



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 29, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Bob Mullins, Village of Machesney Park; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Jay Howell, Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Michael Maddox, Christina Washington, RMAP staff; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION: Meeting was called to order by Mayor Brereton with a quorum present at 1:17 P.M.

2. COMMUNICATIONS:

2.1: Tri State Alliance Annual Meeting: Mr. Ernst announced that the Tri-State Alliance Annual meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 14, 2010 and from 8:30a-2:00p and held at The Eclipse Center in Beloit, Wisconsin.

2.2: RMTD Golf Outing: On behalf of RMTD, Mr. Ernst invited Policy members to the RMTD's 5th Annual Terrell Jackson Golf outing scheduled for August 6, 2010 and held at Timber Pointe Golf Course.

2.3 Riverside Corridor Study: Loves Park has a Riverside Blvd. Corridor Study RFP on their website and is entertaining proposals from consultants until May 6, 2010.

2.4: NIMS Training: Chief Derek Bergsten announced that the City of Rockford Fire Dept. has secured funding for NIMS Executive Training for elected officials and senior staff members. There is no charge for the training. Chief Bergsten will be forwarding possible dates for this training and RMAP staff will coordinate availability.

3. APPROVAL OF THE February 25, 2010 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes by Boone County, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously.

4. AMENDMENT TO THE FEDERAL-AID FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM (FCS): Mr. Ernst discussed the amendment to the FCS and asked for action to be taken regarding RMAP Resolution 2010-3. RMAP staff has done a comprehensive update of the Long Range Transportation Plan and is recommending that the FCS maps be updated accordingly. Gary McIntyre authored the revisions and the information was presented to the Technical Committee on April 22, 2010 and had a unanimous recommendation for adoption of Resolution 2010-3. Chairman Brereton entertained a motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2010-3. Motion was made by Winnebago County, seconded by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RMAP FY 2011 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP): Mr. Ernst discussed the new Unified Work Program. There is approximately \$743,000 available for planning for next year. This is the same amount as last year, and represents the dollars to fund the RMAP organization. A fiscal summary sheet was provided to the Committee.

In addition to regular planning dollars, the draft FY11 UWP has two (2) new special studies and one carry-over study. The first new study is an IL 2 corridor study for the City of Rockford, from Chestnut Street to RFD. This study will be funded with \$120,000 SPR + \$30,000 local match from the Rockford CIP, for a total of \$150,000. RMAP has received the contract authorization from IDOT and the scope of services has been packaged into an RFP by the City of Rockford. Mr. Zuroske indicated the RFP has been released and consultant proposals would be evaluated shortly. The study may commence anytime after July 1, 2010. The second study is the Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN) study. This study will be funded from \$40,000 SPR with the \$10,000 local match coming from the resource agencies (park district(s), DNR, etc.) from the region. This study will update the regional greenway plan and provide missing environmental components to the core RMAP documents in light of the recently approved USDOT-HUD-EPA Sustainable Communities Partnership and other green house gas emission programs.

The draft UWP also shows dollars to be carried over to complete the regional freight study. These are not new funds, but must be carried over to allow them to be used after July 1, 2010. Mr. Ernst indicated that he will ask the Policy Committee to approve the final document at the May Policy Committee meeting and the Technical Committee will be continuing their review of the draft. Chairman Christiansen stated that he'd like to see RMAP start working on regional stormwater issues [see discussion below]. Mr. Ernst indicated that he is hoping Governor Quinn will restore the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund (SB 1201) dollars in the budget being reviewed by the General Assembly.

6. FEDERAL FUNDING DISCUSSION:

6.1 ARRA Funds: Mr. Ernst discussed the ARRA funds and re-capped the monies received. Leftover funds are being pooled together and the Technical Committee is recommending that leftover dollars be allocated to Winnebago County and the City of Rockford. The projects will be required to be finalized to IDOT in June 2010 to allow an obligation of the funds by September 2010.

6.2 Surface Transportation Program Funds (STP-Urban): Mr. Ernst stated that President Obama has signed the H.I.R.E. Act which extends the federal transportation program (SAFETEA-LU) through the end of the calendar year. Also included in the H.I.R.E. Act was a repeal of the rescission provisions of SAFETEA-LU. The Rockford region was required to rescind approximately \$869,000, and these dollars were to be dedicated to Phase 2 of the Harrison Avenue project. The H.I.R.E Act restores these dollars to the region.

Mr. Ernst suggested that some of the rescinded dollars could be used for the engineering/architecture work to create rail station construction plans for the downtown Belvidere and Rockford stations. The local commitment for the Amtrak service requires station area development to include stations, platforms & canopies, parking areas and other amenities. He also recommended that separate design processes would be recommended due to the difference in scope between the two downtown stations. Mayor Brereton asked if there has been any communications with Amtrak or IDOT in this regard. Mr. Ernst stated he has not had any recent communications with either, but stated that George Weber was the keynote speaker for the Tri-State Alliance Summit. The Policy Committee could take action at the May 20, 2010 Policy Committee meeting to authorize the STP-Urban funding. The Policy members were reminded that STP-Urban funds are 80%-20%.

