

RMAP

Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

www.rockfordil.gov/government/works/index.cfm?section=planning&id=977

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RMAP MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES June 10th, 2008

Attending: Steve Haight, Careers Etc.; Jon Paul Diipla, RATS; Denny Hendricks, RMTD; Rick McVinnie, RMTD; Paula Hughes, RMTD; John Slattengren, BCCA; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Richard Hunt, IDOT; Lori J. Mitchell, Village of Machesney Park

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The 6/10/2008 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 6/10/2008 RATS Mobility Subcommittee meeting agenda was unanimously approved.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE 5/13/08 RATS MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETINGS:

The 5/13/08 RATS Mobility Subcommittee meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

5. RATS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP) AND LRTP AMENDMENTS:

Mr. Diipla briefly went over the RATS open houses for the draft documents. In total, 16 persons attended. There were some comments that were received, however not all were regarding the draft documents. Other comments were regarding other RATS Studies (i.e. NICTI, Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan). A dozen or so copies of the plans were distributed and the draft documents are also available on the RATS webpage. Mr. Diipla encouraged members of the Mobility Subcommittee to review the documents and provide feedback. Public comments are being accepted until July 2, 2008. These documents are required for the conditional certification to be lifted and RATS to become fully certified. Currently, RATS is working on the Management and Operations Planning document. RATS is anticipating that the draft documents will be finalized and approved by the RATS Policy Committee in July. Mr. Diipla mentioned that the draft documents were in possession by FTA and FHWA for review.

Mr. Haight inquired as to comments received during the open houses that were directed at the draft documents. Mr. Diipla stated that Public Service Announcements (PSA's) and publishing meeting announcements quarterly were comments mentioned regarding public participation. Mr. Diipla also mentioned that persons took comment sheets and he is waiting for them to be returned.

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

Mr. Diipla stated that he received three applications for the 5310 grant program. The applications that were submitted were from RMTD, Lifescape Community Services, and the Booker Washington Center. Copies of the applications were available for the Subcommittee to review. RMTD was requesting 9 vehicles, Lifescape was requesting 2 vehicles

and Booker Washington was requesting 1 vehicle. A brief summary of the applications were distributed to the Mobility Subcommittee as well as other documents pertaining to 5310. Mr. Diipla then briefly went over the summaries and the IDOT form regarding the application's HSTP compliance. Mr. Diipla stated that the applications went through the MPO so that staff may review them to determine if the projects were derived from the HSTP and meet needs and strategies as listed in the HSTP. Once they are reviewed by the MPO, the applications will be forwarded to IDOT-DPIT. Applications were due to the MPO by June 4, 2008 and will need to be forwarded to IDOT-DPIT by July 7, 2008. There were no objections regarding the applications that were submitted. Brief discussion followed regarding the 5310 process.

7. DISCUSSION

RMTD ridership has increased in the recent past. For the fiscal year, there is an 8-9 percent increase in ridership. There has also been a 400% increase in senior ridership. CherryVale route has steady ridership. With the reopening of Magic Waters for the season, there might be more ridership on that route. Paratransit ridership has also continued to increase. With Careavan closing, more paratransit demand has been added on RMTD. However, a new Paratransit service ASAP, is present in the area. It was stated that that they should be invited to future Mobility Subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Diipla stated that with the next update of the HSTP, the organizational contact list in the back of the plan should be updated. He asked the members of the Subcommittee to review the list and to let him know of other organizations that should be contacted regarding involvement in the Mobility Subcommittee and the HSTP process. Mr. Haight said that he would talk about the Mobility Subcommittee at the next meeting of the Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness.

Mr. Diipla also stated that there was a graphic executive summary and brochure created for the PPP. Mr. Diipla said that he could provide copies of the information so that members of the Mobility Subcommittee could place them in their respective offices for people to take and read. Members of the Mobility Subcommittee requested copies of the brochures and will be placing them in their respective offices.

Questions regarding the RATS name change were asked. It was stated by Mr. Diipla that RATS would change to RMAP after July 1, 2008, however it would not be official until IDOT/the State signed off on it.

Mr. Slattengren mentioned that explaining what the Metropolitan Planning Area was in the brochure regarding the PPP would be helpful for readers.

Mr. McVinnie inquired about the public commenting period regarding the PPP on whether or not it would be the same time frame each year. Mr. Diipla stated that the plan would be updated if there was a change in the public participation process or there were new regulations that were released regarding public participation. The plan might also be updated to correlate with updates of the RATS LRTP. Brief discussion followed.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Hughes stated that RMTD had to create a Program Management Plan (PMP) as RMTD is the designated recipient for 5316 and 5317 funding. The plan explains how the funds will be managed to carry out projects that use 5316 and 5317 funds. It was also stated that the plan was out for public review.

Mr. McVinnie briefly talked about a request for a service route change on Harrison Ave. near Sundstrand/Quantum. This issue will be examined by RMTD.

Mr. Haight brought up the issue of placing a better designed bus stop for the inbound bus on E. State Street. As of right now, persons have to wait near or sometimes in the turn lane near the stop. Mr. McVinnie stated that it was a State owned road. Discussion followed. RMTD will examine this issue and potential schedule impacts.

Mr. Slattengren and Mr. McVinnie talked briefly regarding the Transit Agreement between RMTD and Boone County/ City of Belvidere. The current agreement ends on June 30, 2009.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.