

# **RATS** **ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY** **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

*CHAIRMAN JOSEPH F. SINKIAWIC, MAYOR, LOVES PARK  
EUGENE R. QUINN, CHAIRMAN, WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD  
CHARLES E. BOX, MAYOR, ROCKFORD  
WILLIAM D. OST, DISTRICT ENGINEER, IDOT DISTRICT 2  
STEPHEN KUHN, PRESIDENT, MACHESNEY PARK*

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

*ROCKFORD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LOVES PARK  
PLANNING  
ROCKFORD PUBLIC WORKS / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PLANNING  
GREATER ROCKFORD AIRPORT / MACHESNEY PARK PLANNING  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARATRANSIT / CHERRY VALLEY  
PLANNING  
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC  
WORKS  
LOVES PARK TRANSIT / ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION*

## **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**April 27, 1995**

The following are the minutes of the April 27, 1995, Policy Committee meeting held at the Machesney Park Village Hall.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Joseph F. Sinkiawic, Mayor - City of Loves Park; Eugene R. Quinn, County Board Chairman - Winnebago County; Lori Tharp, Community Development Director - Village of Machesney Park; William D. Ost, District Engineer - Illinois Department of Transportation District 2; and Charles E. Box, Mayor - City of Rockford.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS:** Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT; Bill Smith, IDOT; Daniel Salameda, Loves Park Transit System; Russ Petrotte, City of Rockford and RATS staff; Steve Ernst, City of Rockford; Wayne Dust, City of Rockford; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; David Noel, Winnebago County; Mark Maday, WCPS; Nick Licary, WCPS; Brian Prater, Rockford Register Star; Lori , WCPS; Robert McGhee, RMTD; James Wille, RAMP; Andy Klotz, WIFR-TV; Linda Bargman, citizen; Carol Jackson, citizen; Rick McVinnie, RMTD;

Robert Lindsey, WCPS; Terry , citizen; Ken Ulmer, WCPS; Scott Hill, citizen; Jenna McIntyre, daughter of Gary McIntyre; and Gary McIntyre, City of Rockford and RATS staff.

### **1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION**

Chairman Sinkiawic called the meeting to order at 1:38 PM. Members were present from Loves Park, Winnebago County, Machesney Park, Rockford, and the Illinois Department of Transportation - District 2.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 2, 1995, RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

Mr. Ost made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 1995, meeting as written. The motion was seconded by Mayor Box and approved unanimously without discussion (5-0).

### **3. RATS UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM FOR FY-96**

Russ Petrotte said the RATS Unified Work

Program (UWP) for FY96 has been prepared. A draft of the UWP has been submitted to IDOT for their review. The draft was also mailed out to all the agencies and citizens on the RATS mailing list. Mr. Petrotte said the RATS Technical Mr. Petrotte briefly went over the federally-required work and additional major work that RATS will undertake in FY-96. The required work includes the preparation of the UWP for FY97, Title 6 Assessments for RMTD and LPTS and for RATS, Public Involvement Process report, TIP preparation and possible amendments for FY96 and FY97, and the Long-Range Transportation Plan. The major work items will be a study on Paratransit issues, Boone County traffic simulation model development, recalibration of the RATS Tmodel2 traffic simulation model and using the TRANPLAN modeling program, IL-173 land use plan refinements for Machesney Park and Loves Park, updating the Loves Park comprehensive plan, refinements of the Boone County and City of Belvidere land use plans, U.S. Business 20 (West State Street) corridor study, an areawide accident analysis, IL 2 (South Main Street) corridor study, Boone County and Winnebago County developing area study, Meridian Road corridor study, and Elmwood Road corridor study.

Mr. Petrotte said the FHWA PL funds and FTA Section 8 funds for the FY96 UWP will remain the same from the current fiscal year. He briefly went over the sub-allocations to the RATS agencies. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Sinkiawic said this item will be laid over until the May meeting.

#### **4. COORDINATED SERVICE PROVIDER**

Mr. Petrotte said at the last meeting, RATS Resolution 95-4 was reviewed by the Policy Committee. This resolution would designate RMTD and LPTS as the "Joint" Coordinated Service Provider (CSP) for paratransit services in the Rockford Urban Area. It would take this responsibility away from WCPS. One of the

Committee has reviewed the FY96 UWP and has unanimously recommended its adoption. The Policy Committee can either act on the resolution today or wait until the May Policy Committee meeting.

primary factors in this unanimous recommendation from the Technical Committee is the ADA. Mr. Petrotte cited several factors, such as a change in the FTA law that now allows public transit agencies to use Section 16 funds, the financial and operational difficulties that WCPS is currently experiencing, and that RMTD and LPTS currently provide approximately 60 percent of the funding for WCPS.

