

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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RATS MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 13, 2007

PERSONS PRESENT: John Strandin; Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board; Darcy Bucholz; Boone and Winnebago Counties Workforce Investment Board; Melinda Trier, Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging; Richard Hunt, RAMP; John Slattengren, Boone County Council on Aging; Michael Williams, Rock River Training Corporation, Steve Haight, Careers, etc.; Rick McVinnie, RMTD; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Lisa Brown, RMTD; Dennis Hendricks, RMTD; Ron Schoepfer, RMTD; Jon Paul Diipla, RATS, Becky Tobin, Boone County; Nathan Bruck, City of Love's Park; Lori J. Mitchell, Village of Machesney Park; Diana Nevitt, IDOT; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Jeff Niman, Coach USA/ Van Galder Bus Company; Brian Ward, Rock Valley College; Paul Chiodini, OSF Lifeline Ambulance; Leonard Mabry, Citizen; Mike Reinders, Winnebago County Unit School District 323; Robert Soltau, Stateline Area Transportation Study.

1. Call to Order

The 11/13/07 meeting of the Mobility Subcommittee was called to order at 10:10am.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Diipla noted that a correction needed to be made to the agenda regarding the selection of a Chairman. The Chairman of the Mobility Subcommittee was selected at the 10/30/07 meeting.

3. Mobility Subcommittee Structure

Mr. Diipla noted that at the previous Mobility Subcommittee meeting, the selection of a Vice-Chairman of the Mobility Subcommittee was tabled. It was stated that Melinda Trier from NIAAA was a nominee for the position. Further nominations from the Mobility Subcommittee for the Vice-Chairman position were then asked for. No other candidates were nominated. Therefore a motion was made by Mr. Diipla to make Ms. Trier the Vice-Chairman of the Mobility Subcommittee. Motion was moved by Mr. Haight and seconded by Mr. Strandin.

Mr. Haight then took lead of the meeting and stated guidelines of the Mobility Subcommittee meetings.

4. Review of the RATS Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Draft

Mr. Haight asked Mr. Diipla if he had anything that he would like to address.

Mr. Diipla asked the committee if there were any questions regarding the draft HSTP thus far. He stated that he would like feedback from the committee as to the accuracy of issues described in the draft HSTP as well as asked for any other items that members would like to add to the draft.

Mr. Soltau commented on adding the jurisdictional boundaries for service providers. Mr. Diipla then presented a brief summary of the draft HSTP.

Mr. Diipla mentioned that follow up letters were sent to those organizations that did not respond to the initial survey pertaining to participation in the Mobility Subcommittee. The letter was sent out shortly after the 10/30/2007 meeting. He noted that he did receive a few additional surveys as a result of this effort.

Mr. Diipla noted that selection criteria for projects still needed to be developed and included in the plan. He requested that comments from the Subcommittee be submitted by Friday, 11/16/2007 so that he would be able to revise the draft. It was also noted that a call for projects also had to be released to the public for the 5316 and 5317 funding. He noted that the call for projects would let the public know that projects submitted for 5316 and 5317 had to be derived from needs/gaps as identified in the HSTP.

The next step of the process would be for the draft to be presented to the RATS Technical Committee and Policy Committee for review in December. It was noted that RATS would like to have the HSTP recommended to the Policy Committee by the Technical Committee in January and then have the Policy Committee approve the document at their January 2008 meeting.

Mr. Diipla stated that the RATS Technical Committee would meet on January 17, 2008 and that RATS Policy Committee would meet on January 24, 2008. He stated that the draft would be presented to both RATS Technical and Policy in December of 2007. He then stated that a public comment notice would be put in the Rock River Times and that public comment would last 30 days.

Ms. Bucholz posed the question of whether or not the proposals that come in for the 5316 and 5317 funding have to be detailed and technical in terms of costs, etc. criteria. Mr. Diipla then stated that he was currently researching prior RATS documents that called for projects. It was also stated that the selection criteria was being developed using the 5316 and 5317 application criteria, previous RATS documents and Federal Circulars.

Ms. Bucholz inquired as to whether there would be a review group of the Subcommittee to go over the proposals that come in. Mr. Diipla stated that it could be approached in such a manner. He stated that members of the Subcommittee could be appointed to the review committee.

Ms. Bucholz then asked whether not RMTD had to put in a proposal. Mr. McVinnie stated that RMTD would have to put in a proposal like anyone else for the funding.

