

# **RATS**

## **Rockford Area Transportation Study Metropolitan Planning Organization**

City of Rockford, Public Works Department  
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 987-5638

### **POLICY COMMITTEE**

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford  
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park  
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere  
Deputy Director George Ryan, IDOT Region 2  
Board Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County  
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park  
Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County*

### **RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 24, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park, Planning and Zoning; Frederic Brereton, City of Belvidere; Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford; Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Catherine Ward, Boone County; Kris Tobin, Illinois Dept. of Transportation.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Jon Paul Diipla, RATS staff; Gary McIntyre, RATS Staff; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Janyce Fadden, RAEDC; Terry Pitkus, Rail Advisory Committee; Tim Hanson, Rockford Public Works; Joseph Vanderwerff, Winnebago County; Mary Swanson, Rockford Public Works; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Melinda Trier, Mobility Sub-Committee; Robert Soltau, SLATS; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park, Community Development; Ed McCullough; Isaac Guerrero, Rockford Register Star; Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Hoekstra, Blackhawk Bike/Ski Club.

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

Mr. Brereton, called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

#### **2. COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 25, 2007, RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING**

A motion was made by Ms. Ward, and seconded by Mr. Lindberg to approve the minutes of the October RATS Policy Committee meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **4. RATS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN for the ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AREA: RATS**

**RESOLUTION 2008-1:** The development of the RATS LRTP is a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative transportation process. To continue this planning process, RATS has developed a more detailed planning analysis of the Bicycle-Pedestrian System for the Rockford Metropolitan Planning area. After several years of work on this and with the unanimous endorsement by the Technical Committee, a call for action was requested. Motion to approve by the City of Rockford, and seconded by Boone County, motion carried.

**5. RATS COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN for the ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA: RATS RESOLUTION 2008-2:** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) requires that the RATS Metropolitan Planning Organization submit a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) in order for projects to receive FTA funding under Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities), 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) and 5317 (New Freedom) funds. Accordingly, RATS staff and the RATS Mobility Subcommittee and the RATS Technical Committee have prepared the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan for the Rockford Metropolitan Area. With the unanimous endorsement by the Technical Committee, a call for action was requested. Motion to approve by the City of Loves Park, and seconded by City of Rockford, motion carried.

## **6. PROGRESS REPORTS**

- 6.1 **Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements** - I-90/I-39 interchange will be reconfigured this year, including the construction of a new flyover ramp and adjacent mainline pavement reconstruction. Also tied into the I-39/I-90 interchange improvement is the creation of a northbound exit ramp to Irene Road. As part of the "add lane" program, reconstruction of I-90 from Newburg to Rockton Road with widening from 4 lanes to 6 lanes. The Authority will be using night construction as much as possible to avoid traffic surges on the weekends.
- 6.2 **NICTI Alternative Analysis** – There was no project management meeting since the last Policy meeting, so there is no report.
- 6.3 **RMTD East Side Transfer Center** – They have closed on the land acquisition portion and are preparing drawings on the building. Beginning in March, 2008 free service will be provided to the elderly. They must register with RMTD, provide proof of age at the downtown Rockford office. The registration fee is \$2.00.
- 6.4 **IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park)** – Revising the comprehensive plan and will provide it to the Policy Committee when finished.
- 6.5 **RATS Mobility Subcommittee** – There will be a meeting held on February 12, 2008, at the YWCA in Rockford.
- 6.6 **RATS & Regional Planning** – The RATS Retreat will be held on February 21-22 at Giovanni's restaurant. Mr. John Lewis of NIU will be the facilitator for the retreat. The regularly scheduled RATS Policy and Technical Committee meetings will be held immediately prior to the first day of the retreat.

## **7. OTHER BUSINESS**

The Stateline Mass Transit District Board of Trustees will be hosting a press conference at the NorthPointe Health and Wellness Center, 5605 East Rockton Road, Roscoe, IL on January 30, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Freight Study to use discretionary money from IDOT. RFQ's to go out for consultant assistance.

IDOT will be hosting an open house today at Crusader Clinic from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Executive Directors of all MPOs formed a caucus with grant dollars from IDOT for someone to assist us in Springfield. This person can sit in on meetings for us if we cannot be present. This person would be a

government affairs type of person and the contract would be through IDOT. The Rockford MPO fee would be \$120.00 as part of the match.

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Seeing no further business, Mr. Brereton entertained a motion to adjourn seconded by Chairman Christiansen and unanimously approved.