



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 28, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Mr. Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Ms. Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Village of Machesney Park; City of Belvidere.

Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford arrived at 1:32p.m.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle RMAP Staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Tom Kelso, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Norm Stoner, John Donovan, Jon Paul Kohler, FHWA; Steve Graceffa, RRWRD; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:27 PM.

**2. COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst stated that he received a letter from Ms. Kristy Lafleur, Illinois Tollway thanking RMAP for participating on the leadership for the I-90 Corridor Council and asked that RMAP continue to participate as the project moves forward.

IDOT District announced that an Open House is scheduled for Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at Spectrum School located at 2909 North Main Street from 1:00-6:00p to discuss the proposed reconstruction of Illinois Route 2 from Yonge Street to West Riverside Boulevard in Rockford, IL.

Mr. Ernst provided members a summary of the recently announced 4th round of TIGER. Two projects in Illinois that received funding. There was an additional 10.4 million that went to a separate project that overall create projects in Chicago and the CTA received 20 million as part of 150 million dollar upgrade.

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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 Federic C. Brereton  
City of Belvidere

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford

Mayor Tom Strickland  
Village of Machesney Park

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

RMAP received a request to participate in the Tour de North Bicycle event that is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 1:00-6:00p.m. Mr. Gary McIntyre, RMAP Metro Program Manager will be participating in the event and will have a booth to showcase some of the bicycle planning products that RMAP has.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 24, 2012 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

First motion made to approve minutes by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**4. ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (RRWRD):**

Mr. Ernst stated that Rock River Water Reclamation District became a participating as a non-voting member of the Technical Committee about a year and half ago. Through natural progression in the MPO, RMAP has encouraged many of the organizations to get involved in the planning process here in the region and one of those of organizations is the Rock River Water Reclamation District. RRWRD have formally requested of the Policy Committee consideration for Technical Committee membership. Mr. Ernst stated that for many reason RMAP believes this is a very appropriate time to all this to happen. RRWRD has been very active along the fringes of this idea of Winnebago County/Ogle County connection in working with Boone County on issues of wastewater. We all know that it's an important part of the development process and closer ties between the traditional groups here of transportation. It makes a lot of sense for the Technical Committee to want RRWRD at the table. It doesn't give RRWRD voting rights on Policy and it doesn't require them to financially participate but it gives them a formal seat on the Technical Committee. Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has asked the Technical Committee to review RRWRD request and they recommended unanimously pass Resolution 2012-10. Mr. Ernst recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2012-10. First motion made by the City of Loves Park, second motion made by Winnebago County. RMAP Resolution 2012-10 was approved unanimously (5-0).

**5. RMAP 2011 CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**

Mr. Ernst stated that going back to the changes RMAP made in 2008; many of those changes were the result of the audit from the FHWA and FTA on compliance with the federal planning regulations. Mr. Ernst stated that these changes are very desirable and have accomplished a lot of the goals we set forward. Late fall of 2011 FHWA/FTA came back to our region and did another comprehensive analysis and review of the MPO. Mr. Ernst introduced Norm Stoner, FHWA Regional 5 Administrator and Jon Paul Kohler and John Donovan also from FHWA.

Mr. Stoner stated that this is his third recycle of the MPO and is pleased to be in attendance to present the latest formal review of our compliance certification review. Mr. Stoner stated that on a personal impression how this MPO has progressed over the years going back 8-9 years to present a similar review, it has been his impression that this MPO has progressed and it has been a natural movement of maturity and getting better with each cycle.

Mr. Stoner stated he is very pleased with the progress this MPO has made. As evidence of this, Mr. Stoner was in Woodstock a couple of weeks ago for an IDOT Local Agency Safety Workshop recognizing that fatalities continue to be a problem particularly Illinois highways and recognizing that a large part of that problem is on local roads.

