



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 28, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Ms. Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation- District 2.

Mayor Fred Brereton and Chairman Bob Walberg joined the meeting at 3:08p.m.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Michael Maddox, RMAP Staff; Curtis Jones, IDOT Urban Program Planning; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; John Donovan, FHWA; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Ed Murphy, Senator Kirk's Office.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Morrissey with a quorum present at 2:45 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 30, 2011 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Winnebago County, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **RMAP FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):**

Mr. Ernst stated the FY 2012-2015 TIP is a compilation of the region's capital programs for highway and transit into a single document. The Technical Committee recommended approval at their Thursday, July 21, 2011 meeting. This is one of the standard documents that the MPO produces. RMAP hosted a TIP Open House on July 12, 2011 and invited members of the community to attend and ask questions and give input. The TIP Open House was well attended and all the comments received were very positive and Mr. Ernst stated he is very comfortable in requesting the document be approved by Policy Members and recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2011-7. Motion by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Loves Park. RMAP Resolution 2011-7 was approved unanimously (5-0).

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Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
City of Rockford, Chairman
Chairman Bob Walberg
Boone County, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg
City of Loves Park
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton
City of Belvidere

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen
Winnebago County
Mayor Tom Strickland
Village of Machesney Park

Acting Deputy Director Eric Therkildsen
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

5 LINCOLN LEGACY INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT ACT:

Mr. Ernst welcomed Mr. Ed Murphy from Senator Kirk's Office to discuss a bill that is being sponsored by Senator Kirk that could potentially impact the development of strategic transportation projects for the region. A one page summary titled "The Lincoln Legacy Infrastructure Development Act" was provided to Policy Members. Mr. Murphy stated that the Lincoln Legacy Infrastructure Development Act encourages greater private participation in the financing and development of our transportation infrastructure, including highways, rail, transit, airports and ports. The legislation: 1) Removes federal restrictions on private-public partnerships; 2) Provides states greater flexibility to generate transportation revenues; and 3) Enhances access to private capital investment in our road, rail, aviation, highway and port infrastructure. A brief discussion was held among Policy Members and Mr. Murphy. Mr. Ernst asked if there was the possibility of merging the TIGER program and financing mechanisms like TIFIA and RRIF into the Lincoln Legacy Act. Mr. Murphy stated he has heard from both sides that that merging of existing programs is a distinct possibility. Mayor Morrissey thanked Mr. Murphy for his presentation. Mayor Morrissey stated that if the Senator would like to have the Rockford region evaluate or provide local feedback to the bill, RMAP staff would coordinate.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: No report.

6.02 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: No report.

6.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Mr. Ernst stated at last month's Policy meeting Mr. Lewis provided a presentation and that Chairman Christiansen had requested a list of the institutions that were retained in the project (anchor institutions) and those that were initially dropped and he will be providing that list shortly. Mayor Morrissey stated that he has had communication with local Comcast representatives to express concern about potential conflicts. Mayor Morrissey indicated he would keep the members apprised of future developments.

6.04 Regional Freight Study: Nothing new to report. Mr. Ernst stated he hopes to have something to report at next month's meeting.

6.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: No report.

6.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: No report

6.07 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: Mr. Ernst stated that Boone County folks will be finalizing their efforts on their storm and water drainage plans.

6.08 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: No report.

6.09 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): Ms. Tobin reported that the IL251/IL173 intersection was awarded and should be moving forward.

6.10 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study: Mr. Zuroske reported that the final draft of the report is available for review and final document by August.

6.11 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN): No report.

6.12 IEPA CCDD Regulation: No report.

6.13 HUD Sustainability Grant: Mr. Ernst reported that the technical grant prerequisite documents have been provided to HUD and have been approved.

Mr. Ernst also reported that FEMA is interested in a pilot program for the Rockford region that looks at pre-disaster mitigation planning. The Rockford region is one of five sites in the US that have been selected for this pilot program.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

REGIONAL CONCRETE AESTHETIC DESIGN

Mr. Ernst stated that at last month's Policy meeting there was a discussion about the inclusion of a regional standard for aesthetic design of vertical concrete surfaces. Mr. Ernst provided Policy members a one page standard that has been developed by the Civic Design Advisory Group for their review. Technical members will continue to discuss at upcoming Technical meetings.

CITY OF ROCKFORD MORGAN STREET BRIDGE PROJECT

Mayor Morrissey thanked Governor Quinn and IDOT for filling the financial gap on the City of Rockford's Morgan Street Bridge project. Mayor Morrissey asked Mr. Zuroske to provide a timeline on the project. Mr. Zuroske stated that the pre-construction meeting is scheduled for July 29th and the construction is scheduled to begin in about 2 weeks. The project will take approximately 2 ½ years to complete.

ILLINOIS TOLLWAY I-90 MODERNIZATION PROJECT

Mayor Morrissey stated he would like Rockford's City Council to support and pass a resolution of support for the Illinois Tollway's proposed capital program but he would like to wait for the actual hearings to take place in each of the communities before proceeding. Mayor Morrissey would like to all of the Policy members to consider some written support for the Tollway's capital program.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mayor Morrissey stated that he has talked to other members about the election process for this year. Mayor Morrissey stated he would be happy serve another term as Chairman and asked if Chairman Walberg would be willing to continue on as Vice-Chair. Mayor Morrissey asked for a motion to retain the current officers for another year. Motion by Boone County and seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

8. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business. Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Belvidere, and seconded by IDOT District 2. Motion was approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.