen expressed concern regarding the lack of anything specific on how these recommendations could be funded. Joe Agner noted that he and all the other members of the CAC are very active in their groups, are very interested in the implementation of these recommendations, and would be willing to work on supporting actions needed to fund projects.

Linda Wheeland then thanked the CAC for their hard work on the recommendations, their great input, and their ability to come to consensus despite coming from diverse backgrounds and perspectives. She said that it was a great experience for staff to work with the committee.

ii. Proposed Schedule

Linda Wheeland noted that a proposed schedule for developing the 2040 LRTP had been sent to committee members with the agenda. Committee members will be working between now and December to create a draft plan. In August, based on the public input received, a vision statement will be created followed by a discussion of goals. Based on federal guidance and SATS interest the goals will support the vision, public input, the nine national planning factors used in development of the 2035 plan, the seven MAP-21 goals, the INVEST goals, and FHWA's planning emphasis areas, including performance based planning and programming, and the Ladders of Opportunity program. Wheeland added that she wanted to do a little preliminary discussion on the roads network, with specific networks addressed from September through December. While addressing each network, Wheeland mentioned that the relevant public comments would also be addressed. Finalization of the draft plan would happen in December, which would allow for the public to view and make comments on it in January, allow SATS to address the comments in February, and move for final adoption in March.

Thomas Caldwell asked Wheeland if meetings could be set up specifically to go over the LRTP, to allow for adequate preparation for each step in the process. Wheeland stated that she agreed, and Caldwell added that it would be too overwhelming to have only one meeting each month to complete each step in the process.

iii. Vision Development

Wheeland stated that she had sent out the two vision statements from the advisory committees in order to help start discussion on the topic. Mike Williamsen asked if the current plan has a vision statement, and Wheeland said that it did not. Thomas Caldwell added that it might be helpful to look at other MPOs' vision statements to inform SATS in their process of doing the same. Wheeland stated that she thought the statements presented by each committee were thoughtful and presented a good vision specific to the regional context.

Norm Sims suggested the vision statements provided by the Citizens Advisory was a comprehensive vision for the area while the vision presented by the Communities Advisory Committee provided good bullet points for goal development. Tim Zahrn stated that the goals from the previous LRTP fit well into the vision statements developed by each committee.

Norm Sims made a motion to approve adoption of the Citizens Advisory Committee's vision statement as an interim statement and to use the five bullet points from the Communities Advisory Committee vision statement in goal development. Tim Zahrn seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

iv. Goals Discussion

The staff was asked to develop draft goals and send them to committee members prior to the next meeting.

v. Preliminary Road Network Discussion

Wheeland proposed presenting the road network projects as follows:

- Committed Projects: List all fiscally constrained projects from the 2015-2018 TIP.
- Planned Projects: High priority projects for which some work has begun, for which funding is being sought, in areas with high potential for development, or are the next priority for consideration. (Looking out over the next 15 years.)
- Illustrative Projects: Projects that are a high priority to be undertaken in the out-years of the next 25 years to meet plan goals, or projects that are vital to the plan vision but are not anticipated to begin before 2040.

Norm Sims noted that it be important not to view the road network in isolation but to be cognizant of inter-connectivity across many modes. Linda Wheeland stated that it is important for all Tech Committee members to provide input on all modes, since the design of facilities for each form of transportation has an impact on all the other modes, such as how the design of the road network will affect the provision of public transit service.

Mike Williamsen then asked about where financial considerations were to come into play as part of the development of this plan. Linda Wheeland stated that the committed projects would already have funding sources identified. Potential sources of funding should be identifiable for the Planned Projects. The illustrative projects will be included to complete the vision but will not require specific funding information.

IV. FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

A. Surface Transportation – Urban (ST-U) Projects Update

i. Stanford Avenue Extension (TIP # 02-2010-09)

Nathan Bottom reported that there was little change from one month ago; the city has reviewed roughly 60 percent of the plans and land acquisition is expected to begin in the next month.

ii. Bradfordton Road Realignment (TIP # 03-2012-01)

Tim Zahn announced that the project development report for the project is presently under review by IDOT and that progress on the noise wall report remains at the same point as it was one month ago.

B. ST-U Application Process

Linda Wheeland announced that six applications had been received for ST-U funding and these had been forwarded to the Technical Committee voting members. Wheeland stated that in the past, SATS voting members would review the applications and send questions regarding the applications to staff, who would compile them and forward to the applicants who would address the questions in a presentation on their projects to the Technical Committee.

With clarification on the projects, Technical Committee members would rate and score each one and send their scores to staff who would average the scores. The averages would then be used to rank the projects and develop a recommendation to the Policy Committee on projects to be selected for funding. The Policy Committee would make the final decision on which projects would be funded. Wheeland asked the committee if this approach would work. Committee members agreed.

Wheeland then stated that some deadlines would have to be set in order to have the projects selected by November as requested by IDOT. The following schedule was agreed to:

August 20 th	ST-U application questions due to staff
August 21 st	Staff sends questions to each applicant
September 4 th	Project presentations at SATS Technical Committee meeting
September 18 th	Project scores submitted to staff by voting members

September 19th Staff sends average scores to voting members

Wheeland then requested setting a deadline for SATS members to send their proposed projects for the 2015-2018 TIP and suggested a deadline of August 15th. Frank Squires and Wes Clark stated that they would not be able to do so by then. The committee then agreed on an August 20th submission deadline.

Williamsen asked if the proposed Goldenrod Drive rail underpass should be included in the TIP. Wheeland clarified that since it would be receiving federal transportation funding (specifically from the Federal Railroad Administration) it would require inclusion in the TIP.

