



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee (GCM) ITS Priority Corridor**  
**Executive Committee Meeting**  
**Thursday, July 13, 2006**

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The GCM (Gary-Chicago-Milwaukee) Executive Committee held a meeting on Thursday, July 13, 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to approve the Corridor Program Plan Update and set policy direction for the GCM ITS Corridor.

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**1. Introductions**

Thomas Sharp, Commissioner of INDOT, led introductions of members of the Executive Committee, FHWA Officials, and the Coordination Work Group. The list of those in attendance is given at the end of these meeting minutes. Sharp noted that the Executive Committee had directed the GCM Corridor to focus on improving freight transportation.

**2. GCM Corridor Program Plan Update – Freight Focus**

Jeff Benson of URS reviewed the outreach and development process used in developing the Corridor Program Plan (CPP) Update. At a meeting between the Executive Committee and trucking representatives, the top six needs that transportation agencies could help with were:

- Traveler Information
- Virtual Weigh Stations
- Construction Zones
- Rest Areas
- Weight Regulations
- Congestion Mitigation/Truck Only Lanes

Dan Shamo of URS reviewed the projects that were developed to address these needs and the activities the Corridor has already started:

- Freight Industry Outreach Campaign
- Regional Corridor Action Team
- Expanded Advance Notification Boundaries
- Dynamic Message Sign Deployment (DMS)
- Website Publication of Local Regulations
- Expanded Parking Facilities
- Develop and Operate Parking Facilities

Commissioner Sharp asked whether the group had assessed whether the traveler information currently available is being formatted in a way that is useful to the trucking industry customers. Shamo replied that the group had not yet, but that trucking industry representatives would be asked during the project development and again afterwards in the evaluation phase. The corridor needs to ask where truckers get their information from and how to effectively get

information out to them.

The Executive Committee members discussed activities in their states for enhancements to truck parking areas. IDOT Secretary Timothy Martin noted that his agency is starting to put changeable message signs up before entrances to let drivers know of conditions ahead so they can pull into the rest area if necessary. Indiana is working on a program to collect waste from drivers at rest stops. Eventually they would like to provide information at rest areas on times when roadway segments areas are typically congested.

There are many opportunities for public/private partnerships to enhance truck parking facilities. Facilities should meet the trucking industry's need to provide places for drivers to sleep so they can comply with Hours of Service regulations. These enhanced facilities should not compete with private sector facilities. Weigh stations could be used at times when they are traditionally closed.

WisDOT Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony, Jr. asked what the finished outcome of the Expanded Truck Parking Facilities project would be. Shamo replied that it would be a strategic level report, listing the kinds of facilities states could develop or enhance at specific sites. It would be up to the states to develop or enhance the sites. There is a Truck Parking Facilities Program in SAFETEA-LU, but it does not provide funding above the transportation funding distributed to states in the bill.

Jason Tai of IDOT asked if the GCM Corridor would be able to hone in on certain data sets, like needs of long-haul truckers. Shamo replied that the Corridor could do a market analysis with the help of the motor carrier associations to get information on needs of market sub-segments.

Deputy Secretary Anthony said that the plan provides a good focus for the corridor and thinks that this direction is appropriate. ***The Executive Committee directed the Coordination Work Group to develop a summary table of projects by state including budget and benefits to the trucking industry include in the CPP Update.*** Pending this change, the Update was approved.

***The Executive Committee also directed the Coordination Work Group to come up with a summary table putting the projects in priority order considering the operating savings they provide, what has the largest impact, what can be implemented sooner, and measures impacting the trucking industry.*** The table should recommend two or three projects that can be accomplished in six months. Benson noted that the Corridor passed a no-cost time extension with URS extending the program management support into early 2007. This should support carrying out the actions necessary for those two or three priority projects.

### **3. Plans for 2006/2007 Activities**

Shamo went over the actions for the projects planned for the next year. Plans include:

- Finalizing the work plan for the Wisconsin/Illinois Corridor Action Team
- Holding workshops to develop agreements for expanded DMS message notification

- Identify priority sites for new DMS deployment
- Incorporate local truck routes and restriction information onto webpage
- Coordinate truck parking efforts with Illinois Center for Transportation

#### 4. Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study

Todd Szymkowski of the University of Wisconsin reported on the Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Coalition. Earlier in the day at the Mississippi Valley Convention, a group was briefed on the Coalition's Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Freight Transportation Cooperation. The MOU was one of the outcomes of a three-year effort to define how freight activities should be handled in the ten state group including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. The members agreed with the MOU with some modifications:

- Create a Customer Committee to provide industry feedback, in addition to the Technical and Policy Committees.
- Rename the group the Mississippi Valley Freight Corridor Coalition
- Developing a charter by October
- Holding Quarterly conference calls

Szymkowski noted that another recommendation of the freight coalition was to implement a Traffic Operations Partner Coalition. A Concept of Development Report is available at <http://www.uppermidwestfreight.org/>.

