



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP Mobility Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 14, 2012
YWCA
4990 East State Street
Rockford, IL 61108**

ATTENDEES: Chairman Steve Haight, Careers Etc.; Vice Chair John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging; Village President Dave Krienke, Village of Roscoe; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Jon Paul Diipla, Christina Washington, RMAP; Rick McVinnie, Denny Hendricks, Lisa Brown, RMTD; Robert Soltau, SLATS; John Strandin, WIB; Fred Franck, Barbara Olson; Carol Green, Lifescape Community Services; Nicole George, IDOT Transit; Mike Williams, Rock River Training.

OTHERS PRESENT: None

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Haight called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Haight entertains a motion to approve the agenda. 1st Motion moved by Vice-Chair John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging; seconded by Ms. Carol Green, Lifescape Community Services. Motion carried.
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE 10/11/11 MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**
Chairman Haight entertained a motion to approve the October 11, 2011 minutes.
Ms. Brown requested the following correction be made regarding RMTD Comprehensive Route Analysis update, second sentence should read: A workshop was held at Boone County Council on Aging thanks to Mr. John Slattengren.
Motion was made by Ms. Lisa Brown, RMTD; seconded by Vice Chair John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging. Motion carried.
- 5. POTENTIAL JARC AND NEW FREEDOM PROJECTS:**
Mr. Diipla stated that we are looking at the following fiscal year funding and opened up the floor for discussion:

JARC funds: FY10 - \$92,936, FY11 - \$142,580 and partial amount FY12 - \$77,522.

New Freedom funds: FY11 - \$95,413 and partial amount FY12 - \$52,171.

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Acting Deputy Director Eric Therkildsen
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

Mr. Diipla indicated that we have time to use the FY11 and FY12 funding but that the FY10 funding needs to be allocated before the funds expire in June 2012.

Mr. McVinnie stated that the Belvidere Route definitely needs funding and with Mayor Brereton's announcement of not running for re-election, they are not sure if the next administration is interested in keeping the Belvidere Route funded.

Ms. Brown indicated that RMTD is also getting requests for more bus shelters.

A brief discussion took place among members on possible projects to allocate JARC FY10 funds.

Chairman Haight asked if there was a consensus among the group to go ahead and open FY10 and FY11 funds for a Call for Projects. There was a unanimous consensus among members to go ahead with a Call for Projects.

6. SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATIONS (CONSOLIDATED VEHICLE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM):

Mr. Diipla stated that IDOT-DPIT sent out Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) applications last week. If you need the application, please contact Mr. Diipla. Applicants will need to submit the application to RMAP (HSTP Office) for review and will then forward on to IDOT-DPIT. Applications are due into RMAP by April 6, 2012. Any questions about the applications, please contact Mr. Diipla at RMAP.

7 & 8. DISCUSSION & COMMUNICATION:

TRANSIT PLANNING WORKSHOP

Mr. McVinnie stated that years ago there was a Transit Planning Workshop held that area elected officials attended along with other servicing agencies. Mr. McVinnie indicated that it might be a good idea for a Transit Planning Workshop to be held in the near future so that the servicing agencies along with the elected officials could discuss regional transit needs, planning and establishing goals.

There was a consensus among members that this type of Transit Planning Workshop is a great idea and it could possibly be tied in with National Transportation Week.

Mr. Diipla indicated that he would discuss further with Mr. Steve Ernst and will provide Mobility members an update at the March Mobility meeting.

RMTD BELVIDERE ROUTE UPDATE

Chairman Haight asked RMTD how the ridership numbers looked like for the Belvidere Route.

Mr. Hendricks stated that he has numbers by the week through December 2011. The first week was slow but currently RMTD is doing about 150 rides per week. The numbers are growing steadily.

Ms. Brown stated that RMTD has started a very aggressive advertising campaign and they have attended several community events to promote the Belvidere Route. There has been positive feedback from the citizens of Belvidere. Hopefully with spring/summer just around the corner numbers for the Belvidere Route will increase.

RMTD EASTSIDE TRANSFER CENTER

Ms. Brown stated that the furniture has been ordered and it should be delivered in 6 weeks. RMTD is planning a grand opening during National Transportation Week (week of May 14, 2012). Ms. Brown indicated that they have heard that Governor Quinn and Senator Durbin would like to attend the Grand Opening of the East Side Transfer Center, depending on their schedules.

VAN POOL/RIDE SHARE

Mr. Williams stated that he would like some feedback and support for an initiative he is trying to start. Rock River Training looked at the amount of money they allocated for reimbursement for travel expenses for training last year and they spent over \$200,000. Mr. Williams stated that there is a van pool/ride share transportation need for a number of people who are not in the bus line. Mr. Williams is looking at a ride share/van pool program. Mr. Williams indicated that he has reached out to IDOT who informed him there might be some grants to assist in acquiring a van for this purpose. Mr. Williams asked the Mobility members their thoughts.

Mr. McVinnie stated that it's a great idea but the problem is that funding for van pooling is limited. Mr. McVinnie mentioned that PACE might be a good resource for Mr. Williams to look into. Mr. McVinnie indicated there is a definite ride share type transportation need and RMTD would be happy to work with Mr. Williams.

Ms. George stated that JARC funding could be used for acquiring a van to be used for this purpose.

Mr. Williams indicated that Rock River Training would be willing to be the agency to apply for the grants and hire/manage the drivers to use these vans.

Chairman Haight stated that JARC funding should be used for this project and is exactly what JARC was created to do.

A brief discussion took place among members on the van pool/ride share needs for the region.

Mr. Diipla stated that he will forward the IDOT-DPIT 5310 CVP application to Mr. Williams.

Mr. Haight indicated to Mr. Williams that he has Mobility's support and asks that he keeps the Mobility Subcommittee apprised of his progress.

RMAP UPDATE

Mr. Diipla stated that in November 2011 RMAP went through their Federal Certification Review through FHWA/FTA which is required every four (4) years for all MPO.

Mr. John Donovan from FHWA provided the Policy Committee a preliminary report that they were pleased with the direction the RMAP organization was headed and that they preliminarily found there was no finding for corrective action. A final formal report should be completed in late spring/early summer.

Chairman Haight stated that the reviewer from FHWA during the Federal Certification review stated that RMAP's Mobility Committee is one of the best committees they've seen in the state to connect JARC funding with programs that address the needs of the region.

Mr. Diipla thanked all the members that participated and supported RMAP through their Federal Certification Review.

Mr. Diipla stated that Michael Maddox has left RMAP and we are in the process of interviewing and hiring for our open Metropolitan Planner position.

Mr. Diipla stated that if you are contacted by Our Vital Signs organization they are with RMAP's HUD Sustainability Grant Project and are working in gathering data.

Mr. Diipla stated that the north end of RMAP is being renovated for RMAP's Planning and Design Center. We plan on holding an open house once completed and will keep members apprised of progress.

9. PROGRESS REPORTS:

9.01 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) status and issues that might affect the TIP:

No report.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Haight entertained a motion to adjourn the February 14, 2012 meeting. Motion by Vice Chair John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging and second motion by Ms. Lisa Brown, RMTD. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.