



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 27, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mr. Chad Hunter, Village of Machesney Park; Mr. Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Ms. Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation- District 2; Mr. Jim Ryan, City of Rockford (joined the meeting at 1:35p).

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Michael Hren, Michael Maddox, Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP Staff; Curtis Jones, IDOT Urban Program Planning; Patrick Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Joe Vanderwerff, Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Genevieve Borich, RREDD; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Dave Taylor, NICTI; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Mark Williams, Growth Dimensions; Steve Frerichs, Chaistain & Associates; Mark Stevens, WTVO Channel 17; Michael Pepper, WREX Channel 13; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:22 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** No communications.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 9, 2010 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Belvidere. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **FY 2011-2014 TIP Amendment:**

Mr. Ernst stated that this TIP amendment is for the City of Rockford and the Rockford Park District. The City of Rockford's portion of the amendment is for a small bridge project on Stonebridge Road and the Rockford Park District's portion is for a four wheel drive tractor for path maintenance (from a Trails grant). Mr. Ernst indicated that the Technical Committee and staff recommend approval of RMAP Resolution 2011-1. Motion by the Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Belvidere. RMAP Resolution 2011-1 was approved unanimously (7-0).

5 RMAP FY12 UWP DEVELOPMENT:

RMAP is currently reviewing the planning work program for the next fiscal year and wishes to identify member-desired projects. RMAP staff will then identify possible funding opportunities, either from SPR or the regular program, to provide the desired planning projects. Mr. Ernst suggested that planning projects under \$25,000 in scope could possibly be worked into the regular RMAP program. Larger projects over the \$25,000 threshold would probably require discretionary funding from the SPR program. Mr. Ernst urged Policy members to submit their list of projects as soon as possible. A draft of UWP needs to be done by March 2011. RMAP has not received funding marks for next year and are under the assumption that funding will be the same as last year.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: Mr. Ernst stated that there is a NICTI Executive Committee meeting scheduled directly after the Policy meeting. Nothing to report at this time.

6.02 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Mr. Johnson reported that construction is progressing along well. The improvements to Lyford Road are complete. Transfer Center foundations are complete. The erection of structural steel is 90% complete. Small areas within the structure will be enclosed upon availability so that masonry work can be started over the winter.

6.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Nothing new to report.

6.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Mr. Ernst had no report at this time.

Chairman Christiansen asked Mr. Ernst if he had any news regarding the area south of the Rockford Airport regarding Canadian Pacific? A brief discussion took place regarding the air and rail assets of the Rockford Airport and how RFD could provide for the needs of the South Suburban airport being considered at Peotone. Policy Members feel strongly that now is the opportunity to advocate for RFD's long-term role with the General Assembly and the Governor's office. Policy Members asked Mr. Ernst to draft a resolution for next month's Policy meeting.

6.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Ernst reported that the next RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 10:00a and held at the YWCA. Mr. Ernst reported that JARC/New Freedom funding will be discussed at the next meeting as well as the committee's role in the HUD Sustainability project.

6.06 Housing, Human Services & Workforce Development Subcommittee: No report

6.07 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: No report. Mr. Ernst congratulated Winnebago County on being awarded a Section 319 Grant which will look at the Madigan Creek watershed and the Wentworth-Wellworth area.

6.08 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Mr. Ernst reported the CEDS document is being updated. Mr. Ernst thanked members for submitting their list of projects.

6.09 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): Ms. Tobin reported that final plans were submitted to Springfield on the section of IL 173 between IL 251 and Alpine Road. Construction is expected to start in 2011. Phase I engineering has been started on the section of IL 173 between Alpine Road and I-90.

6.10 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study: Mr. Ernst reported that the 1st community meeting for the South Main Street (IL2) Revitalization project will be held on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 6:00p at CCS/Youthbuild (917 South Main Street).

6.11 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN): Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP is sponsoring an Earth Day Environmental Event (April 22, 2011) along with the GREEN partners to be held at Midway Village. The Greenway Plan for Boone County & Winnebago County will be presented at the event. More details to follow in the coming weeks.

6.12 IEPA CCDD Regulation: No report.

6.13 HUD Sustainability Grant: Mr. Ernst reported that he has received the contracts from HUD. The initial launch date of the sustainability process is scheduled for February 26, 2011 from 9:00-Noon at the NIU/Rockford Campus. "Save the Date" postcards and summit flyers have been sent out to all the stakeholders in Boone and Winnebago counties. Mr. Ernst and Ms. Borich provided a brief summary of the sustainability process anticipated over the next three (3) years. A brief discussion took place among Policy Members. Mr. Ernst reported that Mr. John Lewis from NIU has been hired as the Project Manager. Mr. Ernst asked Policy Members for a motion to allow him to sign the contracts on behalf of RMAP. Motion by Winnebago County and seconded by the City of Rockford. Motion approved unanimously (7-0).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. George Ryan, Deputy Director for IDOT District 2 retired at the end of 2010. The new Interim Deputy Director is Mr. Eric Therkildsen. IDOT is holding an IAAP Grassroots Meeting for District 2 on Monday, March 21, 2011 and will be held at the Candlelight Restaurant (2200 1st Avenue) Rock Falls, Illinois and starts at 6:00p.m. Mr. Therkildsen will be available for introductions at this event.

Mr. Ernst stated that during the last certification review a deficient linkage was identified between the NEPA environmental process and the planning process of RMAP. Mr. John Donovan, FHWA and the GREEN consultant (TY Lin) will be leading a NEPA Workshop on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 from 8:30-Noon to be held at RMAP. The workshop is free and members are invited to attend. This is the initial consultation with the environmental resource agencies and RMAP to close the gap identified in the certification review.

8. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business Chairman Walberg entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Winnebago County, and seconded by City of Belvidere. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 P.M.