



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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CONTACT INFORMATION:

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NOTICE OF TIGER GRANT SUBMISSION TO THE FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION AS PART OF THE AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

Notice is hereby given that the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP), 313 North Main Street, Rockford, IL, 61101, submitted a grant application on behalf of its partners in the Rockford region as part of the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) program. TIGER is a discretionary program that was created under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act). The Recovery Act was created to (1) preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery, (2) invest in transportation infrastructure that will provide long-term economic benefits, and (3) assist those most affected by the current economic downturn. The Recovery Act appropriated \$1.5 billion of discretionary grant funds to be awarded by the Department of Transportation for capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure. The TIGER grant funds are available for obligation until September 30, 2011 and will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that have a significant impact on the Nation, a metropolitan area, or a region.

The Recovery Act specifies that grant funds under the TIGER program may be no less than \$20 million and no greater than \$300 million. RMAP submitted a freight and passenger rail project on behalf of its partner agencies in Winnebago and Boone Counties. The regional TIGER project combines selected components of rail infrastructure that advance the regional goals of: (a) re-establishing inter-city passenger rail service and the longer term establishment of commuter rail service; (b) consolidating existing rail assets to promote railroad safety and an adaptive reuse of legacy rail yards to allow mixed-use, mixed-income development to replace blighted areas of the community; (c) modernization and upgrade of freight rail infrastructure centered on the economic engine of RFD and the Rockford Global TradePark; and (4) creation of a freight rail transload / intermodal facility within the Rockford Global TradePark.

The RMAP Policy Committee, RMAP staff, and rail expert consultants will unveil the TIGER project at a press conference.

TIGER Press Conference
Thursday September 17, 2009
2:00 PM

Chicago Rockford International Airport Terminal Building
2 Airport Circle

Questions should be directed to Stephen Ernst, RMAP Executive Director, at 815-964-7627 or via e-mail at steve.ernst@rockfordil.gov. Copies of the TIGER grant application will be available on electronic media with limited printed copies.

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