



**Rockford Area Transportation
Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

POLICY COMMITTEE

*Mayor Charles E. Box, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Board Chairman Kristine Cohn, Winnebago County
President Stephen Kuhn, Village of Machesney Park
District Engineer William D. Ost, Illinois Department
of Transportation, District 2*

Meeting Minutes -- RATS Policy Committee

**Meeting Date: March 10, 1998
Loves Park City Hall**

Members Present: Mayor Charles E. Box, City of Rockford; Kristine Cohn, Winnebago County Board Chairman; President Stephen Kuhn, Village of Machesney Park; District Engineer William D. Ost, Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2; and Dan Jacobson representing Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park..

Others Present: Gary McIntyre, RATS; Russ Petrotte, RATS; Larry Reed, IDOT Dixon; Joe Vanderwerff and David Dratnol, Winnebago County Highway Department; David Noel, Winnebago County Planning; Wayne Dust, City of Rockford Planning; Steve Baker, IDOT Springfield; Jon Paul Kohler, FHWA Springfield; David Johnson, Rockford City Council; Rob Olson, Barton Aschman, Assoc.; Rick Strader, Rockford Park District; and the Owner/operator of the Burger King Restaurant on Riverside Boulevard.

1. CALL TO ORDER: With a full quorum, Steve Kuhn called the meeting to order at 1:43 PM.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Kristine Cohn moved to approve the minutes of the December 18, 1997 Policy Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Charles Box and approved unanimously with no corrections to the minutes.

4. RIVERSIDE/ALPINE FOREST HILLS CMS: Presentation deferred until later in the meeting.

5. UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM FOR RATS: Russ Petrotte distributed copies of the latest draft of the proposed Unified Work Program for RATS dated March 3, 1998. He said an earlier version, dated February 19, 1998, had been mailed to all persons on the RATS mailing list and was presented to the RATS Technical Committee. He said the only substantive difference between the two versions is that the federal funding subsidy for the program has been subdivided from one Federal source (FHWA PL) to two (FHWA PL and FTA 5307, formerly FTA Sec 8). The total funding allocated to RATS remains the same: \$204,126 with \$146,707 coming from FHWA PL and \$57,419 coming from FTA 5307.

Mr. Petrotte further explained that the total allocation to RATS for FY99 is a 30% reduction from what was allocated to RATS in FY98. This reduction is due to the fact that the ISTEA has not yet been reauthorized by Congress. A partial authorization was made available and IDOT has subdivided this among the MPOs in Illinois in amounts proportionate to population.

In suballocating these reduced funds to local participants, RATS staff followed past practice. That is, funds were first allocated to the RATS lead agency, the Rockford CD Department, in an amount sufficient to carry on the basic necessities of the RATS planning process. The remaining funds were then subdivided among the other participants in amounts roughly proportionate to past use and need. Consequently, all agencies received cuts: the Rockford CD Department

was cut by 13% and the other participants were cut by 46% compared to the amounts that were suballocated. Mr. Petrotte noted that these cuts are not likely to be permanent. When the new federal transportation act is approved funding should be reinstated. At that time, either later this year or next year, the work program will be amended. Mr. Petrotte encouraged that RATS think about directing the reinstatements toward some type of special planning need rather than simply proportionately suballocating the funds among the participants.

Mr. Petrotte called the Committee's attention to pages 3-4 of the draft program and reviewed the highlights of next year's proposed work. He said action on the work program will be requested at next month's meetings.

6.1 SPRINGFIELD / HARRISON EXTENSION: Joe Vanderwerff distributed copies of a status report and schedule of activities regarding the Springfield / Harrison Extension Project. He stressed that the County is committed to expediting the project.

6.2 REGIONAL GIS: Mr. Petrotte said two contracts relevant to this work are being worked out. The first, the contract between IDOT and the local lead agency, the Rockford CD Department, is taking a little longer than such contracts did in the past because of new stricter contracting requirements throughout the State. IDOT staff are working diligently to set up the document in the required form and clear it through channels. Negotiations are also underway with the selected GIS consultant. The scope of work they have proposed and the requested compensation appears to be acceptable with the exception of an element pertaining to legal research. IDOT may handle this aspect because they have the in-house capabilities and the nature of this work may be applicable to all jurisdictions in Illinois, not just the Rockford area.

6.3 NORTHWEST BYPASS: David Noel reported that he is in the process of organizing the Technical Committee Subcommittee that will address this question. The Subcommittee, as per Technical Committee direction, will be composed of members of the planning staff from all relevant jurisdictions including IDOT and interested citizens such as Lew Moon of Cottonwood Airport and Jeff Linkenfeld of Arc Design. He said staff and the Technical Committee are very interested in the proposal. There is little doubt that a greatly improved roadway system will be needed in

last year.

the northwest as development proceeds. Major questions that need to be addressed include: whether a limited access facility is needed, how far north should the facility go; is a connection between U.S. 20 and IL 2 sufficient or should the facility go all the way to I-90; can the already highly developed lands between the Rock River and I-90 be traversed; and how far can the Subcommittee go in addressing these and other questions before they need the special services or time of an independent consultant.

6.4 MACHESNEY PARK / IL-251 STUDY: Steve Kuhn said this work has been limited because of other needs of the Village.

6.5 KLEHM FOREST PRESERVE: Gary McIntyre briefly discussed some of the planning issues related to the Klehm Forest Preserve and IL-2. Staff will be meeting on these issues in the near future.

RIVERSIDE / ALPINE / FOREST HILLS CMS: Rob Olson from Barton Aschman Associates gave a detailed presentation on the work his firm has done on the Riverside / Alpine / Forest Hills intersection area. Persons in attendance questioned the consultant on various aspects of his proposed solutions. The details of this work are contained in a preliminary report and maps that are available for inspection at the offices of the County Highway Department or the Rockford Community Development Department. Persons wishing to inspect the information should contact David Dratnol (965-9431) or Gary McIntyre (987-5638). Mr. Olson said his firm will be finalizing their recommendations over the next couple of months.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Rick Strader gave a brief presentation on a student transit pass program in use in the Peoria area. Called the "Sun Pass", the program provides for free transit services to students during the summer in conjunction with their use of public recreation facilities. Mr. Strader asked that RATS and the area's public transit systems consider such a program in the Rockford area. By consensus, the Policy Committee asked RATS staff to look into the matter with RMTD and LPTS.

8 ADJOURNMENT: At 2:43 PM Kristine Cohn moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Charles Box and approved unanimously.