



Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Metropolitan Planning Organization

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POLICY COMMITTEE

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere
Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park
Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County
Deputy Director George F. Ryan, IDOT Region 2*

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Jim Ryan, City of Rockford; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Chairwoman Catherine Ward, Boone County; Ross Monk, Illinois Department of Transportation; President Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere (joined the meeting at 1:43)

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RMAP Director; Gary McIntyre, RMAP staff; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Bob Soltau, SLATS; David Taylor, NICTI Chairman; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford, CD; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford, CIP; Sean Driscoll, Rockford Register Star.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by President Linda Vaughn with a quorum present at 1:28 p.m.
- 2. COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst received correspondence from IDOT pertaining to the Regional Planning Fund (1201 funds). The FY09 allocation from the State will be reduced by 3% (roughly a \$5700 reduction). The FY09 UWP will have to be adjusted slightly to cover this shortfall.
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 29, 2008 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Boone County, seconded by IDOT. Motion carried.
- 4. RMAP RESOLUTION 2008-9: YEAR 2035 LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP) AMDENDMENT: ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION AND TRANSIT REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FORECAST:** Adoption of this amendment to the LRTP is required for full Federal certification. The environmental portion will update a current section of the LRTP. Mr. McIntyre met with several individuals from area environmental agencies, including representatives at the Federal, State and local level for consultation and discussion on environmental mitigation related to transportation and land use planning. Also, many of these individuals attended an environmental meeting held in the Quad Cities. Mr. Diipla worked the transit operators of RMTD and the BCCA to extend the transit revenue and expenditure forecasts out to the horizon year of the LRTP, which is 2035. Adoption of Resolution 2008-9 will allow the MPO to comply with two of the four issues raised in certification.

Motion to approve by City of Rockford, seconded by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. RMAP RESOLUTION 2008-10: RMAP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN:** This Plan lists methods and strategies to ensure involvement of the public and key stakeholders in the planning process. The new plan updates the previous document called the Public Involvement Plan. Some of the new methods included using the Mobility Subcommittee to reach out to the public, producing brochures that outline RMAP to help gain public interest and the use of visualization in the document. The MPO staff held several public input sessions during the required comment period, and although few comments were received, the public was pleased with the detailed approach that the MPO will take. Staff responses to the comments are contained in an appendix to the report. Adoption of Resolution 2008-10 will allow the MPO to comply with the third of four issues raised in certification

Mr. Ernst expressed appreciation to Mr. Diipla and Mr. McIntyre for their hard work on this document. Mr. Ryan also thanked the RMAP staff members for their diligence and work.

Motion to approve Resolution 2008-10 by City of Rockford, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously.

- 6. ELECTION OF RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR FY-2009 (July 1, 2008 to June 20, 2009):** Mr. Ryan commented that he and Mayor Morrissey spoke of possibly having an RMAP officer rotation each year where the vice-chair would move to office of chairman and new nominations would be sought for vice-chair. This type of system would minimize the time commitment for MPO related activities and give all Policy members a chance to lead the organization as Chairman. Boone County was in favor of the rotation idea and expressed a desire make sure that Boone County held an officer position during each fiscal year. A motion was made to elevate Mayor Brereton to Chairman and to nominate Mayor Morrissey for Vice-Chairman.

Motion for Mayor Brereton to become Chairman and Mayor Morrissey to be Vice-Chairman by Boone County, seconded by IDOT. Motion carried unanimously.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS:

- 7.1 Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements:** Newburg Road bridge is open. The ramp at US 20 to north bound I-39 closed and will remain closed for most of the year. Riversie/I-90 project to include bridge component, Rockford Blacktop received the bid.

Mayor Brereton joined the meeting at 1:43 p.m.

- 7.2 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** There will be a meeting with Amtrak and IDOT next week, continuing the work for restored Amtrak services for the region. There will be a subsequent meeting held in Dubuque, Iowa, however the schedule has not been confirmed. Mr. Ernst will attend the Amtrak meeting in Dubuque.

- 7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center:** No report.

- 7.4 RMAP FY 2009-FY2012 Transportation Improvement Program:** Amendments to the current TIP on hold pending full certification. Staff are determining the impact on the transit portion of the current TIP. Adoption of the new FY09 TIP to be in September or October. Policy Committee members

were encouraged to get their highway, bicycle, safety and transit projects to the MPO staff as soon as possible, recognizing that each members agency has a unique capital improvement program cycle that does not always coincide with the MPO calendar.

- 7.5 **Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County:** An open house was held on the Poplar Grove Road corridor with many area landowners attending. Many landowners expressed concern about the rapid urbanization of this corridor, the potential transportation impacts that would result, and the loss of prime farmland to residential development. The consultant team for the study received positive feedback on some of the preliminary options for the corridor, including modern roundabouts.
- 7.6 **RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** The next meeting will be August 12, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the YWCA, 4990 East State Street, Rockford, IL. Subcommittee will review the RMAP transportation plan and transit needs as they relate to workforce development and the needs of employees trying to access jobs. Review findings should be presented in December. Review will include Cherry Valley services. The Mobility Subcommittee will then assist the MPO staff in the next update to the Human Services Transportation Plan.
- 7.7 **RMAP & Regional Planning:** All legislative bodies have signed the resolution authorizing the ratification of the cooperative agreement forming and empowering the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP). The document has been sent to Springfield and we are waiting for the signature of the Secretary of Transportation Milt Sees. A booklet will be made and given to all members once final documentation is received.
- 7.8 **RMAP Regional Freight Study:** The freight study is slowly moving forward. Mr. McIntyre plans to devote more time on the study in the coming months.
- 7.9 **RMAP Certification (SAFETEA-LU) Compliance Update:** With the passage Resolutions 2008-9 and 2008-10 today, we have met three out of the four requirements for full Federal Certification. The MPO staff will send a schedule to the FHWA/FTA team outlining compliance on the last item, which is the Management & Operations Plan and the Congestion Management Process. The MPO staff anticipate that the schedule, followed by the actual planning documents, will allow the federal agencies to lift the freeze on the current TIP. Mr. Ernst spoke of needs for the M & O process. During the next month, is anticipated that a plan be created and documented. Technical Committee members have been asked to work on data collection activities as part of their internal budget and work program of their agency.
8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mayor Brereton discussed the staffing process for the newly created RMAP. He suggested that Mr. Ernst be named the Executive Director of RMAP. Mr. Ryan thought a new job description is needed regarding the Executive Director's position along with looking at wage and benefits. He suggested a meeting be held *after* members study what other area MPO directors receive in other cities. He thought this would only be fair to create a comparable salary package for the Executive Director's position. Mr. Ernst announced that the two new MPO staff positions were currently being advertised on the City of Rockford website, the local media, and the Illinois APA website.
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, motion to adjourn by Winnebago County, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.