



**Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee (GCM) ITS Priority Corridor  
Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 12, 2001, 5:00 – 5:45 p.m.  
2001 Mississippi Valley Conference  
Holiday Inn City Center – St. Claire Room**

**Meeting Minutes**

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Executive Committee

- Kirk Brown, IDOT
- Terry Mulcahy, WisDOT
- Cristine Klika, INDOT
- George Ostensen, FHWA

The Coordination Group:

- Dave Zattero, Chair, IDOT
- Mark Newland - INDOT
- Phil DeCabooter, WisDOT
- John Berg, FHWA
- Wendall Meyer, FHWA
- Dennis Lee, FHWA

Support:

- Chuck Sikaras, IDOT
  - Joe Ligas, Representing INDOT
  - Jeff Benson, URS/BRW
  - Daryl Taavola, URS/BRW
  - Matt Burt, URS/BRW
  - Mark Nelson, URS/BRW
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The Executive Committee held a meeting on July 12, 2001. Dick Smith, IDOT, chaired the meeting on behalf of Kirk Brown, IDOT. A list of attendees is included at the end of these minutes. Action items are listed in bold text.

A presentation outlining the meeting was distributed to the group.

**1. Introductions**

Introductions were made by the group.

**2. Corridor Program Plan (CPP) Update**

Jeff Benson, URS/BRW, gave a presentation on the GCM Program Plan Update. He discussed the purpose of the plan, the philosophy of corridor cooperation, the 5-year vision and the ITS Architecture.

Dave Zattero, IDOT, acknowledged the work of the consultant on successfully responding to the Executive Committee in developing the CPP Update. Zattero indicated that the budget represents a manageable program.

Zattero noted the importance of the Gateway Operations and Enhancements including activities in each state. The completion of Gateway Phase 1 is scheduled for June 2002, upon this completion, Gateway Phase 2 will move forward. The Traffic Systems Center (TSC) upgrade and linking transit information into the Gateway continues.

WisDOT Secretary Terry Mulcahy commended the group for their effort on the CPP Update. Mulcahy indicated that the program is focused and at a reasonable level.

Mulcahy agreed that URS/BRW did a good job on the plan and their effort needs to be sustained.

Mulcahy indicated that the focus is now on the mutual need to move forward with the activities, such as the Gateway. However, higher priority should be given to other activities in each state.

Mulcahy noted that the group addressed the concerns of the Executive Committee and did what was asked and is comfortable supporting the GCM Corridor.

Mark Newland, INDOT, noted that URS/BRW did a good job developing the Update and incorporating stakeholder input.

Newland stated that INDOT Commissioner Klika indicated support for the plan in an earlier meeting with himself and Jeff Benson.

Mulcahy motioned to approve the 2001 CPP Update. Newland seconded. The CPP Update was approved unanimously.

### **3. GCM Funding Activities**

Benson summarized GCM funding activities/strategies. The funding strategies include a united corridor pursuit of federal ITS Funds, philosophy of cost sharing, affirmation and continuation of State DOT funding support and continued aggressive pursuit of partnerships. Benson indicated that eventually continued support would come from the states. Benson noted the need to continue pursuing federal funds. He also indicated that the I-95 Corridor receives \$5 million/year. Benson asked the Executive Committee for guidance.

Mulcahy noted that with the new federal administration there is a need to understand what we are up against and to figure out the focus being taken with the TEA-21 reauthorization. Mulcahy suggested establishing a linkage with FHWA to find out what will be new or different with the reauthorization. This is something that should be done in the next 6 months.

Mulcahy noted the benefit of information sharing that results with consultant support for workshops. Consultants can help each state decide on their ITS agenda so that it is complimentary to GCM activities.

Benson mentioned the August 22 and 23, 2001 I-95 Corridor/GCM Corridor Incident Management Roundtable that is scheduled as a good example of information sharing.

Dick Smith, IDOT, indicated that Illinois is interested in working with Indiana and Wisconsin in pursuing earmarks. The next election will determine the strength of representation on committees, but it is already good.

Newland noted that Indiana has some representation on congressional committees but it is not as strong as Wisconsin or Illinois.

Mulcahy noted that Wisconsin has good congressional committee representation. He also noted that they need to work with the new administration because that is where dedicated corridor funding was lost in the past.

Zavattero noted the importance of multi-state initiatives. If reauthorization emphasizes multi-state, regional efforts, GCM will be in a good position.

Joe Ligas, representing INDOT, indicated that he recently attended an MPO Forum that dealt with regional issues. At this forum, there was emerging consensus for the need to look at a whole range of issues, including communications, land use, fiber infrastructure, water, etc. at a level that roughly corresponds to the GCM Corridor. There was talk that the new federal administration is encouraging larger, regional cooperation in planning.