IDOT has launched an effort to bring focus to that in certain areas and counties that seem to have the highest numbers and Winnebago County is a focus of one of those workshops. Mr. Stoner stated that he found it gratifying to see the Winnebago County highway representatives and law enforcement and various local agencies in attendance. Mr. Stoner stated it was comforting to see how collaborative people were to working together to address these issues. One of the participants of the meeting was an RMAP staff member and Mr. Stoner stated he was pleased to see RMAP staff stepped forward in agreeing to organize a regional safety workshop. Mr. Stoner introduced Mr. John Donovan, Metropolitan Specialist to go over the final recommendations.

Mr. Donovan stated that the FHWA is required by law to do a Certification Review of TMAs in the United States and provided members a copy of the U.S. Department of Transportation Planning Certification Review. Mr. Donovan reviewed the purpose and scope:

- Code of Federal Regulations requires reviews in TMAs at least every four (4) years.
  - ❖ Metropolitan areas with populations greater than 200,000 persons.
  - ❖ Rockford #127 of 179 TMAs in the United States.
- Engage partners in opportunity to enhance and refine planning processes.
  - ❖ State, MPO, Public Transit.
  - ❖ Federal, Local Governments, Interest Groups.

Mr. Donovan stated that RMAP has regulatory compliances such as; United States Code, Code of Federal Regulations, SAFETEA-LU, Civil Rights Act, Americans with Disabilities Act and Clean Air Act. The Priorities and Emphasis areas the FHWA would like RMAP to address are; Safety, Economic Competitiveness, Fiscal Accountability, Congestion, Environment and Livable Communities.

Mr. Donovan stated that there are some hurdles for all TMAs and currently the National and Local Challenges are as follows:

- Economic confidence.
- Federal Surface Transportation Authorization.
  - ❖ Sustainability of Highway Trust fund.
  - ❖ Policies and programs.
  - ❖ Vision and public trust.
- Role of metropolitan regions and MPOs.
- Increased expectations for livable communities.

Mr. Donovan stated that there are public trust issues and what role the MPA will play in the future. This MPA is addressing those challenges and stepping up to move forward and improving the region.

Mr. Donovan stated that in the last review FHWA/FTA issued four (4) recommendations and RMAP has addressed those recommendations and continued to make improvements.

Mr. Donovan stated the review finding this time around, the FHWA/FTA issued a finding of full certification and providing recommendations for continued improvement and some commendations for things that RMAP is doing really well.

Specific recommendations are as follows:

- Self Assessment (Have a greater round of assessment and documentation. Document what the MPA is doing on a more regular basis. Adding to the transparency and effectiveness of the planning process).
- Financial Information (Discussion of the financial information be available for display with each project and cost increases over time. Mr. Donovan stated this is more of a formatting issue and ties in with financial planning and financial transparency from an organization stand point).
- Performance Measurement (Mr. Donovan stated the MPA is already taking performance measurement very seriously; for example RMAP HUD Sustainability Grant Project).
- Outreach and Marketing (Mr. Donovan stated that it was tied specifically to web presence and social media. The RMAP organization should be better known).
- Environmental Justice (This is a common recommendation through these reviews. This region has a wealth of geographical information systems data).
- Environmental Review Streamlining (Hand in hand of an accommodation that this region is trying to tackle already).

Mr. Donovan stated that the FHWA/FTS is encouraged with RMAP's progress and looks forward to the continued growth and success of the organization.

## **6. CIVIC DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP (CDAG):**

Mr. Ernst stated that the Civic Design Advisory Group (CDAG) is a public, private partnership group that has come together to review and make suggestions on public infrastructure projects but also to change the design culture of the region.

Mr. Ernst introduced Mr. Ron Clewer, RHA Deputy Executive Director and is the Chair of CDAG.

Mr. Clewer stated that CDAG started in 2010 within the City of Rockford and we came together because we felt there was an opportunity to work closely with the City of Rockford CIP to assist in getting the information out there and communication with the public. CDAG is looking to increase public participation. CDAG serves as a public advisor to advocate for the highest quality planning, design, development and implementation of bridges, right of ways, streetscapes, gateways, corridors, green spaces, path systems and land development.

