

# **RATS** **ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

*METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION*

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

*CHAIRMAN JOSEPH F. SINKIAWIC, MAYOR, LOVES PARK  
EUGENE R. QUINN, CHAIRMAN, WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
CHARLES E. BOX, MAYOR, ROCKFORD  
WILLIAM D. OST, DISTRICT ENGINEER, IDOT DISTRICT 2  
STEPHEN KUHN, PRESIDENT, MACHESNEY PARK*

## **TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

*ROCKFORD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT / LOVES PARK PLANNING  
ROCKFORD PUBLIC WORKS / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PLANNING  
GREATER ROCKFORD AIRPORT / MACHESNEY PARK PLANNING  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARATRANSIT / CHERRY VALLEY PLANNING  
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS  
LOVES PARK TRANSIT / ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION*

## **POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES JULY 27, 1995**

The following are the minutes of the July 27, 1995, RATS Policy Committee meeting held in Room 501 of the Winnebago County Administration Building..

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Hong Liu, City of Rockford; Lori Tharp, Village of Machesney Park; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; David Noel, County of Winnebago; Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT; Rich Lundin, County of Boone.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** City of Loves Park.

**OTHERS:** Bill Smith, IDOT; Rosy Peterson, Mayor, Belvidere, Gary McIntyre RATS Staff, Russ Petrotte, RATS Staff.

The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m. by Mr Petrotte and Mr. McIntyre acting as meeting facilitators. Copies of the June 23, 1995, memorandum from J.V. Oliver, Assistant Chief Counsel for IDOT, were distributed to the persons present. Mr. Petrotte said the most important part of the memo was the determination that a formal "redesignation" of the RATS MPO would not be required to add Boone County or Belvidere as members of the RATS Committees.

The fact that the Boone County Highway Department has very little jurisdictional road mileage in the current Metro Area part of Boone

County was discussed. Mr. McIntyre clarified the purpose of today's meeting was to discuss and, possibly, pose a recommendation regarding Boone County's request that the Boone County Highway Department and the Belvidere/Boone Planning Commission be added as voting members of the RATS Technical Committee. At this time, the Subcommittee has not been asked to consider requests for membership on the Policy Committee.

The fact that Boone County and Belvidere do not currently extend within the Rockford urbanized area as defined by the Census or the Rockford Urban Area as defined by RATS was discussed. Mr. McIntyre noted that this is likely to change soon. If the U.S. Census definitions stay the same, Belvidere will become part of the Rockford urbanized area at the time of the Year 2000 census or sooner if there is a special census. Further, any annexations by Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park or Cherry Valley into Boone County would make those parts of Boone County part of the Urban Area as defined by RATS. (The RATS Metro Area, the area expected to be urbanized in 20 years currently extends well into Boone County and includes Belvidere.)

County was discussed. Hong Liu noted that most roads in this area are currently under township jurisdiction and Mr. Lundin agreed. However, Mr.

Lundin said his Department is working to coordinate road improvements in the area and improve the connectivity both between the townships and between Boone and Winnebago Counties. Mr. Noel noted that the Public Works Department in Winnebago County serves to represent the interests of the townships as well as the County. He said it would be better to have a similar arrangement in Boone County rather than have the multiple townships on the Technical Committee.

The STP-Urban funding was discussed. The Rockford Urban Area is currently being allocated approximately \$1.1 million annually and the City of Belvidere is separately allocated \$80-90,000 annually. As long as Belvidere is not officially part of the Rockford urbanized or Urban areas (not likely until the Year 2000) these funding amounts can remain separated. However, if Belvidere becomes an official member of the RATS Policy Committee, it will be up to the Policy Committee to decide if the funds are merged or separated. For this reason, Rosy Peterson said he is considering delaying Belvidere's request to become a member of the Policy Committee even though the Belvidere City Council has authorized him to make the request.

Issues related to the "central city" (Rockford) were discussed. The federal law recognizes the special needs of central cities and, in various loosely worded terms, supports their need to have a stronger position in the MPO governing structure. In light of this and the time it took Machesney Park to become a member of the Policy Committee, Mr. Peterson said he understood that it might take a considerable time to devise a new mutually acceptable MPO Policy Committee voting/power structure that includes the City of Belvidere. For this reason, he suggested we begin thinking about such a structure now, before Belvidere becomes an official part of the Rockford urbanized area.

David Noel moved that the Subcommittee recommend that the Boone County Highway Department and the Belvidere/Boone Planning Commission be added as voting members of the RATS Technical Committee. The motion was seconded by Lori Tharp. In discussion it was noted that adding these entities as members of the Technical Committee would not affect the STP-funding or the Section 16 or Section 18 funding currently allocated to entities in Boone County (the funding would not be merged). It was also noted that the unanimous vote of the Policy Committee would be needed to carry out this recommendation because no part of Boone County is currently part of the Rockford Urban/urbanized area (as per Article 11 of the adopted RATS Cooperative Agreement). The motion was called and approved by a vote of 5 to 1 with Mr. Liu voting against the motion.

At approximately 3:30 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.