



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 24, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Machesney Park.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, RMAP Staff; JoAnn Hudson, Cherry Valley Village Trustee; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; Joshua McClusky, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Mark Williams, Growth Dimensions; Janyce Fadden, RAEDC; Steve Nailor, Better Roads; Nathan Bryant, Spring Creek Development Group; Joe Altenhoff, Arc Design; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates; Bill Hoyt; Matt Cerutti.

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:** Mr. Ernst announced that the Winnebago County Highway will have a Ribbon Cutting for the new signals at Perryville, Broadcast and Nimtz on Wednesday, January 30, 2013 at 10:00a and held at the Peak Fitness Facility located at Perryville Road.
Save the Date for the 2013 Northern Illinois Farmland Conference scheduled on June 21-22, 2013 and held at the Boone County Community Building Complex in Belvidere, IL.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2012 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to approve the December 20, 2012 minutes was made by the Winnebago County, seconded by City of Belvidere. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **TIP AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2013-1:**

Mr. Ernst asked Mr. Hren to provide members more details regarding the TIP amendment.

Mr. Hren stated that the TIP amendment is three projects for IDOT which includes IL-173 from 251 to just east of Mitchell Road in Loves Park, US BUS-20 from Sunset Avenue to west of Ken Creek in Rockford and IL-2 from south of Pond Street to Cedar Street southwest of Rockford. All projects are either changing funding source, funding amounts but were already planned for and the reason for the amendment.

Mr. Hren stated for the Boone County Highway side we've got Orth Road Bridge and Centerville Road Bridge both design and construction over Beaver Creek and Garden Prairie Road Bridge over Kishwaukee River all of these projects are new numbers to the TIP.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee voted unanimously to recommend the amendment at their January 17, 2013 meeting. A motion to approve Resolution 2013-1 was made by IDOT District #2, seconded by the City of Belvidere and approved unanimously (6-0).

5. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERSHIP – RESOLUTION 2013-2:

Mr. Ernst stated that several months ago our partners in the land resource agencies in both Boone and Winnebago Counties had approached RMAP for membership on the Technical Committee and we ended up adding the Winnebago County Forrest Preserve District, Rockford Park District and the Boone County Conservation District to the Technical Committee. Subsequent to that RMAP made some outreach to our other land resource partners both the Boone & Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation Districts. The Boone County Soil & Water District felt that with such a small staff they probably would not be able to fulfill a complete voting role but would be willing partner from time to time to provide information. The Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District felt like that this was an appropriate time for them to take a very active role in RMAP and become a voting member on the Technical Committee as well. There were some very good discussions at the Technical Committee meeting and Dennis Anthony, Executive Director of the Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District provided a presentation on their organization.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee voted unanimously to recommend adding the Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District as a full voting member to the Technical Committee.

A motion to approve Resolution 2013-2 was made by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Rockford and approved unanimously (6-0).

6. IRENE ROAD:

Chairman Walberg stated that he asked Mr. Ernst to list this as an agenda item for the Policy Committee meeting this month to provide a brief update on the Irene Road Project.

Boone County Administrator Ken Terrinoni provided a handout I-90/Irene Road Interchange Economic Impact Analysis prepared by Hanson Engineering. Mr. Terrinoni stated that through the efforts of the Tollway there has been quite a bit of progress on trying to get the Irene interchange moving along. The Tollway has modified their cost sharing policy in reference to southeast quadrant and have recently signed an agreement with City, County and Tollway to acquire property due to environmental due diligence and then the Tollway Authority will then build the ramp at their expense. In the middle of negotiations the Tollway brought up the bridge and they are willing to redo the bridge as well if we take on maintenance of replacing the deck in 40 or 50 years which our governing boards have agreed to do. Due to the flexibility of the Tollway Authority the project is really moving along. Mr. Terrinoni referenced a little history when they were approached by Hanson Engineering to do an economic analysis of the Irene Interchange if it were to be built. Hanson used an economic model called In-plan and were able to calculate what this infrastructure would result in economic output in job creation. Mr. Terrinoni stressed the importance of the Irene Road Interchange Project to the region.

Mayor Brereton stated that regarding the presentation from Angeleou Economics and how it relates to Boone County and the Irene Road project brings back the reality of the commuter rail component to the region.

The study revealed that the commuter rail component will become more valuable in attracting the type of people and businesses we want to establish roots in the region. The Flora Neighborhood Plan is consistent with what the Economic Development District has spelled out and as part of the challenge put forth in the region which is to identify a transit orient development project and it be a priority project. Mayor Brereton stated he would like to submit this neighborhood for that project. Mayor Brereton stated that if we could all work together he thinks this would have a huge economic impact not just in Belvidere/Boone County as study shows for Winnebago/Rockford as well. Mayor Brereton stated he'd like to see in the advancing that strategic plan to embrace the Irene Road and the Flora Neighborhood Plan if not the project as one of the projects.