Mr. Clewer handed out CDAG Statement of Responsibilities which was agreed upon by RMAP's Policy Committee and the existing members of CDAG. The Statement of Responsibilities consists of the following six (6) purposes:

1. Serve as an interface between municipal staff, real estate developers, design professionals, and interested citizens to garner cultural and aesthetic input to improve the design quality of the community.
2. Provide volunteers to coordinate and guide meetings for engagement of citizens in major design projects throughout the region.
3. Prepare model design guidelines for the region's governments which address different types of districts/neighborhoods, private/public projects and provide a distinct palette of choices for critical design elements.
4. Maintain a schedule of priority check points in infrastructure projects in the region to allow adequate time for stakeholders to provide input to implementing agencies.
5. Provide input and consent to implementing agencies on infrastructure projects.
6. Provide predevelopment counseling for developers and property owners to support high quality design and development of private projects.

Mr. Clewer stated that CDAG serves as an advisory group and does not want to hold up projects. The idea is to provide a general guideline into the context of a project and to provide a pre-development counseling aspect to the private sector along with the public sector. Mr. Clewer stated that one of the challenges that Mayor Morrissey has thrown onto the table and CDAG has agreed in is assisting with programming the usage of the space at the RMAP Planning & Design.

Mayor Morrissey stated that he wanted this group created because he was frustrated with the process of projects and he wanted the public to have better access and input in projects. Mayor Morrissey stated there are two components he wanted to come out of CDA; 1) a space for the designs to be displayed and this is where RMAP Planning and Design Center; 2) have an identified list of the members as well as a clear understanding between this group and actual policy role. Mayor Morrissey stated that he would like the language tweaked a little more to reflect a regional standpoint.

Mr. Clewer stated to add value they can add redevelopment component. This is merely advisory but bringing the different parties together has provided better input into the projects that are being moved forward.

Mr. Ernst stated that currently CDAG consists of Architects, Realtors, Civil Engineers, and citizens. There is a real good broad of different people brought together. Currently there is no action necessary but Mr. Ernst is recommending that CDAG be thought of as a regional group.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding CDAG and what capacity members would be in participating in CDAG.

#### **7. RMAP FY 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that the new FY 2013-2016 draft TIP has been developed. This is a compilation of all of the member's capital program projects. This time around we are tweaking the format to a more of a visualization document instead of just numbers. There is no action required at this time but will be looking for action at next month's meeting.

Mr. Ernst announced that RMAP scheduled a TIP Open House for Monday, July 19, 2012 from 3:00-6:00p.m. and will be held at the RMAP Planning & Design Center.

#### **8. URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES:**

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has met with Mr. Bob Soltau, SLATS to discuss where the area boundaries should be and RMAP also recently met with folks from Ogle County to discuss their boundaries being contingent with the City of Rockford. RMAP is trying to anticipate what our urban boundaries will be in the next 20 years. Currently Ogle County is not part of RMAP's MSA but the Census bureau hasn't released that information yet.

#### **9. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS:**

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is coming to the close of the fiscal year and it is time for members to elect officers. The tradition since RMAP reformulated was to have two (2) year terms so that each of the members of the Policy Committee is able to participate in the Chairman role. Mayor Morrissey is finishing his 2nd year role as the RMAP Chairman.

Mayor Morrissey nominated Chairman Walberg, Boone County as RMAP's new Chairman, seconded by Mayor Lindberg, City of Loves Park. Chairman Walberg was unanimously voted as RMAP's new Chairman (5-0).

Mr. Ernst asked members to take action on the Vice-Chair. Mayor Morrissey nominated Chairman Christiansen, Winnebago County, seconded by Mayor Lindberg, City of Loves Park. Chairman Christiansen was unanimously voted as RMAP's new Vice-Chair (5-0).

#### **10. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

##### **10.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:**

Mr. Ernst reported that the NICTI project closeout process is currently in place. RMTD has been very helpful in assisting with this project. The NICTI website will be merged with RMAP's website.

