



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP Mobility Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 13, 2010
YWCA
4990 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108**

ATTENDEES: Steve Haight, Careers, Etc.; John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging, Rick McVinnie, RMTD; Lisa Brown, RMTD; Dennis Hendricks, RMTD; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Becky Tobin, Boone County; Dyanna Chandler, Council of Neighborhood Org.; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP; Christina Washington, RMAP; Steve Ernst, RMAP; Robert Soltau, SLATS; Tricia Diduch; Village of Machesney Park; Manuel Carrasquillo, Lifescape Community Services; Fred Franck, Barbara Olson Center of Hope; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Rhonda Barigas, RAMP; Owen Carter, City of Rockford Human Services

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Haight called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Chairman Haight to approve the agenda. Motion moved by Dyanna Chandler, Council of Neighborhood Org; seconded by Owen Carter, City of Rockford Human Services. Motion carried.
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE 2/9/10 MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:** Chairman Haight entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made by Owen Carter, City of Rockford Human Services, seconded by Dyanna Chandler, Council of Neighborhood Org. Motion carried.
- 5. URBAN CIRCULATOR DISCUSSION:** Chairman Haight introduces Steve Ernst, Executive Director of RMAP who would like to discuss the Urban Circulator Grants program. The program, which has \$130 million available for Urban Circulator Grants, will connect destinations and foster walkable, mixed-use redevelopment. Mr. Ernst stated that there are some significant changes on the Federal level and they are pursuing traditional programs which are formula based. HUD, DOT and EPA created a high-level interagency partnership to better coordinate federal transportation, environmental protection, and housing investments. Through the Urban Circulator Program grants,

our future, our goals, our map 313 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101 **815.964.RMAP** direct **815.967.6913** fax rmapil.org

Mayor Frederic C. Brereton,
City of Belvidere, Chairman

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey,
City of Rockford, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg,
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom Strickland,
Village of Machesney Park

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen,
County of Winnebago

Chairman Bob Walberg,
County of Boone

Deputy Director George F. Ryan,
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

FTA will invest in a limited number of projects that fulfill the six livability principles that serve as the foundation for the DOT-HUD-EPA Partnership for Sustainable Communities:

1. Provide more transportation choices
2. Promote equitable, affordable housing
3. Enhance economic competitiveness
4. Support existing communities
5. Coordinate policies and leverage investment
6. Value communities and neighborhoods

New programs are going to be made available for communities to look at issues of transportation. Buzz word on the federal level that is being used is “Livability”. One program that has come out of this Livability program is Urban circulator systems such as streetcars and rubber-tire trolley lines that provide transportation options that connects urban destinations and fosters the redevelopment of urban spaces into walkable mixed use, high density environments. Rockford would have to go through traditional 4 step process. Sustainability plan for the region needs to be built first before Rockford could apply for implementation funds. Mayor Morrissey is interested in Circulator Program for the Rockford Downtown area. With the downtown initiative, Rockford has the Urban Circulator Program would fit in well with the initiative. Chairman Haight is interested in program and the possibility of creating a committee to look into this further. Urban Circulator Program target application date is due by June 5, 2010. Mr. Steve Ernst is still waiting for the FTA Guidance report which has been delayed another month. Funding announcement is scheduled for Summer 2010. RMTD & RLDC is currently looking at Downtown transportation options such as the trolley which might be feasible for the Urban Circulator Program. Mobility members think that a lot more education needs to be done but feels that the Urban Circulator Program has merit. RMAP will be pulling together the application and building workforce components into the application. If we are awarded funding, Mr. Ernst will come back to the Mobility Subcommittee with info.

6. HSTP PROJECT UPDATES: Mr. Diipla gave an update on JARC and New Freedom projects. There is a concern with the Machesney Park Route regarding start of services during the day and extended services to the Industrial Park. Machesney Park does not currently see a demand for these services and the project is currently up in the air since Machesney Park cannot commit to funding down the road. Should these dollars be put to something else? Chairman Haight indicated that Route 173 Area was identified as a priority but it does sound that the night route is not practical at this point. What other option does Mobility have to go forward with JARC? Tricia Diduch, Village of Machesney Park did indicate that Machesney Park is interested in the Industrial Park services but the night route is a concern for ridership usage. RMTD will go back and look at the JARC funding and review how it relates. Can Machesney Park money be used for Cherry Vale route? Mr. Diipla



did indicate there is additional JARC/New Freedom funding and would need a consensus to move forward with Machesney Park Route. Chairman Haight asks Consensus for Machesney Park Demand Route to go forward, consensus motioned. RMTD staff needs to have a discussion regarding the Machesney Park Demand Route with the possible usage of Para-transit vehicles to start the Machesney Park Route as well as marketing issues for the Machesney Park Route to have a tentative target date to begin no sooner than July 1, 2010. Paula Hughes indicated that there are remaining 2008 funds (for JARC and New Freedom) around \$20,000. JARC grants funds available that need to be used and also indicated that New Freedom funds should be used for shelters. Mr. Diipla will put out a call for projects for the remaining 2008 funds.

6. RMAP YEAR 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP): Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP is still working on the 2040 LRTP and he is looking to get comments from Mobility Subcommittee on what they would like to see in the 2040 LRTP. Documents are available on RMAP's website (www.rmapil.org). Mr. Diipla also indicated that RMAP is holding LRTP Open Houses on May 25, 2010 (Cherry Valley and Boone County) and May 26, 2010 (Village of Winnebago and Loves Park).

7 & 8: DISCUSSION AND COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Diipla stated that he has had discussions with Paula Hughes regarding the Title VI document, and in communicating with Mr. Sinks at FTA, the Title VI document does not need to be updated until March 2011.

9. PROGRESS REPORTS:

1. Free Rides for seniors are still increasing as well as for disability ridership. Possibility of free rides for seniors being eliminated has passed the House but will probably not pass the Senate. Possibility of amending free rides for seniors based on income qualifications.
2. Fee increase – there is no update currently.
3. ARA – RMTD is getting 2 (two) Hybrid Para-transit vehicles which hold 15 passengers.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Chairman Haight and seconded by Tricia Diduch, meeting adjourned at 11:20a.m.