Mr. Ernst stated that many of the audience attendees have been actively involved trying to coordinate infrastructure improvement with economic developments. On the Winnebago County side RMAP has been participating in the Airport Growth Committee to look at how we can take the recommendations from Angeleou Economic study and feed those into a program/projects where we start to build economic recovery using the massive generator which is the airport. On the Boone County side RMAP has been participating in the Transportation Committee with Growth Dimensions which is doing the same thing for the area around Chrysler and Irene Road interchange. After the Angeleou Economics diversification plan was presented publicly we started to see recommendations coming out of our working group are in line with what Angeleou was recommending. We are now spending time now to piece those into a working plan where we know what the next priorities will be. We felt it was important at this point in time to bring this idea forward to the RMAP Policy level to know where Boone County was with the Tollway which is moving very rapidly and also to try and align some of this strategic planning that is being worked on. Mr. Ernst stated that it's good to have these discussions at the Policy level.

Chairman Christiansen stated that he felt that the Irene Road Plan is a great project and that these projects have a return. Chairman Christiansen stated that Irene Road and Springcreek project are good projects and certainly the commuter rail project which he doesn't want to give up on and would all be good for the region. Chairman Christiansen commended Mayor Brereton for always being leader in regionalism and will be leaving quite a legacy behind.

Mayor Brereton stated that if we could truly demonstrate regional support and be able to tell as a regional story. Mayor Brereton was pleasantly surprised that the investment that Boone County and the City of Belvidere are making was embraced unanimously by both the Boone County Board and City of Belvidere City Council. That points to the understanding that if we are going to get out of this hole were going to get out of it with the people in this room and we will have to quit looking to Springfield/Washington to give us money. If we can set the mindset of investment and return and if we have to borrow but it's a sound investment then we have a real opportunity.

Chairman Walberg stated that the Irene Road Interchange Project is opening up opportunities for both Boone and Winnebago County regions. Chairman Walberg stated he supports Chairman Christiansen on his thoughts of connecting O'Hare and the Rockford Airport which could provide more opportunities for both regions.

Chairman Christiansen stated he'd like to see the continuation of cooperation between both regions.

Mr. Ernst stated that we need to energize the Technical Committee to look at the projects in both regions and merry them up.

Ms. Fadden stated that the Angeleous Plan is a diversification plan and that on January 30, 2013 there will be a meeting to bring partners together to address the hundred or so items that Angeleous suggested we address.

Members had a brief discussion on regionalism and how Boone & Winnebago Counties can benefit from regionalism.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:

Mr. Zuroske reported that the City of Rockford has received the agreement from IDOT on the Train Station and are weeks away from getting this project launched.

7.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mr. Terrinoni reported that they are between 70-100% built and hope to go live in a few months.

7.03 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Ernst reported that the Mobility Subcommittee will be discussing the next round of JARC/New Freedom funds for the upcoming year.

7.04 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

Ms. Fadden reported that she attended the ComEd event recently and the ComEd CEO reported that everything was moving along and felt they were making good progress with the State as it relates to the State's concerns about their project.

Ms. Fadden stated that ComEd is looking for support and will be having a lobbying effort in Springfield on February 5, 2013. Paul Callighan, ComEd can provide more details for interested parties.

7.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:

Ms. Fadden reported that they are in the annual process to update the CEDS document.

7.06 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP has reached the 2/3 point of the grant cycle and currently preparing the annual report for HUD. There is basically one year left on the grant. Mr. Ernst stated that we are spending the money quicker than the timeline indicates so we are ahead of schedule which HUD is pleased with. We are a little bit behind on the document preparation and complying with the deliverables to the grant but will be able to catch up in the first two months of the calendar year and will get back on schedule. The local match to the grant is tracking along very nicely. Mr. Ernst stated that he has no concerns at all that we'll be able to deliver the project as originally proposed to HUD. At some point Mr. Ernst would like to schedule an item for Policy Committee to discuss Regional Governance Plan and the idea of creating a regional planning board and how that fits and sit side by side with the Policy Committee. Mr. Ernst stated he is potentially scheduling something for February or March.

7.07 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study: No report.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Christiansen mentioned the Bell School/East State Street Project and that the Technical Committee will probably be discussing in their upcoming projects. The project is a three million dollar project and is a very tough intersection. Chairman Christiansen stated he's hoping that something with the existing funding plan and not ill effect the City of Rockford Harrison Avenue progress.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, Winnebago County made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the City of Belvidere. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 P.M.