6.3 TIGER II: The TIGER II guidance has been released by the US DOT. Mr. Ernst stated that an Executive Summary will be provided to the Policy Committee at a later date, but there were significant changes from the first round of TIGER. Mr. Ernst stated that this round of TIGER funds will require a minimum of a 20% local match. Additionally all new TIGER II applications will require a significant cost-benefit analysis. The USDOT will require a pre-application process with material due in July 2010, followed by final submittal in August 2010.

The technical discussion so far has revolved around the appropriate mix of freight rail and passenger rail components. Mr. Ernst believes that the region will be more successful if firm commitments from the freight railroad companies can be secured for the application, especially from the Canadian Pacific (CP). The completion of the Rail Planning and

Engineering study, from the airport south to Flagg Center, provides preliminary engineering investigations and cost estimates on rail infrastructure upgrades that will be valuable to future TIGER applications.. Chairman Christiansen has offered to take the lead on contacting the CP railroad and possibly bringing them back to town. Mr. Ernst indicated that the recent acquisition by the CP of the DM & E + IC & E railroad lines can play a crucial role in regional freight operations..

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: Mr. Ernst announced that a NICTI Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 20, 2010 at 2:30p and held at Belvidere City Hall, immediately following the RMAP Policy Committee (1:15p start). The Technical Committee will also be held on May 20th at 10:00a at Loves Park City Hall. Mr. Ernst indicated that McHenry County is asking for support of a McHenry Amtrak stop on the proposed Chicago-Dubuque service. Mr. Ernst provided Resolution 2010-4, Endorsing A McHenry Station Location for Amtrak Inter-City Rail Service on Route A: Amtrak-Metra-UP-CN. Mayor Brereton stated that the City of Belvidere will be adopting a similar resolution on Monday, May 3, 2010. Motion to approve Resolution 2010-4 by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Rockford. Resolution 2010-4 approved unanimously. RMAP staff will send electronic copies of the resolution to the McHenry County partners that have been part of the NICTI process.

7.2 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Mr. Ernst indicated that Senator Durbin was in Rockford a few weeks ago to announce additional funding (approximately \$1 million) for the Eastside Transfer Station project, which is moving ahead nicely.

7.3 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: No report.

7.4 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

7.5 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Ernst announced that there is some carryover funding from 2008 available – approximately \$16,000.00 from JARC and approximately \$8,000.00 in New Freedom. Mr. Ernst stated that a Call For Projects was emailed out and published in the Rock River Times. The Mobility Subcommittee will be making project selection recommendations in the coming weeks.

Mr. Ernst stated that he attended the April 22, 2010 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting to discuss possibly taking on a new challenge of the federal urban circulator program. The subcommittee would coordinate with other groups, such as the Rock River Development partnership, to help with planning activities related to urban circulation and transit.

7.6 Housing, Human Services & Workforce Development Subcommittee: Mayor Morrissey stated that the City of Rockford along with Winnebago County are examining opportunities for collaboration and elimination of duplicated efforts. Mr. Ernst announced that RMAP has produced a Sustainable & Dynamic Blueprint brochure. Mayor Brereton asked if RMAP would consider producing a video clip of the initiative RMAP is working on. Mayor Morrissey indicated that his office is currently working on a Community Television Network that might fit in to some promotions of RMAP initiatives and for Mr. Ernst to contact Julia Valdez in the Mayor's Office for more information. Chairman Christiansen stated that CMAP has produced a video and he would like to see RMAP get on board.

7.7 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: Mr. Ernst stated that he attended a Madigan Creek meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 hosted by Winnebago County. The Madigan Creek watershed traverses portions of the City of Rockford, unincorporated Winnebago County and the Village of Cheery Valley. Therefore, it presents an excellent opportunity to address stormwater on a regional scale. Mr. Vanderwerff stated his desire to see RMAP planning dollars devoted to stormwater management, and the resultant benefits to the region as a whole. Mr. Vanderwerff indicated that there are additional funding opportunities that the Technical Committee should explore. Mr. Zuroske stated that the City of Rockford is reviewing draft stormwater materials as part of a city-wide management master plan and would be willing to share the information with RMAP.

Chairman Walberg thanks RMAP for looking into the stormwater issue. He stated that Boone County was the beneficiary of both groundwater and stormwater planning efforts completed by CMAP, and that information should be combined with

Winnebago County as the region moves towards a comprehensive regional approach to these issues. Model stormwater ordinances and best practices will be reviewed by the Technical Committee.

7.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: No report

7.9 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): Mr. Ernst indicated that projects will be moving forward. Detail can be found in the FY11 – 16 IDOT Multi-year Program.

7.10 South Main Street / IL-2 (SM2): Mr. Zuroske indicated that the RFP has gone out.

7.11 Greater RMAP Environmental-Education Network (GREEN): Mr. Ernst stated that he has the signed contract from IDOT and that the scoping documents are being put together but has not been put out for proposals yet.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Tollway: Mr. Ernst stated that the Illinois Tollway is considering the idea of express bus service in the median for a portion of I-90. Mr. Ernst provided a packet with more information.

8.2 LRTP Open Houses: Scheduled for Tuesday May 25 and Wednesday, May 26, 2010 and will be held in Cherry Valley, Village of Winnebago, Loves Park and Boone County.

8.3 Federal Lobbyist: Mayor Morrissey stated that RAEDC Leadership Council has awarded funding for a Federal Lobbyist.

9. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business, Mayor Brereton entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Rockford, and seconded by Boone County. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 P.M.