Mr. Petrotte said the City of Rockford has reviewed this resolution and is offering some changes. He distributed copies of the proposed changes and explained that the City of Rockford would like RMTD and LPTS to proceed directly to implement an interagency Cooperative Agreement that specifies how their agencies will deliver paratransit services throughout the Rockford Urban Area and how they will divide their duties, responsibilities and assets toward this end. Also, that RMTD and LPTS develop a plan, acceptable to IDOT, to transfer and allocate all federally-acquired WCPS assets to RMTD and LPTS so that service will not be disrupted in the Rockford Urban Area as this switch to a Coordinated Service Provider is occurring. In the Addendum to this resolution, it explains two additional responsibilities, and authorizes that RMTD and LPTS will be eligible and available to accept and use the federally-funded assets of WCPS and responsible for developing a program to adequately deliver paratransit services throughout the Rockford Urban Area. In addition, as "Joint" Coordinated Service Providers, RMTD and LPTS will be expected to work together to arrive at mutually acceptable solutions to the cost-effective delivery of paratransit services throughout the Rockford Urban Area. (The RATS Technical and Policy Committees and IDOT will be available to assist in determining mutually acceptable solutions and to resolve disputes.)

Mayor Sinkiawic said Rockford and Loves Park should work together to resolve the problems at WCPS. Mayor Sinkiawic asked about the time frame for implementing the change in CSP. Mr. Petrotte said July 1st should be the deadline.

Mr. Ost asked if the service is either operated by both RMTD and LPTS or contracted out, would night service be offered? Mr. Petrotte said yes, and that RMTD will continue to offer night bus service. LPTS is currently reviewing their options and reviewing RMTD service before they make a Nick Licary said he believes that WCPS should be included as a CPS agency in the area so that his agency could receive Section 16 funds. Mr. Petrotte said the term "CPS" is used for a public agency, not for private agency such as WCPS. Accordingly, WCPS is not eligible to be a CPS in the area. As long as WCPS remains in operation, it can continue to be a part of the RATS Technical Committee and be eligible to receive Section 16 funds.

Mark Maday of WCPS said several issues need to be clarified in the original resolution. He said issues of the service area, service to townships, Section 16 funds to public transit agencies and the federally-funded assets of WCPS to be transfer to RMTD and LPTS need to be addressed. Mr. Petrotte said RMTD, LPTS and RATS staff would address these and other issues as the transition plan was developed.

Mayor Sinkiawic called for a roll call vote. The revised RATS Resolution 95-4 was unanimously adopted (5-0).

## **5. HARRISON AVENUE EXTENSION**

Gary McIntyre asked his daughter, Jenna, to distribute the August 1994 letter from Mr. Quinn requesting RATS Surface Transportation Program-Urban (STP-U) funds for land acquisition and relocation cost for the Harrison Avenue extension project for up to \$3,000,000.

decision on night bus service. Mayor Box said that the service and the passengers who currently use WCPS will not experience any disruption in service.

Mr. Quinn made a motion to adopt the revised RATS Resolution 95-4 as submitted by the City of Rockford. The motion was seconded by Mayor Box.

Also, RATS Resolution 95-5 was distributed in which the Technical Committee unanimously recommends the use of the STP-U funds for land acquisition and relocation costs for the County's project. Mr. McIntyre said the Technical Committee did not decide at what level the funded percentage should be for assisting the County with this part of the overall Harrison Avenue extension project. He also distributed a chart showing the projected STP-U revenues, the projected construction costs for the Harrison Avenue extension project and, in the top half of the chart, the impact of the County's request for STP-U land acquisition and relocation costs.

Mayor Box said the nature of this project is so important to the transportation network that RATS should consider altering the local policy and allowing the use of the STP-U funds for land acquisition and relocation cost for Winnebago County. He supports the use of the STP-U funds to fund up to 80 percent of the total land acquisition and relocation costs for the County to construct this project. He said the County is spending a large sum of money to complete Perryville Road and Mulford Road in other parts of the County, and he believes the Harrison Avenue extension is very important to this section of the urban area.

