



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 30, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Mayor Jerry Bolin, Village of Machesney Park; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.

Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park joined meeting at 1:32p.m.

Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County joined meeting at 1:45p.m.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; James Ryan, City of Rockford; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Steve Nailor, Better Roads Association; Kevin Richardson, Janet Agnoletti, Steve Rauschenberger, Heartland Solutions; Jim Johnson, Denny Hendricks, RMTD; Matt Cerutti, Citizen.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:25 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

GO GLOBAL

Mr. Ernst stated that the RAEDC will hold its Go Global 2014 event on Wednesday, May 7, 2014 at Giovanni's Restaurant & Convention Center. Registration and agenda is available on the RAEDC website www.rockfordil.com.

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY & IDOT MEETING

Mayor Chamberlain stated that he's received confirmation that a meeting has been scheduled with the Illinois Tollway and IDOT on February 13, 2014 in Downers Grove to discuss all the parameters of the Irene Road economic development project. Mayor Chamberlain asked the other Policy members if they would provide a letter of support for the projects. The support letters will be included in the presentation packets for the Tollway/IDOT meeting.

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Chairman Bob Walberg
Boone County, RMAP Chair

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen
Winnebago County, RMAP Vice-Chair

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park

Mayor Mike Chamberlain
City of Belvidere

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
City of Rockford

Mayor Jerry Bolin
Village of Machesney Park

Deputy Director Paul Loete
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

4. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2013 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve the October 24, 2013 minutes was made by the City of Rockford, seconded by City of Belvidere. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

5. RMAP FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES – RMAP RESOLUTION 2014-1 AND RMAP RESOLUTION 2014-2:

Mr. Ernst stated that the process is done once every decade after the census is released. The RMAP staff and the Technical Committee members have reviewed and made a recommendation for the revised Function Classification System and Urbanized Area Boundaries.

RMAP is allowed to draw two new boundaries, (1) the Urbanized Area boundary (UZA) that depicts the area expected to urbanize in the next five (5) year period and (2) the Metropolitan Planning Area boundary (MPA) that depicts the area expected to urbanize in the next 20 years. Because SLATS has South Beloit and Rockton in their territory we have the natural boundary that we've agreed to between the two MPOs. RMAP has entered into an agreement with Ogle County to extend the MPA boundary to the Illinois 72 corridor (Byron, Stillman Valley, Davis Junction, Monroe Center). It allows RMAP to have better dialogue about potential growth in both the Illinois 251 corridor and the Illinois 2 corridor and everything along the Rock River. That would include what is anticipated for growth, including new industry, around RFD.

Then all of major roads within the new boundaries get functionally classified, defining what is a local street, collector level road, arterial road. Mr. Ernst referred to the Functional Classification System list that was provided to members which included the list of changes from the previous system and also includes the current additions and deletions. RMAP staff worked closely with the Technical Committee members and a very comprehensive review has been done of the current Functional Classification System. The revised Functional Classification System will stay in place for a ten (10) year period and can be amended at any time. The Technical Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval at their January 23, 2014 meeting. A motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2014-1 and RMAP Resolution 2014-2 was made by the Village of Machesney Park, seconded by City of Rockford and approved unanimously (6-0).

6. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP was awarded approximately \$620,000 in Transportation Alternative Program funds. The call for local projects will close tomorrow (Friday, January 31, 2014 at 4:30pm) and all applications are due at that time. A team will be put together to score the applications. Staff will bring a recommendation to the Policy Committee in February or March 2014 for TAP awards. RMAP is waiting for the Governor to make an announcement of the ITEP awards prior to making a recommendation.

7. UPDATE ON THE VITALS SIGNS PROJECT:

Mr. Ernst introduced Kevin Richardson, Steve Rauschenberger and Janet Agnoletti from the Heartland Solutions Group, the consulting firm that has been working on regional governance funded through the Vital Signs project.

Mr. Richardson stated that there were two (2) basic questions:

1. Is there a need for a regional advocacy capability of some type?
2. If so, what should it address?

Initial activities began in June and July, 2013 with interviews of the Policy Committee members. Officials were asked questions that focused on the identification and development of policy issues of potential regional interest as well as on the potential value (and structure) of a possible regional council of governments (or similar-type entity) for use in advocating on behalf of such regional policy priorities. There are four (4) themes that emerged from the interviews of greatest importance as summarized:

- Pride in the Rockford region is substantial. There is genuine conviction that the region has something unique to offer to employers and residents alike and that collective action on issues of regional importance can enhance the region's desirability.
- The "Wisconsin threat" (luring businesses away) is seen as a credible one, though is probably better understood by government officials than by the region's population at large.
- Support for a new entity is tempered by the concern of some that it would become overly resource-consuming (i.e, a large new staffing expense).
- Reclaiming First is considered by all as a model for regional cooperation.

