

RATS

ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

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

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

LOVES PARK TRANSIT / BELVIDERE-BOONE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
BOONE COUNTY HIGHWAY / ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARATRANSIT / CHERRY VALLEY PLANNING ROCKFORD
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LOVES PARK PLANNING GREATER ROCKFORD
AIRPORT / MACHESNEY PARK PLANNING
ROCKFORD PUBLIC WORKS / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PLANNING

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES April 25, 1996

The following are the minutes of the April 25, 1996, RATS Policy Committee meeting held in the Machesney Park Village Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Alderman Brinker, representing Joseph F. Sinkiawic, Mayor of Loves Park;
Charles E. Box, Mayor of Rockford;
Eugene R. Quinn, Chairman of the Winnebago County Board;
Stephen Kuhn, President of the Village of Machesney Park; and
Stacy Morrison, representing the District Engineer of IDOT District 2.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bill Smith, IDOT;
Chris Dopkins, Machesney Park Public Works;
Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Planning;
David Sliktas, Belvidere/Boone Co. Planning;
Gary McIntyre, RATS Staff;
Jenna McIntyre, Washington School;
Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT;
Pan Mahajan, Winnebago County Public Works;
Russ Petrotte, RATS Staff;
Steve Ernst, Rockford Public Works; and
Wayne Dust, Rockford Planning.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Vice Chairman Quinn. Mr. Quinn cited a letter from IDOT District Engineer Bill Ost authorizing Stacy Morrison to represent the Mr. Petrotte said the Rockford Park District has also requested funding for the first time from RATS. They wish to purchase of a portable information display booth. The District works closely with RATS in planning and implementing bikeways and pedestrian pathways. The District is willing to fund the 20 percent local match for this equipment and has agreed to use it solely for transportation-related public information

District at the meeting. Mr. Quinn stated that Alderman Brinker would be representing Loves Park in light of Mayor Sinkiawic's recent illness. With members present from all voting agencies, Mr. Quinn convened the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of the January 18, 1996, meeting were presented for discussion. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to approve these minutes. There were no corrections or changes noted.

3. UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM FOR FY97: Russ Petrotte distributed extra copies of the March 27, 1996, draft of the proposed Unified Work Program for FY97. The program had been previously mailed out. He said action on the program was not needed at this meeting but would be needed in May to meet IDOT deadlines. He highlighted the most important aspects of the program.

Mr. Petrotte noted that the Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Commission has requested partial funding for the purpose of conducting a planning and access study along U.S. Business 20. This is the first time that agency has requested planning funds through RATS. They have requested \$20,000 for an estimated \$40,000-\$60,000 consultant-assisted study.

purposes. The equipment will be stored and maintained by the District but will be available to RATS for all of our public information needs. He passed around snap shot photos of a display booth arrangement currently in use in Tampa, Florida. He said the equipment is expensive but this is because it is constructed of strong, light-weight materials that can be assembled quickly in a variety of ways. It also

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comes with specially designed light-weight carrying cases. The cost will be in the range of \$8,000 to \$9,000 and the District is seeking competitive quotes on the equipment at this time.

Mr. Petrotte recommended that the Committee seriously consider the display equipment. He also asked that they consider approving it as part of the FY96 (this year's) work program because there are likely to be unexpended funds this year.

Mr. Petrotte said the suballocation of funding in the proposed program is similar to past suballocations. Most of the participants, with the exception of the Rockford Community Development Department and one of the Winnebago County agencies, have been suballocated a slight increase in funds compared to last year. The total funding available to the Metro Area is roughly the same as last year -- \$288,410.

Mr. Petrotte distributed a table/graph that illustrates the past history (four years) of planning fund suballocations, fund drawdowns and the proposed FY97 suballocation. He said the Technical Committee and staff first seeks to meet the needs of the lead agency for RATS. The lead agency is primarily responsible for meeting the federal requirements and keeping the area certified. Remaining funds are then suballocated to other agencies based on need and relevance to the overall planning effort. Also important is the ability of agencies to use funds allocated to them. Often agencies have a need for funding but do not have staff available to do the work. Sometimes agencies request funds but, later in the year, staff time is preempted by other activities and the funds are not spent. Winnebago County and Machesney Park have experienced this situation over the last four years.

Mr. Petrotte noted that federal guidelines prohibit the allocation of these funds on a formula basis but the table he distributed illustrates how the funds would have been suballocated if population were the only basis.

Mayor Box said he found it ironic that Boone County was requesting funds to do a planning study to encourage the orderly urban development of the Business 20 Corridor when in the recent past they have resisted development at urban standards in this area. Most of the development they have encouraged in the area has been low-density rural development. He said they have even gone to the extent of hiring consultants to assist them in thwarting the expansion of Rockford and Loves Park into Boone County.

David Sliktas said he didn't see the same

inconsistencies. He said the recent Facilities Planning Area designated to be served by Belvidere assures that urban standards will be applied to all future development in the area. The actual borders between municipalities is something between the legislative bodies of the various jurisdictions. He has no control over that aspect. The proposed work is a detailed land use study to determine what the area will carry in terms of development. The consultant will estimate the transportation system that will be needed in advance of development. The transportation element will consider the State highways, county roads, township roads, and the trail/pedestrian systems throughout the area.