Mr. Quinn said the Mayor's comments summarized the importance of this project. He said the cost of this project has put the County

into the position of asking RATS to use the STP-U funds to purchase the right-of-way and relocation costs for this project.

Mr. Ost said he has some concern that the STP-U chart expects that these funds will continue to be available from USDOT. He noted that the current ISTEA legislation expires at the end of 1997 and it is not known whether these funds will be continued. He said that, if the agency uses federal funds to purchase land for a project, the construction must take place within a 10-year period or the agency must repay those funds to the federal government. He said the position of the RATS Policy Committee has been not to use these funds for planning and land acquisition because the goal was to leverage the federal funds to address more problems. As the IDOT Regarding the use of the STP-U funds for any other projects in the Rockford Urban Area, Mr. Ost noted that the last section of Harlem Road, between Forest Hills Road and Perryville Road, has been adopted by the Policy Committee for use of the these federal transportation funds. Mayor Sinkiwic said he supports the County's request for these funds for land acquisition and relocation costs.

Mayor Box made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 95-5 and to fund the land acquisition and relocation costs up to 80 percent of the total cost. The motion was seconded by Mr. Quinn, and approved unanimously (5-0).

## **6. REQUEST FROM BOONE COUNTY FOR RATS MEMBERSHIP**

Mr. McIntyre said the Technical Committee had a special meeting with officials from Boone County and the City of Belvidere in early April. He said the April 4th Technical Committee meeting minutes has all the information that was presented and discussed at that meeting.

Following a discussion of some of the enclosed material, Mr. McIntyre said the Technical

representative, it does not affect IDOT directly. If the local MPO believes this project is important, then it should be agreed upon by all the local agencies. He also cautioned that, by changing the current local practice to allow STP-U funds for land acquisition and relocation costs, it establishes a precedent for future projects to request similar assistance.

Mr. Quinn said he believes the federal funds will continue to be made available directly to the area in the future. Winnebago County has already made an investment in this project by funding all the engineering cost. He said it is rare that a project of this size in the Rockford Urban Area will require the acquisition of 45 to 47 properties.

Committee has appointed a subcommittee to further discuss this issue. Until the subcommittee makes a decision on the request for membership from Boone County for Technical Committee membership, Mr. McIntyre advised that this issue should not be a formal agenda item on the Policy Committee agenda. Mayor Sinkiwic agreed with this suggestion.

## **7. WALLENBERG/WOODRUFF EXPRESSWAY STUDY**

Steve Ernst said that, because of a recent meeting between the consultant, the City of Rockford and IDOT, the Wallenberg/Woodruff Expressway Study and the presentation have been delayed. Mr. Ernst said the additional work is expected to take two to three months to complete. A presentation will be scheduled at a later date.

## **8. RATS LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**

Mr. Petrotte said the proposed April 20th draft of the RATS Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRP) will replace the Interim Plan adopted in December. He said that, outside of a few

additional items that need to be completed, staff believes the LRP meets the federal requirements.

He noted the document addresses the ISTEA legislation. A public information meeting is scheduled for May 9th for the public to come to Rockford City Hall. If the Policy Committee wants a special meeting for RATS staff to present the LRP in more detail, a meeting could be scheduled.

Mr. Ost said the text on Page 39 in the LRP about an interchange at Town Hall Road should be modified to reflect that an interchange will be planned at some location west of Town Hall Road and that an exact location will be determined in the future. He also said the interchange at Alpine Road and East State Street is currently against IDOT policy about access-control interchanges. There was a discussion of the alternatives on how to address congestion at major intersections in the Rockford Urban Area. Mr. Ost felt that the solution should not be stated in the LRP, but the problem needs to be identified and possible solutions need to be researched and explored before a solution should be mentioned in the LRP.

## **9. FHWA/FTA/IDOT REVIEW OF THE RATS TRANSPORTATION PLANNING PROCESS**

Mr. McIntyre said the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) will be conducting a certification review of the RATS planning process between May 23rd and May 25th. At the May 25th Policy Committee, the FHWA and the FTA will make a presentation on their findings from the review meeting and discussions.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

No report.

## **11. OTHER BUSINESS**

No report.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Ost to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Box, and approved unanimously (5-0). The meeting adjourned at 2:58 PM.

APR20.MIN/GM