Mr. Haight stated that there may have to be a special meeting of the Mobility Subcommittee in December and Mr. Diipla agreed that it might be a possibility.

Mr. Haight then asked the Subcommittee members to spend some time in reviewing the Draft.

Mr. Slattengren inquired as to how Boone County would fit into the Rural and Urban HSTP's. Discussion followed stating that the rural plan is separate from the urban plan. It was also mentioned that the funding for the rural HSTP was competitive whereas the urban HSTP is an already established amount of funding and that the Subcommittee is there to determine the best projects to utilize the apportioned funds.

Ms. Hughes then wanted to make sure that the listing of JARC projects that were developed through the Getting to Work in Greater Rockford (GTW) study would be addressed in the call for projects. Mr. Haight stated the Mobility Subcommittee was putting forward the JARC projects as stated in the GTW document and that they were included in the draft HSTP

Mr. Diipla stated that it would be possible that a listing of service areas, as identified in the GTW document, could be included in the call for projects. Ms. Brown then asked whether or not new projects would be included in this version of the HSTP. Mr. McVinnie stated that selection criteria still needs to be created and that if a new project was developed that was more worthy than those previously identified, that it would be a possibility to select that project.

Mr. McVinnie then asked if all of the projects that were received for the funding had to be in the HSTP. Mr. Diipla stated that those that were selected for funding should be included in the final HSTP. Selected projects would then be put into a Program of Projects, it would then be amended to the TIP/STIP and the HSTP would be amended to the LRTP.

Ms. Nevitt stated that the January 4, 2008 deadline applied to small urbanized and rural areas. She inquired as to whether RATS was also setting this as their deadline. Mr. Diipla stated that this was discussed among MPO staff and that the January 2008 was also determined as the deadline for the first version of the HSTP.

Mr. Haight asked for other comments or questions for Mr. Diipla. Mr. Reinders mentioned Illinois Growth Enterprises had not been mentioned in the HSTP. Mr. Diipla said that he would include a brief description of the organization in the plan. Mr. Strandin then asked whether or not the call for projects and the selection criteria will be included in the plan. Mr. Diipla said that they would be included.

The Call for Projects would be published in the Rock River Times and the notice would be e-mailed to other media outlets.

5. Communications

Mr. Soltau inquired as to what the apportionments for JARC and New Freedom were. Ms. Hughes stated that there were three years for New Freedom funding available (approximately \$69,000 for 2006, \$73,000 for 2007 and an estimated \$76,000 in 2008). JARC had approximately \$117,000 for 2007 and an estimated \$123,000 for 2008. Ms. Hughes reiterated that the 2008 numbers were only an estimate and that the Federal Register for the 2008 apportionments has not yet been released. She also stated that funding information is available on the FTA website.

Mr. Diipla stated that the issue of membership/quorum had been discussed at the last meeting. He stated that the idea of having the committee consensus based until the HSTP was done was brought to the Subcommittee's attention and that those present agreed to this. Also, by the time the HSTP is finished it will be established who has been coming to the meetings and by that point it would be easier to determine definite numbers for quorum.

Discussion as to the future meeting place for the Mobility Subcommittee took place. It was stated that the YWCA has agreed to host the meetings as of this time forward.

There was brief discussion of the HSTP Public Open Houses. Mr. Diipla stated that the HSTP open houses would present information on what the HSTP is, afford the public to make comments on the plan and make copies of the draft plan available.

Mr. Strandin asked if the subcommittee needed to review the selection criteria for projects. The idea of forming a review committee for the criteria was established and agreed upon by those present at the meeting. Mr. Haight then stated that anyone was welcome to participate in the review process. He asked that John Strandin, Darcy Bucholz, Jon Paul Diipla and Himself be on the review committee. A meeting was then set up for 11/16/2007 of the review committee to discuss selection criteria.

Ms. Hughes then stated that the members of the selection criteria review committee should review the 5316 and 5317 application criteria. Mr. Diipla agreed to get the members this information prior to the criteria review meeting.

Mr. Haight reiterated that the selection criteria review committee would meet Friday 11/16/07 1:30pm at Careers, Etc.

The next meeting would be held on Tuesday, December 11th, 2007 at the YWCA. Mr. Haight then entertained a motion for adjournment, which was moved by Ms. Brown and seconded by Ms. Bucholz.