



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP Mobility Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 19, 2012
RMAP Planning & Design Center
315 North Main Street
Rockford, IL 61101**

ATTENDEES: Chair Steve Haight, Careers Etc.; John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging; Fred Franck, Barbara Olson; John Strandin, WIB; Rebecca Maggio, RAMP; Jon Paul Diipla, Christina Washington, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, RMAP; Paula Hughes, Denny Hendricks, RMTD; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Dyanna Chandler, West Gate Coalition; Mike Williams, Rock River Training.

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt D'Incognito, Channel 23 News

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Haight called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.
- 2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chair Haight entertains a motion to approve the agenda. 1st Motion moved by Mr. Denny Hendricks, RMTD; seconded by Ms. Dyanna Chandler, West Gate Coalition. Motion carried.
- 4. APPROVAL OF THE 4/10/12 MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**
Chair Haight entertained a motion to approve the April 10, 2012 minutes.
Motion was made by Mr. Denny Hendricks, RMTD; seconded by Ms. Dyanna Chandler, West Gate Coalition.
Motion carried.
- 5. RMTD ROUTE STUDY:**
Ms. Hughes stated that RMTD had a really big turnout at the RMTD Route Study public hearing that was held at the East Side Transfer Center at 10:00a.m. on Thursday, June 14, 2012.
Mr. Hendricks stated that overall the public hearing was pretty positive and that most of the citizens that showed were more concerned about their individual ride and how it would affect them. Once they saw what the public hearing was covering the citizens were fine with the hearings. There were a couple areas that were of concern which were Mulford Road and Newburg Road that they are proposing taking that route out and had an effect on one rider. The consultant will re-review the route.

Ms. Chandler indicated that the veterans had some concerns. (Connecting to the armory)

Mr. Hendricks stated that he didn't understand the concern since RMTD already service Alpine North behind Target. Most of the Veterans clients would be able to walk to the facility. It would take some time to run up in front of the facility but the consultants are looking at that.

Mr. Hendricks indicated that citizens like the City loop that RMTD currently has in place but the consultants indicated that it was absorbing 15-20% of the resources. The consultants feel that the City loop is really inefficient. The consultants proposed design would make the routes more efficient.

Mr. Dipla handed out a PDF copy of the presentation that was given at the RMTD Route Study public hearings. The presentation gives an overview of the proposed changes.

Ms. Hughes stated that the comment period will be open for another few weeks.

Mr. Hendricks indicated that RMTD is hoping to implement any of the new routes and changes by October 2012.

Ms. Chandler stated that she thought the consultants were very informative and is very glad that RMTD held the public hearings.

Ms. Hughes stated that the consultant recommended in the future if there were funds to look add more routes to Belvidere.

Mr. Hendricks stated that there were a basic recommendation using the dollars we have today and then there is recommendation if we ever see extra dollars. We also have the fixed route up north that would connect Beloit to IL173 and possibly a route from IL173 to our East Side Transfer Center that would be an express route that would go down I90.

Ms. Hughes stated that in the future expansions would come to this group to look at.

Mr. Hendricks state that the consultant proposed for the Belvidere route that if we were to add another route would be to do the same route every half hour and it would go to Walmart on the other route. It's what we looked at last year but we didn't have the funding to extend the route pass K-Mart.

Mr. Williams asked about Route 5 and if there were any comments regarding this route.

Mr. Hendricks stated that there was a comment at the night hearing. The consultants had taken out the far south loop and it will be put back in for the night time service. Route 33 was the route that had comments on and based on the comments Route 33 will be put back in.

Ms. Hughes stated the consultant had looked at routes that had lower ridership and how to better make the routes efficiently time wise.

Mr. Soltau asked what was the purpose for a possible Beloit Route?

Ms. Hughes stated that right now there's that missing link in between and the purpose was to make that connection.

6. DISCUSSION:

ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR ARTICLE / EAST SIDE TRANSFER CENTER

Mr. Haight indicated that Rockford Register Star reporter Chuck Sweeney took a swipe at RMTD's East Side Transfer Center and how it was unnecessary.

Ms. Hughes stated that she had not seen the article but that Ms. Lisa Brown handled this area and would make any necessary response.

RMTD BELVIDERE ROUTE

Mr. Haight asked how the Belvidere ridership was going?

Mr. Hendricks stated that the first month they had 599 and by February we were up by 900 and has steadily increased since the start of the route. Mr. Hendricks indicated that he's received calls from citizens who are pleased with the Belvidere Route and have taken advantage of the route.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the Belvidere Route.

7. COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP will be releasing a draft of the FY13-FY16 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) which lists all of all the federally funded projects. We hope to have a final version adopted in July and once the draft is available we will be looking for feedback and is currently available for viewing on RMAP's website.

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP is continuing the work on the Urbanized Area and have been working with Mr. Soltau to figure out the border between the two MPO's and we have reached out to Ogle County to see if they want to participate in our MPA. The reason being is Davis Junction municipal boundaries are contiguous with the City of Rockford so we decided we would offer that opportunity to Ogle County. We are waiting to hear back from Ogle County.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS:

8.01 RMAP Federal Certification Review:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has received the draft certification review report to provide comments on factual review. Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration will be presenting the final version of their report at RMAP Policy Committee scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2012 at 1:15p.m. and held at the City of Loves Park City Hall, Council Chambers. Mr. Norm Stoner who is the division head for Federal Highway Administration will be in attending the meeting to present the findings from the final report. The draft certification report itself was very positive and Mobility Subcommittee was complimented on their work with HSTP with integrating workforce and other issues of mobility throughout the region. There were no significant findings at all.

Mr. Diipla stated that once the final document is available RMAP will make the report available to members.

8.02 JARC and New Freedom Project Status:

Mr. Diipla stated that the projects selected in April 2012 the second year funding for the Belvidere Route, Commuter Connection Project and the same day Para-transit service with New Freedom funds have gone through the Policy Committee and it has been amended to the TIP.

There was a brief discussion among members regarding the status of the projects selected.

Mr. Diipla stated that the Federal Register has released the mark amounts for FY12. Total amount for JARC funds \$110,734.00 and for New Freedom \$74,347.00. When the next call for projects are looked at in the next few months we will be looking at FY12 funding.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Haight entertained a motion to adjourn the June 19, 2012 meeting. Motion by Ms. Dyanna Chandler, West Gate Coalition and second motion by Mr. Mike Williams, Rock River Training, meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.