

# Upper Midwest Freight Corridor Study

## *Summary*

Research Team Meeting

October 2, 2003 – 10:30-11:30am Central

### **Participants**

Ernie Wittwer (MRUTC)

Jiwan Gupta (Toledo)

Mark Vonderembse (Toledo)

Sue McNeil (UIC)

Lane Pille (UW-Madison)

Lisa Kramer (UIC)

Suphawut Malaikrisanachalee (UW-Madison)

Teresa Adams (UW-Madison)

Peter Lindquist (Toledo)

Kazuya Kawamura (UIC)

Travis Gordon (MRUTC)

Laura Franke (UW-Madison)

George (Ge) Zhu (UIC)

### **Progress Reports**

Gordon introduced the first topic, quarterly progress reports. All researchers now have the templates to fill out and instructions for proper completion. Reports are due to Gordon 5 working days after the end of ODOT's quarters. Researchers discussed the basis for percentage breakdowns of tasks within the sub-projects. Cost can be used as a factor, but there will not be an audit of dollars spent on these reports. Research leaders should use their best judgment when developing these percentages, noting that time equates to dollars spent. This area is similar to NCHRP progress reports.

### **Metadata Categories**

Adams and Kawamura led the discussion of categories used to catalog the existing data collected by the research team. Currently, different formats are used by the different groups. Kawamura provided an example of categories that would be used by all groups for cataloging. The example would have a different "worksheet" for each mode. Adams suggested that the category "source" be changed to "title." Also suggested was a new field to include electronic file name.

Unresolved issues include: baseline year for data (2001 vs. 2002, and the implications of manipulating the data to the baseline year) and the categories that Toledo had used for their catalog of data (shows where the gaps are in data for capacity analysis). Discussion will continue between UT and UIC to reach agreement by next conference call (10/16).

### **Spatial Data Model**

Adams and Lindquist expressed interest in the need to explicitly state how we structure the set of objects, geo-codes, and classification scheme. Lindquist will follow-up with a write up on this issue.

### **GIS Map**

Adams introduced Wut to the group, new student to help with GIS aspects of administrative issues sub-project. Lindquist will send a copy of the base map (shapefiles) to Adams and Wut. Lindquist also stated that secure FTP site may be active by October 13, 2003.

### **Travels and Outreach of the group**

1. Adams and Wittwer reported that they will be meeting with representatives from the I-5 corridor project and the FAST corridor project in Seattle. These meetings will be informal and take place the third week of October.
2. Adams also plans more one on one meetings with selected experts in administrative issues, including a short line railroad in Wisconsin.
3. Gordon is scheduling meetings with states in steering committee for one on one discussion of the study. The purpose is to let each state see our detailed work plans and get feedback on these.
  - a. Ohio: meet with Toledo reps in Bowling Green, teleconference with UW management in mid-October
  - b. Wisconsin: UW study management will meet at state offices on October 17 with DOT reps and FHWA divisional office rep
  - c. Minnesota: possible face to face meeting on November 3.
4. Toledo's travels will depend on gaps in the data.
5. UIC's travels will also depend on the gaps that need to be filled, but they continue to work with the transportation agencies in Illinois and Michigan.

#### **Other**

- Data needs and acquisition are still being developed, since the cataloging of existing data is still ongoing.
- Wittwer proposed the work on a draft agenda for the December steering committee meeting. Need to determine what the end product will be of this study at that meeting.
- McNeil requested a copy of the survey being sent to private sector stakeholders.

**Adjourn (11:35 Central)**

**Next conference call planned for Thursday, October 16, 10:30-11:30am Central.**