

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
THURSDAY, January 29, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, City of Rockford; President Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Marshall Newhouse, Boone County; Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:**

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Michael Maddox, Bob Soltau, Les Nunes, James Stack, Wayne Vlk, David Taylor, Mark Williams, Ralph Hoekstra, Thomas Bona, Bill Luhman.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brereton with a quorum present at 1:22 p.m. Mayor Morrissey and Chairman Christiansen arrived at 1:24 p.m. and 1:26 p.m. respectively.
2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Steve Ernst, Executive Director of RMAP, relayed the following communications:
  - The RAEDC is sponsoring an event called "Go Global" in which they will be presenting information on attracting international companies to the Rockford Area. This training event will be held April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. Rep. Don Manzullo will address the audience on the importance of attracting new businesses and appealing to the international market for economic development purposes in this increasingly global economy. More information can be found on the RAEDC website.
  - RMAP received its planning marks from Springfield this past week. Staff is happy to report that funding levels have not been reduced, and a slight increase is expected.
  - RMAP has received a letter from FHWA/FTA informing the MPO of full Federal Certification following the audit in the summer of 2007 and successful completion of conditional requirements. This certification is now good for four years.
  - IDOT has two safety programs, the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and the High Risk Rural Roads Program (HRRRP). Training sessions are available now and staff has informed the Technical Committee of these opportunities. Applications for projects will be accepted for through April 10<sup>th</sup>. RMAP can assist project submission to IDOT Local Roads.
  - RMAP received a thank you letter from the Blackhawk Bicycle and Ski Club for its efforts to implement dedicated bike lanes on two streets within the City of Rockford. They would like to especially thank Gary McIntyre for his work on the Greenway Plan and his dedication to projects of this type.

- Staff has sent out an e-mail containing dates for all Mobility Subcommittee, Technical, and Policy meetings for 2009. RMAP staff would like to cut the current Policy meeting schedule in half.
- Staff reported that Bunny Anderson updated the Technical Committee at its last meeting on the progress of Tollway projects in the area. The Tollway Authority has also extended an offer to municipalities to get hot asphalt for patching purposes this winter. It has brokered a deal to open a batch plant in the upcoming weeks and would be happy to extend this opportunity to any organization in need of patching materials. It is likely that this batch plant will be open for the duration of the upcoming construction season.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2008 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE:**

A motion to approve the minutes was made by the City of Loves Park and seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. RMAP RESOLUTION 2009-2; RMAP FY 2009 - 2012 TRANSPORTATION**

**IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** Staff explained the TIP and its importance in securing any funding for projects from a federal source. Staff also introduced the new format of the TIP (11x17) and the major modifications to the content and layout of the document. Staff explained the new projects that had been added recently because of the Economic Stimulus Package.

5. A motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2009-2 was made by the City of Loves Park and seconded by the City of Rockford. President Vaughn commented that photos of local infrastructure should be used in the document. Mayor Morrissey asked that the TIP have some documentation that tied project selection back to the RMAP Strategic Plan and other regional goal setting documents. This new analysis would provide the Policy Committee with a method to measure goal achievement. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote (7-0).

**6. RMAP FY2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:**

**RMAP RESOLUTION 2009-3:** IDOT District 2 has requested a TIP amendment for a project on US-Business 20/West State Street 0.4 miles west of Meridian Road. This project includes a culvert replacement and resurfacing. The resolution would amend the current TIP since this project was merely getting a change in scope and funding. A motion to adopt RMAP Resolution 2009-3 was made by IDOT and seconded by the City of Rockford. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote (7-0).

7. **REGIONAL FIBER OPTIC AND BROADBAND:** Staff gave a presentation on a draft multi-phased implementation plan for regional fiber optic and broadband. The components of the plan use the Northern Illinois Technology Triangle (NITT) fiber ring as a foundation for the regional implementation. This ring would provide a backbone for economic development, intelligent transportation systems and communications between municipal and county buildings. No action was required.

8. **REGIONAL ECONOMIC STIMULUS SUBMITTAL:** Staff provided an overview of the economic stimulus legislation that is currently being considered by the US Congress. Staff commented on the small amount of overall stimulus funding that is targeted for transportation and infrastructure. Mayor Brereton commended the staff for its work to put together the regional economic stimulus submittal documents.

Mayor Morrissey commented on the need to add categories for human services, public housing, and economic assistance like WIC/food stamps. He would like RMAP to convene an ad hoc committee to look into regional housing issues and offered his services as chair for such a committee. Mayor Morrissey also discussed the need for contracted governmental affairs assistance in Washington DC to help deliver needed projects to the region. The Policy Committee directed staff to continue discussions with potential firms and provide the Policy members with proposals. Discussion was held regarding the amount of suballocated funds that would be directed to RMAP through the State. IDOT was unsure of the amount but hoped that it would have an announcement soon. Les Nunes of IDOT confirmed that passage of the stimulus bill is expected by President's Day 2009.

Discussion followed on the high speed rail networks in Illinois and the potential for discretionary grants for high speed rail projects. RMAP has joined the "New Starts Working Group and the Midwest High Speed Rail Association and would seek additional guidance from them in this regard and report back to the Policy Committee.

Staff announced that a NICTI Executive Committee would be scheduled for next month and the agenda would include results from passenger rail research being conducted by Joel Cowen of the University of Illinois, College of Medicine, Health Systems Research unit.

9. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**

- Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements: Bunny Anderson reported at the Technical Meeting that all improvements were on schedule. She also stated that traffic would be moving to the opposite side of the interstate to start the next phase of the work. The widening project as well as the interchange reconstruction project in Cherry Valley should be substantially complete by Thanksgiving of 2009.
- NICTI: A meeting was held in January to scrutinize and compare the consultants cost estimates with those that have been provided by Amtrak. Dave Taylor asked the Policy Committee to consider asking McHenry County officials to join NICTI and use a combined effort to advocate with federal officials such as Senator Dick Durbin.
- RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Architects have been hired and the project is moving forward as planned.
- Northeast Urban Planning Area: No Report
- RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is Tuesday February 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the YWCA facility located next to Rockford College. At this meeting the HSTP Amendment will be discussed.

- RMAP & Regional Planning: Staff announced that it will be holding an open house on February 20<sup>th</sup> to formally introduce its staff, facilities, and corporate image to local stakeholders. Mayor Brereton gave his RSVP along with Winnebago County Chairman Christiansen.
- RMAP Regional Freight Study: Dr. Hutchins would like to come to the March Policy Committee meeting and update the committee on his progress in this regard.

#### 10. OTHER BUSINESS:

- 2010 Census PSAP Update: Staff gave an update of their work with the Census Bureau. Progress is positive and there will be fewer changes to the geometry than earlier thought. The project is on track and maybe even ahead of the schedule mandated by the Census Bureau.
- Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Staff is partnering with the RAEDC and Growth Dimensions to complete the documentation required to become an Economic Development District, as designated by the Economic Development Administration. There will be a rapid schedule used for the first phase of the work, called a CEDS, to allow the region to apply for EDA funds and discretionary funding through the stimulus. Mayor Brereton asked that this be added to the progress reports section.

11. **ADJOURNMENT**: A motion was made to adjourn by the City of Loves Park and seconded by the City of Rockford. The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 2:54 p.m.