



EAST-WEST GATEWAY Council of Governments

Creating Solutions Across Jurisdictional Boundaries

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Memo to: Board of Directors

From: Staff

Subject: Amendment of the 2013 Unified Planning Work Program to add 2.22:
Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development, Regulatory Acceptability of Remotely Sensed Data, and authorization for the Executive Director to accept the grant award

Date: July 11, 2012

The Strategic Highway Research Program (SHRP 2) was authorized by Congress to address some of the most pressing needs related to the nation's highway system. SHRP 2 is administered by the Transportation Research Board (TRB) under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials.

The charge from Congress to SHRP 2 is to develop approaches for systematically integrating environmental, economic, and community requirements into the analysis, planning, and design of new highway capacity. The program extends from the early stages of the transportation planning process, when many potential alternatives are being considered, through project development.

In March of this year the TRB issued a call for proposals designed to advance pilot studies that demonstrate how applying a geospatial (mapping) tool could support integrated ecological planning. Council staff submitted a proposal, based principally on ecological significance activities staff is already working on, and the East-West application for the proposed work was selected for funding.

Staff requests that work element 2.22: *Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development, Regulatory Acceptability of Remotely Sensed Data*, be added to the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). This element describes the work required to conduct a pilot project to determine the geospatial tools' acceptability, in terms of regulatory decision making, by using the ecological significance layer developed in our UPWP element *Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development (2.21)*.

The work is expected to begin in October 2012 and be completed in FY 2014. The funding consists of \$187,354 from the Strategic Highway Research Program of the

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Transportation Research Board. No local matching funds are required. The UPWP work element describing the work is attached.

Staff Recommendation: Staff recommends that the FY 2013 Unified Planning Work Program be amended to include work element 2.22: Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development, Regulatory Acceptability of Remotely Sensed Data. Staff further recommends that the Executive Director be authorized to accept the grant award and enter into a grant agreement for an amount of \$187,354.

ECOLOGICAL APPROACH TO INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
Regulatory Acceptability of Remotely Sensed Data
2.22

The Council will be working with the Strategic Highway Research Program of the Transportation Research Board on a Proof-of-Concept: Application of Geospatial Ecological Tools and Data in the Planning and Programming (pre-NEPA) Phases of Delivering New Highway Capacity, Project Number C40B. Fully developing and implementing an ecosystem-based approach to transportation planning requires organizations to contribute their expertise to a partnership that together can produce measurably better transportation and mitigation outcomes. The biggest hurdle to integrating the new ecological significance data tools into practice will be moving the data to application and testing its acceptability in terms of regulatory decision-making. In order to build upon the collaboration effort and the geospatial tools developed under the Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development, a pilot application of the ecological significance layer will be conducted on a specific corridor. The project will determine the applicability of the geospatial tools to analyze impacts to ecologically significant areas and use the wetlands data to determine mitigation and restoration opportunities.

The SHRP2 Project C40B is designed to advance pilot studies that show a proof of concept in applying a geospatial tool that could support integrated ecological planning locally and in other regions around the country. Many practitioners do not have access to these new tools or are simply unaware of what is available, how to use available tools in practice, or have the ability to afford the cost to create their own. The companion project to C40B is Project Number C40A, Project Title: Integration of National-Level Geospatial, Ecological Tools and Data. The SHRP2 C40A and C40B projects will work together to address this need for access and to create access to tools that will advance the overall goals of the SHRP2 capacity focus area.

Activities:

1. Document steps taken to develop existing geospatial tools and existing procedures for assessing environmental issues early in the transportation planning process
2. Establish project steering committee comprised of federal, state and regional resource agencies
3. Collaborate with C40A research team to integrate local tools and perspectives by sharing the EWG experience in developing geospatial tools and provide guidance in the C40A research efforts
4. Conduct an assessment of regulatory acceptability of remotely sensed data in an effort to assist partners and regulatory agencies identify how to incorporate ecological data into their processes
5. Review national and local geospatial tools with C40A research team and apply tools to a corridor improvement pilot project

6. Test and compare usability of C40A tool and local geospatial tools
7. Develop recommendations for use of geospatial tools to support integrated planning
8. Prepare a draft and final report for SHRP2 review and publication

Products/Outcomes:

- A. A report detailing the process and methods used to develop the geospatial tools used to develop the geospatial tools used in the transportation planning process (October 2012)
- B. Project Steering Committee (October 2012)
- C. Collaboration with the SHRP2 C40A research team (ongoing)
- D. A report detailing the results of the assessment of regulatory acceptability of remotely sensed data (January 2013)
- E. A report documenting the application of national level tools and enhancements to the locally developed geospatial tool and outcomes relating application to the pilot project (November 2013)
- F. Recommendations to C40A research team regarding the use of geospatial tools in planning (November 2013)
- G. Prepare Draft Final Report for SHRP2 Review (November 2013)
- H. Finalize Final Report for SHRP2 Publication (February 2014)

