

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

POLICY COMMITTEE

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere
Board Chairman Susan L. Anderson, Boone County
Deputy Director Gregory L. Mounts, Illinois Department of
Transportation, Region 2*

RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES March 29, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park; Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Susan Anderson, Boone County; Ross Monk, IDOT-District 2; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Durbin, IDOT Springfield; Paula Hughes, RMTD; City of Loves Park; Arianne Clarke, City of Rockford; RATS staff.

1. Call to order, roll call and representation:

With all agencies in attendance, Chairman Vaughn called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m.

2. Communications:

No communications.

3. Approval of minutes of the January 26, 2006 RATS Policy Committee meetings:

Ms. Susan Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2006 Policy Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Vanderwerff and approved unanimously (City of Rockford absent).

4. RATS Environmental Justice & Title VI Report: RATS Resolution 2006-3

Ms. Hayes Morrison indicated this report was distributed at the January Technical and Policy Committee meetings and has been open for public comment since then. The only comment received was by RMTD who requested adding bus routes to maps 1 and 1B and a more descriptive title of these maps. These changes have been made and no further comments received. The Technical Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution at their March 23, 2006 meeting.

Mayor Fred Brereton made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-3. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Vanderwerff and approved unanimously without any changes or corrections (City of Rockford absent).

5. RATS FY-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: 2006-4

Mr. Gary McIntyre discussed the technical adjustments made to the TIP for three projects that were in the approved TIP last fall. Since these projects are using federal funds, any changes need to be endorsed

by this Committee. The Technical Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution at their March 23, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Joe Vanderwerff made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-4. The motion was seconded by Ms. Susan Anderson and approved unanimously (City of Rockford absent).

6. RATS FY-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: 2006-5

Ms. Hayes Morrison explained several adjustments made by RMTD to the FY-2006 TIP. The Technical Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution at their March 23, 2006 meeting.

Ms. Susan Anderson made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-4. The motion was seconded by Mr. Joe Vanderwerff and approved unanimously (City of Rockford absent).

7. RATS FY-2007 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Mr. Steve Ernst discussed the draft version of the UWP and explained that the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration (FHWA & FTA) have focused on four (4) areas of emphasis that were unexpected, and additional work may be required which could alter the draft UWP. Of specific concern is the environmental mitigation item. FHWA & FTA are requesting all environmentally sensitive areas in the region be mapped in GIS and contingency plans developed. Mr. Ernst is in contact with IDOT-Springfield to understand how far reaching this requirement will be, but warns it could potentially have a great effect on the UWP and may change chart 6.

Another item of change relates to charts 8, 9, and 10 (page 36 of the UWP). RATS has increased the amount of money available to all transportation and land use planning agencies, and a couple of special funding requests have been added for FY-2007. Mr. Ernst also mentioned final funding marks are reflected in this document, and the amounts may be used at the discretion of the agency as long as the agency follows the given guidelines.

This item is for informational purposes only. No action is required at this time, however The UWP will need approval within the next two Policy Committee meetings.

8. Progress Reports On:

8.1 – Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements

Mr. Steve Ernst mentioned the Tollway has narrowed the plan design options to two choices for the interchange on I-90 by Magic Waters. Mr. Ernst also mentioned the Tollway has initiated a long-range planning process and is looking for projects from each agency. Although RATS would be submitting information, Mr. Ernst strongly encouraged each individual agency to respond.

8.2 - Winnebago County Smart Growth Study

Phase I is complete. Phase two of this study will use the Village of Winnebago and Rockton as beta sites. The purpose of this study is to coordinate community and county-wide plans and should be complete by September 2006.

8.3 - Springfield Corridor Planning Study

The final report should be distributed before the next Policy Committee meeting. Digital copies can be made available for posting on the internet.

8.4 - NICTI Alternatives Analysis

The RFQ was advertised on March 13, 2006. A pre-submittal conference will be held tomorrow, March 30th, 2006. On April 28th the submittals will be opened at Rockford City Hall. A series of open houses will occur on the dates and times listed below.

Date	Time	Location	Address
May 3, 2006	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Rockford City Hall, Council Chambers	425 East State Street, Rockford
May 3, 2006	3:15 pm to 6:15 pm	Roscoe Village Hall, Council Chambers	10595 Main Street, Roscoe
May 4, 2006	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Loves Park City Hall, Cafeteria	100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park
May 4, 2006	3:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Belvidere Community Building, Banquet Room	111 West 1 st Street, Belvidere

The study is due for completion by June 2008. Additional information can be found at www.cityofrockford.net.

8.5 - RMTD East Side Transfer Center

Currently working with the City of Rockford on zoning issues for potential property on the east side of Lyford Road north of East State Street.

8.6 - IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park)

I-173 is closed from Belvidere Road to just east of Rock Cut State Park. Ms. Linda Vaughn expressed her excitement over the long-planned improvement.

8.7 - Expansion of RATS Technical Committee

Mr. Steve Ernst stated there were three permanent additions to the technical committee: Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), Growth Dimensions Inc. and the Rock River Water Reclamation District. He summarized several studies completed by the RAEDC that are available on the RAEDC website at www.rockfordil.com.

8.8 – RATS Bicycle-Pedestrian Study

Proposals were opened March 22, 2006. A pre-selection meeting will be held March 24, 2006 between Loves Park, RMTD, Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department, Village of Cherry Valley, Roscoe, and RATS (IDOT has asked to be kept informed) to choose one of the four proposals. Work is slated to begin in the next 4 to 6 weeks with a completion date of June 2007. This is an MPO region-wide study with the local match funded by City of Rockford. Any agency wanting to be involved in this process should e-mail Gary McIntyre. This item will be on the next several agendas.

Mr. Ernst mentioned this study will target areas where RMTD will be able to stop and allow bikes to be loaded, which coordinates well with the transit items amended by item #6 in this agenda.

9. Other Business

Mr. Ross Monk explained his office had two versions of the IL-173 access plan. He requested the RATS document be reviewed to verify that there are only two items shown under the proposed spacing of the access points. Once this is verified, Mr. Monk requested RATS submit a letter to him recognizing the RATS document as the official document along with a copy of the document.

After a brief discussion, no objections were raised. Mr. Monk stressed the urgent timeline and Mr. McIntyre believed he could have a letter prepared by the week of April 3rd.

Mr. Steve Ernst briefly stated the new RMTD routes and schedule are available.

Mr. Steve Ernst also mentioned the IDOT 5-year program is available in CD, and any agency that would like a CD could contact Steve Ernst. This document is also available on IDOT's website.

Mr. Gary McIntyre reminded the Policy Meeting that all documents are available on the RATS website, at www.cityofrockford.net. He also stated that future meeting announcements would be via postcard and e-mail distribution list, so hard copies should no longer be expected.

9. Adjournment

At 2:15 P.M., with no further business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Ms. Susan Anderson. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ross Monk and approved unanimously.