Commissioner Sharp noted that the states want a tight focus to the group and want to see more implementation than studies. Potential topics include defining freight corridors now and in the future and identifying choke points or areas with the most urgent need for additional lanes. The coalition should also develop funding needs to help states determine how to allocate resources for implementation.

Secretary Martin suggested coordinating efforts between the GCM Corridor and the Mississippi Valley Freight Corridor Coalition to make sure that the groups do not duplicate efforts. *Mike Cline of INDOT will work on organizing the coordinating teleconferences.*

#### 5. 2005/2006 Activity Highlights

##### Indiana

Mike Cline of Indiana DOT gave an update on Indiana activity relevant to the GCM Corridor. INDOT has:

- created a Traffic Management Business Unit
- partnered with Tollway Road Concessions, leasing the Indiana Toll Road to the private company for 75 years
- transitioned to a statewide traffic management system and has begun using 800 MHz radio for communication between state police and freeway service patrol

vehicles

### Illinois

David Zavattero of Illinois DOT gave an update on activity in Illinois. IDOT has:

- enhanced the Gateway Traveler Information System to include comparative travel times and wireless access
- enhanced real-time incident reporting systems
- developed an e-mail traffic alert system
- partnered with the Illinois Tollway on a fiber sharing agreement, non-tolling readers at expressway/tollway connections, and comparative travel times
- assisted Lake County in developing its TMC and Passage system
- completed its statewide ITS Strategic Plan, statewide ITS architecture, and eight regional architectures
- developed a Statewide 511 System Charter and RFP
- partnered with RTA to develop a multi-modal trip planning system

### Wisconsin

Kelly Langer of WisDOT reported on WisDOT's highlights, including:

- Making the Milwaukee MONITOR TMC the statewide traffic management center
- Implementing a statewide incident notification system

### GCM

In addition to the Corridor Program Plan process and freight projects, the GCM Corridor is working on the following:

- Defining regional performance measures
- Installing Access Grid at operations centers to facilitate communications during emergencies
- Conducting corridor action teams for construction near state borders
- Promoting portable changeable message sign (PCMS) guidelines
- Hosted a photogrammetry presentation

## **6. FHWA Update**

Norm Stoner, FHWA Division Administrator for Illinois, reported that the FHWA is working on six strategies to address congestion. One of special importance to the GCM Corridor is establishing a "Corridors of the Future" competition to accelerate the development of multi-state, multi-use transportation corridors.

## **7. Executive Committee Chairperson and FHWA Representative Rotation**

Secretary Martin became the new Executive Committee chair and Bruce Matzke, Division Administrator of the Wisconsin FHWA Office, became the new *ex officio* FHWA representative.

## 8. Next Executive Committee Meeting & Other Business

There is an Executive Committee teleconference tentatively scheduled for October, in coordination with the Mississippi Valley Freight Corridor Coalition meeting. The Executive Committee will review the priority projects and progress updates at the meeting.

Commissioner Sharp suggested another area that the GCM Corridor could look at is coordinating work zone requirements between states. Secretary Martin noted that Illinois has issued a new plan to make work zones consistent across the state. Sharp suggested consistent promotion of safety as the GCM Corridor gets information out to its customers.

### GCM Executive Committee Meeting July 13, 2006 Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	
Timothy Martin	Illinois DOT	Member
Thomas Sharp	Indiana DOT	Member
Ruben Anthony, Jr.	Wisconsin DOT	Representing Busalacchi
Robert Tally, Jr.	FHWA – Indiana	
Norm Stoner	FHWA - Illinois	
Bruce Matzke	FHWA - Wisconsin	
Dave Zavattono	IDOT	
Chuck Sikaras	IDOT	
Les Nunes	IDOT	
Heather Tarczan	IDOT	
Jason Tai	IDOT	
Mike Cline	INDOT	
Kelly Langer	WisDOT	
John Corbin	WisDOT	
Todd Szymkowski	University of Wisconsin	
Jason Bittner	University of Wisconsin	
Jeff Benson	URS	
Dan Shamo	URS	
Paul Lamb	URS	