Mr. Quinn asked if the proposed work on the South Main Corridor and the Meridian Road Corridor would be in concert with the proposal to develop a raceway at the airport. Mr. Petrotte said David Noel, the County Planner, initiated the Meridian Road study because of the potential for this roadway to become a regional transportation facility connecting Ogle, Winnebago and Rock Counties. Aside from the initial intent of this study, members of the Technical Committee are concerned with the situation at the Greater Rockford Airport. If the raceway is constructed there will be heavy traffic in that area several times each year.

Mr. Kuhn said he would speak with his staff before the next meeting to determine if the Village needs are being addressed and if funding needs are greater than indicated in some of the tables Mr. Petrotte discussed.

4. RATS TIP AMENDMENT: Gary McIntyre explained that the Willow Creek Path had been awarded enhancement funds two years ago and the project was included in the TIP at that time. However, the project did not reach the bidding stage until the present time and was not relisted in the most recent TIP. Staff and the Technical Committee had assumed that this was not needed because of its previous approval. We have since been advised that the project must be in the current year's TIP for the bid letting to be accomplished.

Proposed Resolution 96-3 will amend the project into the FY96 TIP. President Kuhn moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mayor Box and approved unanimously without further discussion.

5. PERRYVILLE ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY: Mr. Petrotte said action is not being requested on the next two items. Staff will provide a progress report on the work accomplished to date.

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Pan Mahajan said this work is a continuation of the corridor access plan for Perryville Road that was initiated last year. The first phase, from State Street to Harlem Road, was approved by the Policy Committee. Mr. Mahajan presented a display map of the proposed plan. He said access and signalization will be continued or is being considered at Charles Street, at the south Mall entrance, at the north Mall entrance, and at Fincham Drive. He said signals will have to meet warrants and this plan does not commit the County or any jurisdiction to funding.

6. RIVERSIDE BOULEVARD CORRIDOR STUDY:

Mr. Mahajan said his department and the Technical Committee are now investigating alternatives for an access plan on the segment of Riverside Boulevard between Sage Drive and Material Avenue. They are considering the following proposal. There is no change to access proposed between Material Avenue and Forest Hills Road. The right-in/right-out for Columbia Audio/Video will remain and similar access will be allowed on the opposite side (no median cuts).

Mr. Quinn asked if there was sufficient space for vehicles to move across the three lanes of traffic if they wanted to go south on Forest Hills Road. Mr. Mahajan said he felt there would be but a double-left situation might be considered in the future.

East of Alpine, the westbound left turn lane will be extended and a bidirectional turn lane will be constructed from Hyatt/Cub Food eastward to Sage.

7. RATS FY97 TIP: Mr. McIntyre reminded all present that their proposed transportation improvement projects (for the next three years) need to be submitted to RATS at this time.

8. AVERAGE DAILY TRAFFIC DATA: Mr. McIntyre said he had intended to present this information today but he recently uncovered some errors in one of his spreadsheets and is in the process of making corrections.

9.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE HARRISON AVENUE EXTENSION: Mr. McIntyre said, as part of the environmental clearance, we have been asked to resubmit data on an alternative alignment (the Pierpont alignment). Some of the State/Federal agencies reviewing the project feel that this alternative may have less environmental impact and they want more details as to why we rejected it.

Also, there is a meeting scheduled following the Technical Committee meeting on May 16th to determine if a Major Investment Study will be needed with regard to this project.

Committee last Fall. This phase looks at Perryville from State Street south to Harrison Avenue.

9.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WALLENBERG/WOODRUFF EXPRESSWAY STUDY:

Steve Ernst reported that the final report from the consultant is now being prepared. The presentation on this study may be delayed until the June Policy Committee meeting because some of the members may not be present at the May meeting.

Mr. Petrotte stated that more detailed presentations should be made to the RATS Technical Committee before the report is presented to the Policy Committee. He said he and Mr. McIntyre are the only members of the Technical Committee who have been given copies of the report. He asked that the presentation to the Policy Committee be delayed until the Technical Committee had sufficient time to review and comment on the report.

Mr. Ernst said he is trying to keep the consultant's time and travel down. He said since the scope was renegotiated last year, the City of Rockford has picked up the entire cost of the extra work. He said he could make presentations to the Technical Committee either before or after the presentation to the Policy but we would certainly not be changing the contents of the report based on comments from the Technical Committee.

After discussion, it appeared all Policy Committee member would be present on the 23rd of May and Mr. Ernst said he would be making the presentation at that time.

9.3 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE RATS TRANSPORTATION MODELING STUDY:

Mr. McIntyre said he has a contract with the consultant that is ready to be executed. He said the Rockford City Council requested that the other jurisdictions participate in the costs of this study. He has sent out a cost-share proposal and has received positive commitments from most of the entities so far. President Kuhn noted that perhaps his Village's share should be of the same proportion as that allocated to the Village in the proposed UWP.

10. COMMUNICATIONS: None

11. OTHER BUSINESS: The next Policy Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for May 23rd and June 27th.

President Kuhn introduced Chris Dopkins, the new Village Engineer.

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12. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct, President Kuhn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mayor Box and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.