In a subsequent activity city, village and county administrators were interviewed and participated in exercises that produced focus areas as follows:

- Infrastructure
- Legislative Advocacy
- Financial/Shared Services
- Economic Development & Workforce
- Professional Development
- Environmental:

Possible next steps include:

- Organizing and leading a meeting with Policy Committee members to develop a "pre-qualified" agenda and establish initial areas of regional common ground.
- Meet with the leadership of Transform Rockford and regional business organizations to evaluate business community priorities.
- Organize and lead a larger meeting to include officials from other cities, villages, counties and other governmental entities to win support for a go-forward plan to develop a new regional council of governments or planning entity.

A dialogue of the benefits of a COG for the region took place among the members and consultants. Mayor Morrissey stated that Vital Signs, Transform Rockford, and Strong Cities/Strong Communities need to be coordinated and education should be aligned with the planning process for the region.

Mayor Lindberg stated that he has attended a lot of IML meetings recently where he sees a lot of respect among the officials attending and they all are working for common goals. Mayor Lindberg stated that this kind of camaraderie is desperately needed here in the region – there is strength in numbers.

Chairman Christiansen stated that the region is more united than is seen at times. Transportation, rail and airport are huge initiatives that are being supported by all the members. Chairman Christiansen stated that he does feel the region can move forward on these issues.

Mayor Chamberlain stated that he's not looking for a dilution of efforts but that an organization can be put together that can identify the key persons in their organization that can be trusted and create the message and share the message. If a limited number of goals are set for the first year there is the opportunity to achieve those and that would help the region push forward.

Ms. Tobin stated that the Bi-State Regional Commission in the Quad Cities has a Policy Committee just for the transportation activities and then they have a much larger umbrella that covers other priorities. Ms. Tobin stated that two separate policy meetings to address the transportation and other issues might be what RMAP could look into.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

8.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: No report.

8.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mayor Morrissey stated that he would like to see partnership opportunities explored that will continue the investment created by the iFiber project, and others. Coordination with utilities may be key to the process.

8.03 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: No report.

8.04 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

Mr. Ernst reported that ComEd's deployment plan for both metering and connection to the grid for our region is in the 2020-2021 timeframe. Staff will report from time to time as new developments occur.

8.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: No report.

8.06 HUD Sustainability Grant: See agenda item #7.

8.07 Regional School Planning:

Mr. Ernst provided a brief presentation showcasing the maps that the RMAP staff have created from the data received from School District 205. RMAP can provide all of the GIS data for schools in the free Google Earth tool. Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is now in a position to seek partnerships with other school districts.

8.08 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:

Mr. Ernst reported that in the January 22, 2014 Federal Register there was an announcement that the US Department of Transportation has accepted the noise study that the Chicago/Rockford International Airport prepared. This agenda item can be removed from future agendas.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

9.01 RMTD Membership on Policy Committee:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has received guidance from the MAP-21 legislation. The transit providers in regions above 200,000 population will have to be formally represented on the Policy Committees. The deadline is October 2014.

9.02 Notices of Advance Construction:

Mr. Ernst stated that projects that have received Advance Constructions notices are the IL-2 intersection at Roscoe Road, the US-20 Bypass Bridges at the Rock River, and safety improvements on IL-2 from the Wisconsin line to US Route 20. No action is required.

9.03 Tri-State Alliance Summit (May 16, 2014) at RFD:

Mr. Ernst stated that the 2014 Tri-State Alliance Summit is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2014 to be held at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport.

9.04 RMAP 50th Anniversary:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP turns 50 this year and will be looking to schedule a commemoration lunch for the Technical Committee, past and present.

9.05 Request from IDNR for Water Supply Planning:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP was contacted by the IDNR to look at ground water management planning for the entire Rock River Basin. RMAP has had some conversations with the Bi-State Regional Commission about their interest in this planning effort. Mr. Ernst indicated that this effort may take 24 months and is something that staff cannot commit to at this time. A brief discussion took place among members regarding the water supply for the region.

9.06 New WinGIS Layer of Roadway Jurisdiction:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP and IDOT are looking to provide a new layer of pavement management data that includes roadway jurisdiction. It is hoped that the new layer could be added to WinGIS.

9.07 Update Cycle on 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan:

Mr. Ernst stated that planning work to comprehensively update the LRTP will occur over the next 15-18 months, with a goal to incorporate the PRTP and the Vital Signs RPSD. Eventually we hope that the CEDS plan and other economic development plans will also become integrated.

9.08 Discussion on the 2015 Work Program (UWP):

Mr. Ernst stated that the planning marks for next year's work program are status quo. RMAP will be able to provide the same level of service that has been provided in the past. RMAP is working with the Technical Committee on 2015 priorities.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, Chairman Walberg made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the City of Loves Park. Approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M.