

RPC – TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Fund 075

The Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS) is the transportation program of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC), which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) responsible for administering the federally mandated transportation planning process for the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area.

In addition to complying with the MPO responsibilities, CUUATS also provides transportation planning services to local agencies helping them to build and support vibrant, sustainable communities by balancing the goals of each community with the advantages provided by all modes of transportation: walking, bicycling, transit, and auto.

MISSION STATEMENT

As the Champaign-Urbana MPO, CUUATS mission is to coordinate metropolitan transportation planning with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Champaign County, the cities of Champaign and Urbana, Village of Savoy, University of Illinois, the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, and the general public, and to ensure that existing and future expenditures of governmental funds for transportation projects and programs are based on a continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive (“3-C”) planning process.

CUUATS also strives to develop and maintain relationships that improve quality of life in East Central Illinois through the provision of transportation planning technical support through data collection and analysis, transportation policies, traffic engineering studies, and transportation grant writing while optimizing available local, regional, state and federal resources.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

The transportation planning staff has been very successful securing grants and new projects from diverse agencies including the Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, Illinois Department of Transportation, municipalities, park districts, and consultants. At the same time, the staff has enhanced its technical capabilities by learning new skills and working with new planning tools and attending a variety of technical trainings. The transportation planning staff is constantly searching for new ideas and funding opportunities. The transportation planning staff has increased as a result of the new projects and increased funding that has been attracted.

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The transportation planning staff works on promoting livability and sustainability, improving quality of life, encouraging diversity, reaching out to all interested residents, and promoting interagency and interpersonal teamwork through their different programs and projects. CUUATS staff promotes sustainable growth in all our projects.

The transportation planning staff is ethical, transparent, fiscally responsible, and make the best use of scarce resources.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Transportation program has two facets: comply with the Champaign-Urbana MPO responsibilities and transportation planning services contracts. *As the MPO*, the transportation planning staff has a leading role in promoting interagency cooperation and ensuring consistency between planning efforts in the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Planning Area.

Transportation planning services contracts include the preparation of multi-modal transportation plans, development of complete streets policies, creation of pedestrian and bicycle plans, and completion of traffic engineering studies for governmental agencies on a contractual basis.

The transportation program staff includes a transportation planning manager, one transportation engineer, five full time planners and one Human Services Transportation Plan Coordinator.

OBJECTIVES

Champaign-Urbana MPO

1. **Establish a setting for effective regional decision-making:** establish and manage a fair and impartial setting for effective regional transportation decision-making in the Champaign-Urbana metropolitan planning area.
2. **Evaluate transportation alternatives:** evaluate transportation alternatives, scaled to the size and complexity of the Champaign-Urbana region to the nature of its transportation issues, and to the realistically available options.
3. **Maintain a long-range transportation plan (LRTP):** develop and update a fiscally constrained long-range transportation plan for the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Planning Area covering a planning horizon of at least twenty years that fosters:
 - a. mobility and access for people and goods,
 - b. efficient system performance and preservation, and
 - c. quality of life
4. **Develop a transportation improvement program (TIP):** develop a fiscally constrained program based on the long-range transportation plan and designed to serve the Champaign-Urbana Metropolitan Planning Area's goals.
5. **Involve the public:** involve the general public and all the significantly affected sub-groups in the four essential functions listed above.
6. **Protect air quality:** avoid creation of adverse impacts to the environment when developing transportation plans, programs, and projects.

Transportation planning services contracts

1. Continue to provide transportation planning services under contract to local municipalities and other local agencies
2. Seek project opportunities with municipal, county and other governmental agencies in East Central Illinois and pursue collaborative opportunities such as training, workshops and conferences

3. Maintain a positive working relationship with residents, businesses, special interest groups and the media

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Indicator	2015 Actual	2016 Projected	2017 Budgeted
<i>Champaign-Urbana MPO</i>			
Data Development and Maintenance			
# of annual information/data requests processed	20	18	12
# of new software/planning tools learned by staff	12	10	10
Long Range Planning			
# of Performance Measures included in the LRTP 2040 Report Card receiving positive rating	N/A	15	18
Short Range Planning			
# of TIP amendments/mod. prepared by CUUATS staff & approved by CUUATS Tech. & Policy Committees	30	60	50
# of Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) grant applications evaluated & submitted for IDOT funding	12	11	11
# of short term projects completed by CUUATS staff	6	8	8
Administration/Management			
# of grant applications submitted	6	8	8
# of grant awards received	3	2	3
# of technical training/webinars courses attended by CUUATS staff	40	35	35
Special Studies			
# of special studies completed for CUUATS members	13	15	16
# of grant applications completed on behalf of CUUATS members	3	3	2

Transportation Information System			
# of annual data requests processed using CUUATS Travel Demand Model	2	1	2
Transportation Planning Services Contracts			
# of new projects contracted with CUUATS Staff	8	6	8
# of new agencies using CUUATS staff for transportation projects	4	5	6
# of grant applications completed for other agencies	1	2	3