Estimated Costs:

Federal:

Transportation

Research Board (TRB)

SHRP 2 \$187,354

MINUTES
EAST-WEST GATEWAY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 25, 2012

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors was held in the Council offices on Wednesday, July 25, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Members in Attendance

Steve Ehlmann, Chair; County Executive, St. Charles County (via telephone)
Alan Dunstan, Vice-Chair; Chairman, Madison County Board
Francis Slay, 2nd Vice-Chair; Mayor, City of St. Louis
Charlie Dooley, County Executive, St. Louis County
John Griesheimer, Presiding Commissioner, Franklin County
John Hamm, III, Mayor, City of Madison; President, Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission
Ted Hoskins, Mayor, City of Berkeley; St. Louis County
Ed Hassinger, MoDOT
Curtis Jones, IDOT
Richard Kellett, Regional Citizen, St. Louis County
Mark Kern, Chairman, St. Clair County Board
John A. Laker, Regional Citizen, St. Clair County
Sandy Lucy, Mayor, City of Washington, MO
John Miller, Mayor, City of Collinsville; Vice-President, SW IL Council of Mayors
Jack Minner, Board Member, Madison County
Roy Mosley, Board Member, St. Clair County
John Nations, Metro
Brandon Perry, Regional Citizen, City of St. Louis
Alvin Parks, Jr., Mayor, City of East St. Louis
James Pulley, Regional Citizen, St. Clair County
Lewis Reed, President, Board of Aldermen, City of St. Louis
Thomas Schneider, Mayor of Florissant; President, St. Louis County Municipal League
Dave Stoecklin, Regional Citizen, Madison County, IL
Jim Vernier, Mayor, Village of Shiloh; President, SW IL Council of Mayors
Ken Waller, County Executive, Jefferson County
John White, Councilman, St. Charles County
Delbert Wittenauer, Chairman, Monroe County Board

Members Absent

Edie Koch, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
Doug Nelson, Missouri Office of Administration

Others in Attendance

Tracy Beidleman, Metro
Jim Terry, Highway W/MM Task Force
Jim Stack, IDOT
Stephanie Leon Streeter, St. Louis County
Tom Curran, St. Louis County
Stephen Gregali, City of St. Louis

Others in Attendance, cont'd.

Gary Elmestad, St. Charles County

Chip Casteel, St. Louis RCGA

Bill Schnell, MoDOT

Brian Loesel, St. Charles County

Greg Horn, MoDOT

Dave Hutchings, Jefferson County

Mike Henderson, MoDOT

Susan Trautman, Great Rivers Greenway

Todd Antoine, Great Rivers Greenway

Deanna Venker, MoDOT

Council Staff: Ed Hillhouse, Jim Wild, Jerry Blair, Nick Gragnani, Royce Bauer, Steve Nagle, John Posey, DJ Wilson, Lubna Schoab, Rachael Pawlak, Linda Yu, Jennifer Howland, Dee Wellman, Leah Hummert, Jason Lange, Anna Musial, Wayne Flesch, Mike Coulson, David Wilson, Kevin Triggs, Ross Friedman, Paul Hubberman, Ben Fleischert, Matt Green, Peter Koepfel, Shay Steelman, Gyanesh Lama, Justin Schmeltz, Mary Rocchio, Staci Alveraz, Himmer Soberanis, Karen Kunkel

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ehlmann, Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JUNE 27, 2012 MEETING

Motion was made by Mr. Griesheimer, seconded by Mr. Kellett, to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2012 meeting. Motion carried, all voting aye.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Dooley introduced his recent appointment to the Board, Ted Hoskins, Former Missouri State Representative and Mayor of Berkeley.

ATTENDANCE ROLL CALL

Attendance roll call was taken. All voting members were present.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MAP-21 (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century) Surface Transportation Bill

Jerry Blair, EWG, summarized the new \$105B two year transportation bill recently passed by Congress, which becomes effective in October 1, 2012 and expires on September 30, 2014. He described the bill's funding sources, noting that the Motor Vehicle Fuel tax has been extended through 2016. He reported on changes that have occurred to the federal highway and transit program structure, including the various programs that have been created, consolidated or eliminated. He advised that performance-based measures and targets govern most of the programs at the state and metropolitan levels, along with the Long Range Plan and TIP. He advised that the bill is largely metropolitan neutral, in that it doesn't provide certain advantages such as sub-allocation of funds for metropolitan planning organizations, for example. He noted that the rules and regulations detailing the bill have yet to be written.

Additional discussion followed in which staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding performance measures and long term pavement management and the application of new rules to current projects.

