



POLICY COMMITTEE
Mayor Douglas P. Scott, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Board Chairman Kristine Cohn, Winnebago County
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park
District Engineer Roger E. Rocke, Illinois Department
of Transportation, District 2

Meeting Minutes RATS Policy Committee Meeting Date: August 2, 2001 Rockford City Hall

Members Present: Steve Chapman representing Kris Cohn, Winnebago County Board; Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Chad Atkinson representing Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Douglas Scott, City of Rockford; Daryl Stienstra representing Roger Rocke, IDOT District 2.

Others Present: Bob Soltau, IDOT-Springfield; Steve Ernst and Jim Ryan, Rockford Public Works; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; David Noel, Loves Park Planning; Lisa Brown, RMTD; Dennis Schultz, IDOT-Dixon; Marc Hustad, HNTB; Larry Henson, TransCore; Gary McIntyre and Russ Petrotte, RATS Staff.

1. CALL TO ORDER: At approximately 1:37 PM, with representatives from Loves Park, Machesney Park, Winnebago County and IDOT present, Mayor Lindberg called the meeting to order.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: None

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Daryl Stienstra, seconded by Steve Chapman, and approved unanimously by the four members present.

4. RATS FY 2002 TIP: Russ Petrotte distributed copies of a revised version of Resolution 2001-10 pertaining to the adoption of the proposed June 21, 2001 Version of the FY 2002 Transportation Improvement Program. Mr. Petrotte explained that Addendum One of this resolution lists all of the proposed changes to the June 21st draft TIP since it was distributed late in June. He said most of these proposed changes had been presented to, reviewed and recommended for approval by the Technical Committee at their meeting in late July. (At this time Mayor Scott arrived at the meeting and took his seat on the Policy Committee.) Since that time, two additions have also been proposed as documented at the bottom of page iii of the Addendum. These changes are both additions to Table 24, the final table in the TIP, which lists projects that were adopted in the Annual Element of a previous TIP but have not yet commenced. These projects are to remain authorized. The two projects to be added to Table 24 both pertain to IL-70 (between Summerdale Avenue and the Pecatonica River,

as proposed by IDOT. Staff recommends that Resolution 2001-10, as now presented, and the June 21, 2001 version of the FY 2002 TIP, as revised by Addendum One, be adopted by the Policy Committee. Resolution 2001-10 also authorizes the Chairman of the Policy Committee to sign Addendum 2, a statement certifying that the RATS planning process is in compliance with applicable Federal laws.

A motion to approve the Resolution 2001-10, as presented, was made by Daryl Stienstra, seconded by Steve Chapman, and approved unanimously by the five members present.

Staff will incorporate all of the changes documented in Addendum One into a final version / adopted version of the FY 2002 TIP and distribute it as part of the next regular mailing.

5. CAMPAIGN TO BUILD ILLINOIS TRANSIT: Steve Ernst presented proposed RATS Resolution 2001-11 endorsing the **Campaign to Build Illinois Transit**. He explained the Campaign is a statewide coalition of concerned individuals, transit riders, community organizations, labor groups and transit providers seeking support to revitalize and enhance public transit services throughout the State. He said the Campaign is promoting expanded State of Illinois funding of public transit, both for capital equipment and operations. He further explained that the funding initiative part of the Campaign consists of State legislation that was sponsored by Representative Doug Scott, before his election as Mayor of Rockford.

Mayor Scott discussed the history of his involvement in the Campaign and the development of the funding legislation. He spoke of the statewide need to develop a public transportation system that can serve those persons not adequately served by our predominantly automobile-oriented transportation systems and to provide a strong alternative transportation system that will aid in relieving congestion on our highways.

Proposed Resolution 2001-11 endorsed the Campaign's Build Illinois Transit Plan and the related legislative funding initiative, contingent upon financial analysis at the State

legislative level that assures fiscal responsibility, a balanced budget, and the continued development and maintenance of a balanced multi modal transportation system.

A motion was made by Mayor Scott and seconded by Mayor Lindberg to approve Resolution 2001-11. Without further comment, the motion was approved unanimously.

6.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON SPRINGFIELD/HARRISON:

Joe Vanderwerff reported that the Springfield / Harrison project is proceeding on schedule. The bridge part of Phase I is essentially done and the remainder of Phase I will be completed this construction season. Phase II is still on schedule to be completed next year.

6.2 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE BOONE / WINNEBAGO / BELOIT MODELING STUDY:

Gary McIntyre reported that the consultant is beginning the model calibration process, the initial land use forecasts are nearing completion, and the estimation of external trips is being discussed with surrounding entities such as WisDOT and CATS.

7.1 OTHER BUSINESS – RMTD ACCESS TO JOBS GRANT APPLICATION:

Lis Brown of the Rockford Mass Transit District explained that Federal Access to Jobs funding may be available for some limited service expansions. She said RMTD is requesting Policy Committee endorsement of a grant request they recently developed. Specifically, RMTD is requesting funding for the purpose of providing limited Sunday service in the Rockford area. She noted that Sunday is currently the only day that transit service is not provided and there have been many requests from persons in need of transportation to and from employment, commerce, recreation and religious services.

Mr. Petrotte apologized to the Committee for the short notice on this topic but explained that RMTD had received notice that funding might be available for this purpose only a short time ago and completed their grant request only a few days ago. He said the matter could be laid over until the regular August meeting, but if this matter could be handled now, it is unlikely there will be a need for another meeting later this month. He said there is reference to RMTD's previous Access to Jobs funding requests pertaining to a day care and training facility in the Long-Range Plan but we had inadvertently omitted noting the need for Sunday service in the Plan. Therefore, if the Policy Committee concurs with staff, i.e., that this is a worthwhile and desirable addition to area public transit service, he asked that the Policy Committee formally endorse the RMTD grant request. He said this request is compatible with other aspects of the Long-Range Plan. He distributed a draft of Resolution 2001-12 endorsing the concept and asked consideration for approval pending correction of a dating and numbering error on the draft.