Mr. Ernst stated there is nothing new to report on Amtrak. Mr. Ernst stated that he did meet with folks from IDOT in Chicago to discuss the Rockford Downtown Train Station.

##### **10.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:**

Mr. Ernst stated that he spoke with Mr. Lewis who indicated that 90% of the underground duct is complete. In Boone County the entire network is now complete and permits have been applied for in Winnebago County.

##### **10.03 RMAP Regional Freight Study:**

Mr. Ernst reported that he is trying to schedule Dr. Lee Hutchins who authored the study to attend a future Policy Committee meeting to present the study.

Mr. Ernst stated that the State is currently going through Comprehensive Long Range Transportation Plan which includes a modernized and updated freight component. The State has asked Mr. Ernst to compile all of local documentation about programs and planning documents that address cargo oriented development and industrial development. Mr. Ernst has reached out to the Economic Development Agencies in our region to assist with the information.

**10.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:**

No report.

**10.05 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:**

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Paul Callighan provided some of ComEd's documents on their upgrades for Boone and Winnebago Counties and it is available for review on RMAP's website.

**10.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:**

Mr. Ernst reported that he spoke with Ms. Tricia Diduch, RREDD and the work to get full certification for the economic district is days away from being approved. Once this is complete the staff will complete for funding that will run the organization.

**10.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:**

Mr. Ernst reported that three (3) projects were highlighted in the US and the RMAP HUD Sustainability Grant Project is one of them. We are in access of 650 indicators to date. Mr. Ernst stated that people are looking to us as the experts on how to do data commons and how to come up with metrics to measure sustainability. RMAP sees this as the natural evolution for performance target for transportation planning and implementation of transportation projects and should dove tail together quite nicely.

Mayor Morrissey asked how are we going to pay for this project. One of the requirements we have to do is the consolidated plan. The City of Rockford is an entitlement community. The Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness includes other municipalities and not just Rockford. Mayor Morrissey stated that hopefully if we can show value from the information we are maintaining and that one of his goals is to create better partnership with our regional partners and to move the sustainability project forward. The analysis of impediments of fair housing is a key discussion. Mayor Morrissey asked Mr. Ernst to provide a little more information.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has received guidance from HUD on how to create this proposal and we are days to getting an RFP on the street to hire a consultant.

Mayor Morrissey stated that with this Analysis of impediment of fair housing, not only will we avoid civil law suits but we will be able to improve the lives of our citizens.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the future of the Sustainability project.

**11. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**SAFETY WORKSHOP**

Mr. Ernst asked Mr. Vanderwerff to assist in the next topic – Traffic Safety Issues. Mr. Ernst stated that we have a one stop shop; the officers investigating crashes has all the information and the other agencies are able to get this information to review. RMAP would like to put together safety professionals together as a subcommittee to address these safety issues and will come back to Policy members with recommendations.

Mr. Vanderwerff stated that at the Lake, McHenry and Winnebago County Safety Workshop the Sheriff's office, City of Rockford and City of Loves Park, and Winnebago County representatives were in attendance to address any countermeasures to reduce accidents in Winnebago County. Mr. Vanderwerff stated that we are also asking to add Boone County in this compiled data.

Mayor Morrissey asked for a quick snap shot of a one (1) page data for the region that members can review at the next meeting.

Mr. Vanderwerff stated that Ms. Priscilla Tobias, IDOT Bureau of Safety Engineering would like to meet with elected officials to provide a safety traffic workshop. Mr. Vanderwerff stated they are also looking at SLATS area to participate in addressing the traffic safety issues.

#### HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

Mr. Ernst stated that both Boone and Winnebago County is required to look at their Hazard Mitigation Plan and FEMA is asking if there is a Disaster Resiliency Plan that can be dove tailed into the RMAP Sustainability Project. RMAP would like to merge both of Winnebago Boone Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan together and RMAP would manage updating the plan as a region. Mr. Vanderwerff and Mr. Lundin will be working together to merge this Hazard Mitigation Plan for the region.

#### **12. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business. Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Loves Park, and seconded by IDOT District 2. Approved unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 P.M.