Great Streets Initiative

Paul Hubbman, EWG, reported that funding for a second round of the Great Streets Initiative for the Missouri portion of the region has been announced, with \$1 million in funding available for planning activities only. He advised that solicitation for projects has begun, and applications are due by August 3, 2012. He explained that staff anticipates funding three projects with the award. Those projects will be selected on August 6, 2012, and selected projects/consultants will be recommended at the September Board meeting. He noted that a workshop will take place on July 27, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. at EWG for interested applicants to receive information and direct application assistance. He added that further information and details concerning the project and timelines are available on EWG's website.

Mayor Slay commented on the success of the South Grand Great Streets project.

ACTION ITEMS

Modification of the FY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), the Metropolitan Transportation Plan - RTP 2040, and the Related Air Quality Conformity Determination – Requested by the Illinois Department of Transportation

Ed Hillhouse, EWG, summarized IDOT's request and staff's recommendation to amend the FY 2012-2015 TIP, RTP 2040 and related Air Quality Conformity Determination be revised to add one project:

TIP #	Description
5887-12	Madison County – Madison County Transit District – construct asphalt walking/biking trail from IL 140 in Alhambra to Leuscher Road in Alhambra Township

Motion was made by Mr. Perry, seconded by Mr. Parks. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Amendment of the Fiscal Year 2013 Unified Planning Work Program to add one project

Mr. Hillhouse, EWG, summarized staff's recommendation to amend the Unified Planning Work Program to include work element 2.22: Ecological Approach to Infrastructure Development, Regulatory Acceptability of Remotely Sensed Data; and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into a grant agreement and accept the grant award of \$187,354. He explained that the project is to obtain fine resolution digital mapping to identify all of the natural resources in the region, which will ultimately expedite project development

Motion was made by Mr. Kellett, seconded by Mr. Mosley. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Consultant Selection for Graphic Renderings - Regional Sustainable Communities Planning Grant

David Wilson, EWG, summarized staff's recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into contract with The Lawrence Group, the consultant selected to provide 30 or more renderings depicting various alternative design scenarios for sustainability for the RPSD project, for

an amount not to exceed \$100,000. In the event that negotiations are unsuccessful with The Lawrence Group, staff recommends identical authorization to contract with Vireo.

Motion was made by Mr. Laker, seconded by Mr. Stoecklin. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Approval of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan

Jim Wild, EWG, summarized staff's recommendation for adoption of the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan, enabling the region to utilize three funding programs managed by the Federal Transit Administration: Section 5310 – Elderly and Persons with Disabilities; Section 5316 – Job Access and Reverse Commute; and Section 5317 – New Freedom. These programs provide funding for capital and operating activities for the three referenced transportation-disadvantaged groups targeted in the plan.

Motion was made by Mr. Griesheimer, seconded by Mr. Dooley. Motion carried, all voting aye.

RECESS

Mr. Ehlmann announced that a 10 minute recess would be taken.

MEETING RECONVENED

Motion was made by Mr. Kern, seconded by Mr. Dooley, to postpone **Approval of Final Air Quality Conformity Determination and Documentation for the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program and related amendments to *Regional Transportation Plan 2040***; and **Approval of the FY 2013-2016 Transportation Improvement Program** until the September Board meeting. Discussion followed regarding the Poplar Street Bridge / I-70 / I-55 / I-64 Interchange Project and independent review.

Motion carried, all voting aye.

Regional Security Expenditures

Nick Gragnani, STARRS, summarized staff's request for the following expenditures. They total \$1,908,892 and will be funded from the ASPR, UASI, MMRS and Port Security grant programs.

Action	Description	Amount
Purchase	Bruker AXS, Incorporated – x-ray diffraction system	\$85,000
Purchase	EyeOn – 2 pole mounted cameras	\$20,368
Purchase	Motorola – 46 Motorola Dual Band 700/800MHz & VHF portable radios with accessories	\$212,512
Contract	RCC Consultants – to provide microwave and interoperable communication consultant services	\$202,777
Purchase	Leo M. Ellebracht Company – 2 Western Shelter Tent Systems with HVAC, water distribution systems	\$113,718
Purchase	Reuther Ford – Ford ¾ ton vehicle	\$28,643
Purchase	MetalCraft Marine- 43 foot Fireboat	\$1,208,500
Purchase	GovDirect – 2 ruggedized notebook computers	\$12,374
Contract	Attorney Michael Fagan – legal consultant services for St. Louis Terrorism Early Warning Group	\$25,000

Motion was made by Mr. Reed, seconded by Mr. Parks. Motion carried, all voting aye.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Griesheimer invited everyone to attend OATES Transportation's dedication of its new Eastern region facility in Bridgeton at 186 NW Industrial Court, on Tuesday, September 18, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Mr. Hillhouse announced that there will be no EAC or BOD meetings in August.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Mr. Dooley, seconded by Mr. Wittenauer, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ed Hillhouse".

Ed Hillhouse
Secretary, Board of Directors