Mulcahy noted a need to be cautious in broadening the range of activities coordinated through GCM. He also noted that he thinks it will be a long time before the cooperation in planning is a done deal. If we continue with what we are doing, we will fit well with what the MPO's are planning.

Ligas noted that the MPO's are trying to do what we have been doing with GCM, but with other things. This is a positive thing to see other groups recognizing the need for coordination.

Smith asked if the MPO's are scheduled to meet again. Ligas indicated that no clear plans for a meeting have emerged yet.

#### **4. GCM Corridor 15-month Timeline**

Benson summarized the GCM timeline as outlined in the presentation.

- n September 2001 – Complete Regional Architecture
- n October 2001 – Renew Coalition Understanding
- n 2002 – Assess the potential for broadening influence of program to include Minneapolis, Detroit, Indianapolis and St. Louis
- n Summer 2002 – Congressional Delegation Tour
- n October 2002 – ITS World Congress
- n October 2003 – Next Transportation Authorization Legislation succeeds TEA-21

Mulcahy noted that informing AASHTO is as important as informing congress. ***URS/ BRW to insert providing input on TEA-21 reauthorization to AASHTO in the GCM timeline.***

Smith noted that if there is going to be a congressional tour we need to look at the time for it in advance, since 2002 will be an election year. Congressional representatives schedules will fill quickly, therefore a date should be set far in advance for winter or spring of 2002.

Newland asked if congressional representatives are unavailable, if their staff would then attend the tour. Smith noted that congressional staff members, as well as key committee staff would be good tour participants.

Zavattero noted the need to consider the ITS World Congress in 2002, there is some synergy with GCM activities. Mulcahy noted that there could be a downside, he is not convinced that it is necessary to tie GCM and the World Congress together. There is nothing in the World Congress that can directly help our efforts in getting corridor funding through congress. Mulcahy suggested that it may be more valuable to do a congressional tour in Spring 2003, dependent on what we have to show off.

Norm Stoner, FHWA, noted that it might make sense to plan multiple tours, since coordinating across multiple congressional staff is difficult.

Smith noted that waiting until spring 2003 may be too late for a tour if we want to impact the reauthorization. Having a tour in spring 2003 to educate new key committee staff would be good however. Smith indicated that a tour in 2002 is a good idea. **Mulcahy agreed, but more focus is needed and input into the reauthorization through AASHTO will help.**

Zavattero asked if there is a focus for multi-jurisdictional issues in the AASHTO reauthorization comments. Beth Nachreiner, WisDOT, indicated that there are some papers on this issue, but she is not familiar with them. **Nachreiner noted that she would further research the reauthorization language prepared by AASHTO** and that AASHTO could not specifically endorse the "GCM Corridor".

Mulcahy noted that earmarks are not what we should be after because it is too parochial.

Phil DeCabooter, WisDOT, noted that we are talking more about dedicated funding through reauthorization, not earmarks. The group agreed to pursue dedicated funding.

**Smith noted that Illinois agrees to lead the effort in researching if ITS is included in the AASHTO reauthorization language. If not, he could suggest some wording and Nachreiner of WisDOT could submit it to AASHTO.**

## 5. Open Discussion

**Handout:** *Letter to FHWA regarding the "National Forum on Challenges with Multi-State/Jurisdictional Transportation Issues."*

The group reviewed the draft letter to the FHWA regarding the "National Forum on Challenges with Multi-State/Jurisdictional Transportation Issues."

Smith suggested that Terry Mulcahy should sign the letter as the new chair of the executive committee and it should be copied to Kirk Brown, IDOT, and Cristine Klika. **URS/BRW to make changes suggested by the group to the letter regarding participating in any future events concerning challenges with multi-state/jurisdiction transportation issues.**

## **6. Next Executive Committee Meeting, Other Business, and New Chairperson Designation**

The new chair of the Executive Committee is Terry Mulcahy of WisDOT. Mulcahy indicated that the next meeting would be a conference call in the fall.

### **Executive Committee July 12, 2001 Meeting Attendees**

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Representing</b></u>	<u><b>Phone</b></u>
Dave Zavattero	IDOT	(847) 705-4800
Chuck Sikaras	IDOT	(847) 705-4800
Dick Smith	IDOT	(217) 782-6332
Mike Williamsen	IDOT	(217) 782-7868
Mark Newland	INDOT	(317) 232-5523
Joe Ligas	Representing INDOT	(630) 985-0454
Beth Nachreiner	WisDOT	(608) 264-9523
Dan Yeh	WisDOT	(608) 266-2753
Terry Mulcahy	WisDOT	(608) 266-1114
Phil DeCabooter	WisDOT	(608) 267-0452
Jeff Benson	URS/BRW	(612) 373-6444
Daryl Taavola	URS/BRW	(612) 373-6529
Matt Burt	URS/BRW	(602) 648-2350
Norm Stoner	FHWA	(217) 492-4640