Mayor Lindberg noted that there is a need to consider such service throughout the entire urban area and he urged RMTD to consider that need to the extent possible. Mayor

Scott spoke in favor of the attempt to establish Sunday service.

A motion was made by Mayor Scott to approve the corrected Resolution 2001-12. The motion was seconded by Steve Chapman and approved unanimously. (A copy of this Resolution is attached to these minutes for further public inspection and/or comment.)

7.2 OTHER BUSINESS – WIS / IL ITS PROGRAM:

Marc Hustad, from the consulting firm HNTB, gave a briefing on the Southwest Wisconsin / North Central Illinois Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Program. He discussed progress that has been made in ITS in the region, to-date. This includes such things as:

1. The Beltline Pilot Project (Madison area) which consists of the installation of five ramp meters, five traffic condition cameras and loop detection throughout the Beltline. The ramp meters were turned on last week, a small operations office has been established and a Model 2070 Traffic Controlled is being used.
2. The establishment of enhanced roadway location reference markers on the Balkline, I-39, I-90 and I-94 with a spacing of two-tenths of a mile. Implementation began last October.
3. Enhanced efforts in incident management (i.e., locate, respond to, and clear traffic incidents more expeditiously).
4. A variable message sign is going to be deployed.
5. An alternative routing (the Blue Route) for situations when I-39/90/94 must be closed is being proposed and tested.

The goals of the current WI / IL ITS Study are to establish a Regional ITS Architecture in compliance with Federal guidelines, conduct ITS education, identify critical stakeholders and achieve stakeholder consensus, identify ITS needs and solutions, and develop a 6-Year ITS Program Plan. The study area includes the six south-central counties in Wisconsin with the addition of Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and DeKalb Counties in Illinois.

In meetings conducted so far in Illinois, the consultants received considerable input from area stakeholders regarding numerous ITS aspects:

IDOT commented regarding the following:

1. The incident management plan developed for I-39 between Rockford and I-80.
2. The deployment of Changeable Message Signs.
3. Funding approval for Dynamic Message Signs.
4. Automated De-icing and Monitoring of the Kishwaukee River Bridge.
5. Smart Work Zones.

- 6. The need for Priority Cellular service.
- 7. Rest area road and weather information.
- 8. Operation Green Light in Rockford and DeKalb.

Rockford commented on . . .

- 9. The need to transfer video information from VIDS intersections (currently 15) to City Hall.
- 10. The need for supplemental traveler information during Special Events.
- 11. A proposal to equip maintenance vehicles with automatic vehicle location systems.

DeKalb stakeholders noted . . .

- 12. The need for better monitoring of high speed rail traffic.
- 13. Needed improvements in radio communications with Northern Illinois University.
- 14. The Kishwaukee River monitoring system.
- 15. Advanced train crossing notification.

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority noted . . .

- 16. The Central Freeway Management System (under development).
- 17. Enhance multiagency coordination and data sharing.

Boone County expressed concerns regarding . . .

- 18. Significant traffic surcharges when the Tollway is closed.

Winnebago County expressed needs regarding . . .

- 19. A common incident management command post.
- 20. Perryville Road video traffic detection.
- 21. Incident management and training.
- 22. Enhance signal coordination.
- 23. Communications across the State line.
- 24. Major traffic debriefings.

DeKalb County expressed concerns regarding . . .

- 25. Traffic incident scene safety on the Interstate.
- 26. Acoustic preemption in DeKalb and Sycamore.

Ogle County noted needs for . . .

- 27. DMS along the Interstate.
- 28. Additional RWIS.
- 29. The proposed Rail Port in Rochelle.

The Illinois State Police noted . . .

- 30. Their 800 MHz radio system.
- 31. Needed signing enhancement on I-39 south of Rockford.

Eleven High Priority ITS Concepts were discussed by the

consultants:

- 1. Improvements to Interstate Traffic Monitoring and Traveler Information.
- 2. Advance Signal Operations / Coordination and Surface Street Traffic Monitoring.
- 3. Snow and Ice Management (including Automatic Vehicle Location).
- 4. Agency Data Sharing.
- 5. Public Safety In-Vehicle Signing with Real-Time Route Selection.
- 6. Enhanced Weather and Pavement Condition Monitoring.
- 7. Madison Area Ramp Meters.
- 8. Rural, Non-Interstate Traffic Monitoring.
- 9. Arterial Dynamic Message Signs and Dynamic Trailblazer Signing.
- 10. Control Software.
- 11. Communications Infrastructure.

The next steps identified by the consult are:

- 1. Update / confirm previously developed project goals, objectives, needs and project concepts for Illinois.
- 2. Complete planning documentation and the Regional ITS Architecture.
- 3. Continue to build consensus for operational concepts and develop agency agreements.
- 4. Preliminary engineering for high priority projects.
- 5. Develop the 5-year program plan.
- 6. Gain project approvals.
- 7. Final design for approved projects.

7.3 OTHER BUSINESS – NEXT RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING: After a brief discussion, the consensus of the Committee was that another Policy Committee meeting would not be needed in August. The meeting tentatively scheduled for August 30th was cancelled. The Technical Committee meeting tentatively scheduled for August 23rd was also cancelled.

8. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Scott, seconded by Steve Chapman, and unanimously approved. The time was approximately 2:22 PM.