

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

POLICY COMMITTEE

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of Transportation, Region 2*

RATS MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES February 12th, 2008

Attending: Steve Haight, Careers Etc.; Ron Schoepfer, RMTD; Lisa Brown, RMTD; Jon Paul Diipla, RATS; Denny Hendricks, RMTD; Rick McVinnie, RMTD; Lori Mitchell, Village of Machesney Park; Brian Ward, RVC Refugee Program; Melinda Trier, NICAA; Rich Hunt, RAMP; John Strandin, The Workforce Connection; Becky Tobin, Boone County; John Slattengren, BCCA; Bob Soltau, SLATS.

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The 2/12/2008 RATS Mobility Subcommittee meeting was called to order by Mr. Haight at 10:05am.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were given by those present.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The 2/12/2008 RATS Mobility Subcommittee meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 1/8/08 RATS MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The 1/8/08 RATS Mobility Subcommittee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. NEXT TASKS FOR THE MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Discussion of topics that the RATS Mobility Subcommittee will next address were discussed. Mr. Diipla mentioned that the next plan that the Subcommittee would be involved with would be the Public Participatory Plan (the plan describes the process in which the public is involved in the transportation planning process). An open house would be held first to determine what public opinions were regarding the public involvement process. The update of the plan would most likely start sometime in August 2008. Mr. Diipla mentioned that the next primary tasks of RATS was to work on the Unified Work Program as well as on the FY 09 Transportation Improvement Program (required annual documents). Also, depending on what the Federal Certification Process determined, there would be other issues/projects that the Mobility Subcommittee would address.

Comments and ideas on what members thought should be addressed were discussed. One task for members present should be to research any issues/needs from their respective areas and present them to the RATS Mobility Subcommittee.

Free rides for seniors was also a topic of discussion. It was noted that there should be inquiry as to where seniors might wish to go on the fixed route service and to determine if there are areas not serviced that might be a desired destination. March 17th, 2008 will be the start of free rides for seniors. RMTD will be able to track senior ridership because seniors will have an ID for the free rides that will be presented to drivers at the time of the trip.

The idea of a presentation to the Subcommittee regarding transportation financing was mentioned as well as the revisiting of a RMTD bus tour. National Transportation week is the week of May 12th, 2008. It was noted that the bus tour might be held that week.

Questions regarding data tracking were addressed. Student ridership is tracked (up to 20 years) through using student ID cards. Student bus passes could be sold at RVC if they were willing and had the equipment. At current time, the only center to do this is downtown at RMTD.

Discussion of how Senior ID's were to be handled followed. There eventually might be a state ID for seniors so that they can use it throughout the state. Free fare does not apply to paratransit services, it applies only to fixed route service. Senior ridership after free rides begin will be tracked to determine if there has been an increase in ridership. Driver training might include additional training geared towards seniors once the service begins. Also the concern of youths and seniors on the bus was mentioned. Free rides will be given to seniors and possibly for some youth programs this summer.

It was noted that review of the HSTP would be undertaken by the Subcommittee to determine areas of revision or new need. Providing service into Boone County was still being examined. Additional service on E. State Street is still being discussed, however, providing additional service at that location as of right now would be very expensive. It was noted that Careers, Etc. has had large class sizes and that those attending classes have been using RMTD.

6. COMMUNICATIONS:

The RATS Policy Committee will be having discussions regarding RATS and regional planning on February 21, 2008 and February 22, 2008 at Giovanni's on East State Street in Rockford, IL. RATS Technical Committee and Policy Committee agendas will be sent out to members of the Mobility Subcommittee as well as all those on the RATS mailing list.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.