



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Bob Walberg, Boone County; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2; Mayor Tom Strickland, Machesney Park.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RMAP Executive Director, Jon Paul Dipla, Mary Swanson, Michael Maddox and Michael Hren, RMAP staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS ; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago Highway; Dave Taylor, NICTI Chairman; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brereton with a quorum present at 1:20 p.m.
2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.
3. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 24, 2009 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by County of Winnebago, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried unanimously.
4. **RMAP FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT REGARDING AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) FUNDS: RMAP Resolution 2009-9:** Winnebago County has asked for revisions regarding the use of ARRA funds. The changes in the dollar amounts and the scope of the projects is the reason for this amendment. The Technical Committee endorsed this amendment at their June 18, 2009 meeting. Motion to approve Resolution 2009-9 by Boone County, seconded by IDOT.

Motion carried by a roll call vote:

Ayes: City of Belvidere; City of Loves Park; Boone County; Village of Machesney Park; City of Rockford; County of Winnebago; IDOT -7-

Nays: -0-

5. **HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) PROJECT APPLICATION AND EVALUATION CRITERIA:** Resolution 2009-10: Mr. Ernst gave an update on the HSTP. Part of the Mobility Subcommittee is to review federal funding for transit. Two funding programs are JARC and New Freedom that are available to apply for. These programs aid in getting people to their jobs. This is an annual solicitation for applications for these programs. RMAP will review all applications to ensure all criteria has been met then they are forwarded to IDOT. RMAP is looking for approval of this application format and revised selection criteria today by the Policy Committee. Motion to approve Resolution 2009-10 by County of Winnebago, seconded by City of Rockford.

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Mayor Frederic C. Brereton,
City of Belvidere, Chairman

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey,
City of Rockford, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg,
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom Strickland,
Village of Machesney Park

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen,
County of Winnebago

Chairman Bob Walberg,
County of Boone

Deputy Director George F. Ryan,
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2



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Motion carried by a roll call vote:

Ayes: IDOT; Winnebago County; City of Rockford; Village of Machesney Park; Boone County; City of Loves Park; City of Belvidere. -7-

Nays: -0-

6. **ELECTION OF RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR FY-2010 (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010):** During last years' discussion regarding election of officers, it was decided to rotate the vice chair into the chair position each year and select a new vice chair. Today, Mayor Morrissey suggested that the committee keep the same officers as last year since the committee is in the midst of many issues at this time. He expressed his appreciation for Chairman Brereton's leadership. Chairman Christiansen echoed Mayor Morrissey's thoughts on keeping the same officers as last year.

Motion to retain the same officers as the previous year by Winnebago County, seconded by Machesney Park.
Motion carried by a roll call vote:

Ayes: City of Belvidere; City of Loves Park; Boone County; Village of Machesney Park; City of Rockford; Winnebago County; IDOT. -7-

Nays: -0-

Chairman Brereton expressed his appreciation to the RMAP staff for their work and welcomed Mayor Strickland to the Policy Committee.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS:

7.1 **Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements:** All construction projects are progressing and all are on track for completion.

7.2 **NICTD Alternative Analysis:** Mayor Morrissey spoke of the pursuit of funding for commuter rail service to come to our region. Several million dollars is needed and he had the opportunity to discuss our initiative with representatives in Washington DC. Also, we need to lobby in Springfield to obtain a share of money available as we are in competition for these dollars with the Quad Cities. Representative Jefferson is organizing a meeting with elected officials to meet with Mr. Hannan on our rail initiatives.

Mr. Ernst mentioned that a press conference will be held on July 7th at 2:30 in Davis Park regarding the regional rail service. Mayors from Freeport, Dubuque and Galena will be in attendance.

Mr. Christiansen suggested that the committee draft letters to Washington reiterating our unity on the rail initiative and to include Dubuque on this initiative also. The letter could be from this committee as a whole. Mr. Ernst will draft the letter for the members' signatures.



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Mr. Ernst mentioned that he and Mayor Brereton attended a webinar regarding the TIGER application. The deadline for this application is September 15, 2009 and Mr. Ernst is looking for people to be part of the application team. Mayor Morrissey would like the RMAP staff to let the Policy Members know if more input is needed from them for this application.

7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: No report.

7.4 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: The last public informational open house was held on June 3 at the fire station on Rt 173. The consulting team is finalizing the report. A presentation to this committee will be forthcoming.

7.5 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Mr. Ernst has received the second draft of the map and the letter drafted to the Governor from NIU. The map is being updated and finalized. Mr. Walberg thanked the staff for their help.

7.6 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Dr. Hutchins gave a report to this Committee last month and there is no new report. This Study is close to completion. Also, Mr. McIntyre can access freight movements on his computer due to the new model installed which has a freight component on it.

7.7 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: There will not be a July meeting held. The next meeting will be August 9th at 10:00 a.m. at the YWCA.

7.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): The CEDs document is in the final draft stages. A public event will be held on July 15, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at NIU. The document will be available on the RAEDC's web site but members should have a copy of it by the July 15th meeting.

7.9 RMAP Website: The website is very close to completion and once it is, a press announcement will be released.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: Mayor Morrissey asked staff if they had any thoughts about having public housing issues part of the RMAP web site. Mr. Ernst stated he has met with Mr. Pressman on tracking housing. A comprehensive plan is being evolved and will be integrated as part of the long range plan.

Mr. Christiansen mentioned the need to discuss storm water management due to all the problems each community has experienced. Discussions are needed to begin very soon. Mr. Ernst stated that these discussions can begin at the Technical meeting level and that this topic had been broached a few years back. Mr. Walberg mentioned the efforts that McHenry County has addressed regarding storm water and aquifer issues. There are agencies available with information regarding storm water issues, i.e., FEMA, and the Army Corps of Engineers. Mayor Morrissey stated how the public is frustrated with all the rain and not knowing what help will be coming for them.

Mr. Christiansen recognized the RAEDC's quick work on the CEDs project.

Mr. Jacobson mentioned that Jim Reid of the Rockford Park District is retiring after 35 years of service on June 30th. Mr. Ernst will draft an appreciation letter to send to Mr. Reid.

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9. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by the City of Rockford, seconded by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.