Discussion followed concerning how other MPOs in the state of Illinois go about developing their respective TIPs by June 30th. Wheeland asked if Thomas Caldwell could check with other MPOs as to what their process is for developing their TIPs.

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

No report was given.

F. IDOT – Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation (DPIT)

Francesco Bedini-Jacobini announced that at the end of September public meetings will be held for the Springfield Flyover and the 3rd/10th Street corridors. Additionally, Bedini-Jacobini said that the groundbreaking for the Carpenter Street underpass will take place on August 21st.

Linda Wheeland asked Bedini-Jacobini if he could forward information on the public meetings to staff so it may be posted on the SATS website. Bedini-Jacobini said he would do so.

VI. AGENCY UPDATES

A. Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

Norm Sims reported on a neighborhood survey conducted within the county. Results are on the SSCRPC website. Sims also reported that he and staff had met with FHWA personnel doing a Title VI review of IDOT. SATS activities related to Title VI were discussed and the meeting was good and informative.

Dale Schultz announced the results of the Curb Your Car (CYC) competition. The defending champions for each of the three categories of participating companies (by total number of employees) remained the same as last year. Memorial Health Care Sports Medicine was the winner for the small employers, Illinois Commerce Commission for the mid-sized employers, and the Department of

Revenue won the competition for the large employers group. There were twenty-one registered teams while twenty-seven employers had eligible participants. Schultz reported a total of 541 days of people curbing their cars among all participants. The largest proportion of participants chose to bike to work at least one day, a total of 100 of the individual participants. The total distance traveled by CYC participants was 3,825 miles. Schultz reported, based on anecdotal evidence, that many more unregistered people also participated. Schultz thanked the CYC sponsors and the planning committee for their work.

B. Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD)

Frank Squires announced that SMTD has continued with construction on their new compressed natural gas (CNG) station (TIP # 06-2012-09). Squires invited meeting attendees to call him if they are interested in stopping by to see the construction of a brand new, state of the art CNG station in person.

C. City of Springfield

Nathan Bottom announced that 190 of the 225 street overlays have been completed. Sidewalks (TIP # 02-2015-09) are about 40 percent complete, with seal coats approximately 95 percent done.

Bottom added that the concrete patching and alley maintenance contract was opening today, and that the Carpenter Street underpass (TIP # 02-2014-09) pre-construction meeting would be taking place on August 12th, with groundbreaking to begin on August 21st.

Lastly, Bottom mentioned that the Fayette Avenue bridge (TIP # 02-2011-08) had just reopened.

D. Sangamon County

Zahrn announced that work had begun on the 6 miles of work for the Pavement Management System projects (TIP # 03-2014-01) on Woodside Road, Iron Bridge Road, and Bradfordton Road. The contractor, P.H. Broughton, anticipates construction to begin on this project on August 18th.

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

Wes Clark announced that work on Wabash between Park and Koke Mill (TIP # 04-2014-03) was now complete. For the widening of Wabash Avenue to 5 lanes between Koke Mill Road and the Village of Curran (TIP # 04-2011-07) retaining walls at the I-72 interchange, with planned work on storm sewers remaining on hold pending utility relocations.

On Business 55 north of Andrew Road in Sherman (TIP # 04-2014-04), resurfacing is complete, with work on guardrail and striping to commence shortly.

Stage II of the project on I-72 east of Springfield (TIP # 04-2014-01) has begun on the bridge decks, with paving operations now underway.

Utility relocations remain ongoing on Dirksen Parkway between Ridge Avenue and Clear Lake Avenue (TIP # 04-2012-09).

Regarding reconstruction of a ramp at the Stevenson Drive interchange (TIP # 04-2014-07), Clark announced that work would begin after Labor Day.

Also, Clark announced and discussed three projects which were state funded only, and not part of the TIP:

- Bridge patching job on I-55 beginning after Labor Day. This covers bridges over the Sangamon River (southbound only), the IC railroad, and Sangamon Avenue.
- A microsilica overlay on the Madison Street bridge over Jefferson Street
- A patching project on Jefferson Street between Lewis and 9th streets

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. 2015-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Linda Wheeland reminded SATS members to complete and return their spreadsheets to staff by August 20th.

B. 2014 Parking Survey Document

Linda Wheeland announced that the 2014 Parking Survey was now up on the website. Wheeland added that no major changes were found this year. Occupancy rates were measured for the fourth straight year, showing some important patterns. These include:

- Roughly just over half of all spaces were occupied per each year's count
- Parking available to the general public has been at about 44 percent, contrary to the perception of parking unavailability in the downtown area

Norm Sims added that the results of a previous study showed that patrons of downtown shopping typically walked shorter distances to area businesses from their cars than do typical patrons of White Oaks Mall. Wheeland suggested that Downtown Springfield Inc. use this information as part of their marketing strategy.

C. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, September 4, 2014 at 8:30 AM

Wheeland asked if the Technical Committee was willing to wait until September 4th for any further discussion on the LRTP or if an extra meeting should be scheduled. Wheeland suggested an additional meeting in August to finalize the goals. The committee agreed to schedule a meeting on goals for August 21st at 8:00 am. *(Due to a conflict with the Carpenter Street Underpass groundbreaking ceremony the date was later changed to August 20th at 8:00 AM.)*

X. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Bottom called to adjourn. Mike Williamsen made a motion to adjourn. Wes Clark seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

There being no further business, the regular meeting of the SATS Technical Committee was adjourned at 10:02 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian Sheehan
Recording Secretary