

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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*

RATS POLICY COMMITTEE Meeting Minutes – August 29, 2002

MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; and Doug Scott, City of Rockford.

MEMBERS ABSENT: IDOT

OTHERS PRESENT: David Noel, City of Loves Park; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Department; Bob Soltau, IDOT-Springfield; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration; Bob Mullins, Village of Machesney Park; Frank Hodina, Missman Stanley and Village of Roscoe; Susan Anderson, Boone County Board; Steve Ernst, City of Rockford and RATS staff; Russ Petrotte, City of Rockford and RATS staff and Gary McIntyre, City of Rockford and RATS staff

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** With a quorum present, RATS Chairman Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:40 P.M.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Steve Ernst reported that the City of Roscoe has submitted a letter requesting membership to the RATS Policy Committee and RATS Technical Committee.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 30, 2002, RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING:** Mr. Scott moved to approve the meeting minutes of the May 30, 2002, RATS Policy Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and approved unanimously without correction or discussion.

4. **RATS TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) FOR FY-2003:** RATS Resolution 2002-7: Steve Ernst said the draft TIP was presented at the May 30th meeting. Since that time, the RATS TIP

for FY-2003 has been opened for public comment. However, no comments have been received. Accordingly, the RATS Technical Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this document and RATS Resolution 2002-7.

Also, IDOT has submitted a request to add a project to the FY-2002 TIP for a signalization project at U.S. Business 20 and Shaw Road. The RATS Technical Committee unanimously recommends the adoption of this RATS Resolution 2002-11, which would amend the FY-2002 RATS TIP.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve RATS Resolution 2002-7. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and approved unanimously.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve RATS Resolution 2002-11. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and approved unanimously.

5. **BELVIDERE AND ROSCOE REQUESTS FOR RATS MEMBERSHIP:** RATS Resolution 2002-9: Mr. Ernst said that both the City of Belvidere and the Village of Roscoe have submitted letters requesting membership to both the RATS Technical and Policy Committees. City of Belvidere Mayor Brereton and Craig Lawler, the Director of Public Works for Belvidere, attended the July 18th RATS Technical Committee meeting and discussed their reasons for seeking RATS membership. In reviewing these requests, the Technical Committee found that: (1) both entities meet the criteria for Technical Committee membership as set forth in the RATS Cooperative Agreement, (2) both entities have

considerable transportation-related responsibilities, and (3) similar entities have been appointed to the Technical Committee in the past. Based on these facts, the RATS Technical Committee unanimously recommended the adoption of RATS Resolution 2002-9 and RATS Resolution 2002-10.

Mr. Scott made a motion to approve RATS Resolutions 2002-9 and 2002-10. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and approved.

6. **RATS URBAN AREA AND METRO PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY DESIGNATION:** Mr. Ernst distributed a position paper prepared by RATS staff on the transportation planning issues pertaining to the changes made to the Beloit and Rockford urbanized area boundaries resulting from the Year 2000 Census. This document examines several issues that need to be discussed as both the RATS Technical and Policy Committees address the new urbanized areas for Beloit and Rockford. Specifically, the Rockford urbanized area has been expanded to include new land in Boone County and an increased area in Winnebago County; this includes most of the City of Belvidere and the Villages of Roscoe, Winnebago and Timberlane. The Beloit urbanized area has lost most of the area within the Village of Roscoe, but still contains more than enough population to maintain its status as an MPO.

Mr. Ernst explained the process that RATS staff and the Technical Committee are now going through to identify the planning boundaries for the adjusted urbanized area and metro planning area boundaries. Following a brief discussion on the boundary between RATS and SLATS, Gary McIntyre said that these issues will be worked out as the staffs of both MPOs meet during the next few weeks.

7. **ELECTION OF RATS POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR FY-2003:** Mr. Scott made a motion to have Mayor Darryl Lindberg be elected Chairman of the RATS Policy Committee and Village President Linda Vaughn be elected Vice-Chairman of the RATS Policy Committee by FY-2003. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chapman and approved unanimously.

8. **PROGRESS REPORTS ON SPECIAL STUDIES:**

unanimously, thereby adding the City of Belvidere and the Village of Roscoe, respectfully, the RATS Technical Committee.

The Technical Committee is still reviewing the requests for Policy Committee membership and seeking input from any and all parties with regard to this request.

8.1 Springfield Avenue/Harrison Avenue Extension project: Mr. Vanderwerff reported that paving for the north section of this project should begin in about three weeks. This project should be opened in mid-fall of 2002.

8.2 West State Street Corridor Study: Mr. Ernst reported that all the public informational open houses have been completed and the writing of the draft technical report is underway. At the next RATS Technical Committee, a presentation will be made by City of Rockford staff.

8.3 Winnebago County Smart Growth Study: Mr. Vanderwerff reported that all the public meetings have been completed. He said the consultant is preparing the final report.

8.4 Rockford Area Railroad Consolidation Study: The City of Rockford has selected Wilbur Smith & Associates as the consultant for this study.

8.5 Roscoe - Rockton - RMTD Public Transit Study: No report.

8.6 WinGIS: No report.

8.7 RATS/SLATS Modeling Study: Mr. McIntyre reported that three public informational opening houses were recently held in South Beloit, Belvidere and Rockford. About 50 people attended these three opening houses. Mr. McIntyre gave the Policy Committee a brief summary of the information that staff had presented at the meetings. He said the model is now calibrated. This next stage is finalizing the land use projections and the committed and planning roadway links. Mr. McIntyre distributed excerpts from Census 2000

“Mode Split - Journey to Work” data for the various jurisdictions within the RATS planning area.

8.8 RMTD Route & Schedule Analysis: No report.

8.9 RMTD East Side Transfer Center Study: No report.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Ernst reported on the status on the ITS Janesville-Beloit-Rockford I-90 project. He explained that plans are underway which will list the planning steps that will be used when serious disruptive incidents on the I-90 corridor.

The Committee welcomed John Donovan from the Federal Highway Administration.

The IDOT Fall Planning Conference is schedule for September 17th and 18th in Peoria. Also, a Balance Growth meeting, sponsored by Governor Ryan, will be held during this time.

On August 15th, the Federal Highway Administration conducted an on-site review of our Congestive Management activities. Mr. Ernst said the review went well and it appeared that the Administration was pleased with the progress of Congestion Management work here in the RATS area.

10. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business, Mr. Chapman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Scott and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.