

# **RATS**

**Rockford Area Transportation Study**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
City of Rockford, Public Works Department  
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## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford*  
*Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park*  
*Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere*  
*Acting Deputy Director George F. Ryan, IDOT Dist 2*  
*Board Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County*  
*President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park*  
*Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County*

## **ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park;

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Boone County; Illinois Department of Transportation.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre, RATS staff; Robert Soltau, Stateline Area Transportation Study; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; John Donovan, FHWA, Illinois Division; Les Nunes, IDOT, Springfield; Wayne Vlk, County Highway; David Taylor, NICTI Chairman; Curtis Jones, Metro Planning, IDOT; Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA, IL Division; Norm Stoner, FHWA, IL Division; Reggie Arkel, FTA, Region 5; Ed McCullough

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mr. Brereton with a quorum present at 1:25 p.m.
- 2. COMMUNICATIONS:** IDOT provided information on two programs this year. One is an Enhancement Program and the other is the Governor's Illinois Green Streets Initiative. Both programs will require a local match.
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 24, 2008 RATS POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by County of Winnebago, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion carried.  
**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2008 RATS POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve by Loves Park, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried.
- 4. RATS FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW:** Mr. Stoner's opening remarks included a reflection of the history of transportation planning and investment of federal dollars for our region.

Mr. Donovan explained the certification review process was conducted by a 10 member team. The findings for our region by the team was a "conditional certification" issued on March 19, 2008. With this type of certification comes corrective actions and recommendations from the Review Team. Our MPO will now have to take the next steps necessary to address these corrective actions.

Mr. Arkell from the Federal Transit Administration, Region 5 presented an overview of the FTA's transit review. He also presented SAFETEA-LU planning factors, long range transportation planning

population projections, Title VI & Environmental Justice, congestion management process, transportation demand management, the role of transit to improve quality of life and density impacts on car usage. He stated he could be available to attend the monthly Technical Committee meetings, if need be.

5. **ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT DISTRICT TITLE VI:** Due to the request of information by the FTA regarding the Rockford Mass Transit District Title VI, RATS staff prepared a status letter regarding the Title VI document and is asking for concurrence of that letter from the RATS Policy Committee. Motion for concurrence with the letter by City of Rockford, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried.
6. **RATS FY 2009 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** Mr. McIntyre presented the annual document to members, pointing out the new RATS structure on page 9, specific findings on page 12; and the summary of budget on page 25. Final approval of this document is needed in May. A motion to forward this to the State is needed. Motion by County of Winnebago, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried.
7. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
  - 7.1 Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements: Tollway representatives gave a presentation to the Technical Committee on the I-90 and Cherry Valley Interchange ramp projects. The work on I-90 from Newburg Road to Rockton Road will have 2 lanes of traffic open during construction in both directions. There is a breakfast meeting on April 11 at Giovanni's with the Tollway at 7:00 a.m. All bid awards for this tollway work were made to local contractors.
  - 7.2 NICTD Alternative Analysis: Project Management Team is reviewing technical assignment numbers. Data is coming from the model now, with CMAP running the model and the consultant team reviewing the output. The next meeting will be held the last Wednesday of April at the RMTD Board Office at 9:00 a.m. It is anticipated the information will be to the Policy Committee before that meeting.
  - 7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: The RFQ process is complete and negotiations are in the works with the most qualified firm. Design to be complete by Spring of 2009.
  - 7.4 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park): No update available.
  - 7.5 RATS Mobility Subcommittee: Next meeting April 8<sup>th</sup> at the YWCA.
  - 7.6 RATS & Regional Planning: Mr. Ernst passed out copies of the Retreat Report by Mr. Lewis; a local match spreadsheet presented at the retreat; copies of the draft new cooperative agreement for restructuring of RATS; and a spreadsheet of the proposed new organizational budget. Mr. Ernst went over some of the personnel services showing a staffing level of 6 people; one executive director, four planners and one clerical. He then went over the contractual and capital expenses. Most of the capital expenses are a one-time cost to get the newly structured MPO up and running; i.e., design of office space, computer and software, phones, etc. Mr. Ernst will be meeting with each Policy member and providing notes on each meeting to the members. No action is required by the Policy Committee today, however it was suggested that an executive committee be formed by Policy members to start the process to hire the executive director, as per the bylaws
  - 7.7 RATS Regional Freight Study: Three proposals were received, the steering committee has made a selection, and the project will be awarded in April. The study should start by early May.
8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Ernst handed out the flyer for the Tri-State Alliance Summit being held in Freeport on April 21, 2008 at the Freeport Masonic Temple. There a \$35 fee to attend and registration can be made to the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. McIntyre handed out the 2007 population census estimates and discussed the sheet.

A proposal opening is scheduled on March 28 at the Boone County Highway offices for a transportation land use corridor study.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, motion to adjourn by County of Winnebago, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.