

Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study

Summary

Research Team Meeting
August 18, 2003 – 3:30pm Central

Participants

Ernie Wittwer (MRUTC)
Jiwan Gupta (Toledo)
Peter Lindquist (Toledo)
Sue McNeil (UIC)
Kazuya Kawamura (UIC)

Teresa Adams (UW-Madison)
Laura Franke (UW-Madison)
Mark Vonderembse (Toledo)
Travis Gordon (MRUTC)

Gordon opened the meeting with news that the contract and project were given final approval from Ohio on August 18, 2003. The official start date of the project is August 19, 2003 with an ending date of October 18, 2004. McNeil asked if expenses could be incurred beginning with this date or if the two subcontracting school would need to wait until the contracts are established between UW-Madison and those schools. Gordon will follow up on this issue.

Data Collection and Collaboration

Lindquist will be sending the group this week a link to the documentation of data website and also a FTP site for storage of the data. It was noted that when someone in the group places new data in the storage area, the graduate student at Toledo (Raja) must be notified by email.

Kawamura and McNeil stated that UIC had data and would either put it on the storage site directly or will send a CD to Toledo.

Kawamura and Gordon spoke on Waybill data from the US DOT, saying that each state DOT would need to specifically request it for this Study. Kawamura will gather a draft of the letter to send to each state and others in the group will distribute it to the states.

Other types of information will be collected by Gordon and sent out via an email newsletter or placed on a website for the study.

Site Visits

There is a need for site visits to the state DOTs around the region. The reasons:

1. Put a face to the study and help the states realize fully that this is a regional issue
2. Parts of the study would benefit from face to face interviews, rather than teleconferences

Vonderembse pointed out that MPOs are very important places to visit for the capacity area of the Study. There was agreement on this, although site visits to MPOs would probably be limited to Toledo representatives.

Next Steps

There is a need to strategize as a group and work out what we have and what we need. For example, for site visits we need to figure out why we are going and when. The research team agreed that a face to face meeting in Chicago similar to the one in February 2003 would be a

great start to this. The day selected for this is: Monday, September 8, 2003 at the UTC on the campus of UIC. The meeting will run approximately from 8am to 3pm. A draft agenda will be circulated by email and details on lodging will accompany that information.

Finally, an overview of communications with the Steering and Advisory committees was given. Feedback forms were sent to all attendees of the June meeting. A summary of the TRB paper was sent to the attendees and all other Advisory committee members. A letter with an update of the study was also sent to all of those people.

Adjourn (4:20pm Central)

The research team will meet in Chicago, IL on Monday, September 8, 2003 from 8am-3pm.