



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; President Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Dan Long, Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2. Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park arrived at 1:33 p.m.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RMAP Executive Director; Gary McIntyre, Jon Paul Dipla, Mary Swanson, Michael Maddox and Michael Hren, RMAP staff; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Dave Taylor, NICTI; Bob Soltau, SLATS.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION: Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brereton with a quorum present at 1:17 p.m.

- 2. COMMUNICATIONS:** A public hearing will be held at the UAW Hall, 100 Block of N.Second Street on Monday April 6th with members from the IL General Assembly regarding funding for the capital program.
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 29, 2009 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by Winnebago County, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4. RMAP FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT-RMAP RESOLUTION 2009-4:** The Illinois Department of Transportation and the City of Rockford need to amend the FY2009-FY2012 TIP to include three bridge projects and one IDOT road resurfacing project. The RMAP Technical Committee endorsed this amendment. These projects are not related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, but use other state and local funds.

A motion to adopt Resolution 2009-4 was made by Boone County, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried unanimously.

- 5. AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA) OF 2009 SUBMITTAL – RMAP RESOLUTION 2009-5:** Mr. Ernst presented the consensus ARRA project list that was developed by a stimulus sub-committee and endorsed by members of the Technical Committee. He provided a presentation and graphic handout of the 17 local projects to be funded with ARRA dollars. The press release on the draft stimulus project list generated a large amount of comments from citizens and businesses in the area. Mayor Morrissey inquired about the comments that were made. Mr. Ernst stated the comments were all positive feedback and several businesses sent letters regarding the

importance of repairing the Whitman Street interchange. Most comments hoped for more funding so that many other worthy projects could be considered.

Mr. Ernst also reviewed the 4 projects that were suggested by the stimulus subcommittee that could not be funded at this time. In particular, the Bell School Road project would be assigned priority for (a) any future ARRA dollars that might be directed to the MPOs, (b) discretionary ARRA dollars, such as EDA funds through the CEDS process, that the project might qualify for, and (c) any other discretionary state or federal funds that the project might qualify for. The Riverside Blvd. bridge at Wantz Park would be given priority for the next round of bridge funds that come to the county. The Latham Rd. resurfacing project would be scaled back and rural funds could potentially be combined with other local non-ARRA funds to move the project to a letting. The Pearl St. project would be funded with local non-ARRA dollars during the 2009 construction season.

Mr. Ernst also summarized an ARRA requirement that Chairman Brereton must sign a Letter of Certification for the project list.

Motion to approve Resolution 2009-5 by Winnebago County, seconded by City of Rockford.

Motion carried by a roll call vote:

Ayes: - 7-; City of Belvidere; City of Loves Park; Boone County; Village of Machesney Park; City of Rockford; Winnebago County; IDOT
Nayes: -0-

Additionally, Mr. Ernst presented results of RMAP staff research using GIS to map all of the State funded ARRA. The GIS mapping project displayed all 285+ IDOT projects across the State, and was overlaid by counties that have been defined by the US Department of Transportation as being in economic distress. Mr. Christiansen asked that the presentation graphics be forwarded to the Policy members.

- 6. FY 2010 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** Copies of the draft were distributed to the Technical Committee. This is the first draft of the work program for the coming year. The RMAP fiscal budget for next year will also be developed and Tech members were encouraged to give their input on items they would like to see included in the UWP. No Policy Committee action is necessary at this time. If any Policy member has topics they want considered, please forward those ideas to the Technical Committee members or forward directly to RMAP staff.

Mayor Morrissey asked to have the RMAP strategic plan, planning work goals and measures available before the UWP would be voted on. Mr. Ernst indicated that the vote would be at the May meeting and these additional work products will be made available to the Policy members.



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Mr. Ernst asked that a simple motion be made to transmit the draft UWP to IDOT, FHWA and FTA for comments. Motion by the City of Rockford, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously.

- 7. TRANSIT FUNDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN RMAP, RMTD, CITY OF BELVIDERE/COUNTY OF BOONE:** The existing demand-response transit service in Boone County has been operated the last 4 years under an interim agreement by the Boone County Council on Aging. As part of an agreement to make the arrangement permanent the RMTD is soliciting proposals to provide the service. Proposals are to be opened on April 14th by RMTD. The RMTD Board will take subsequent to award a contract in the coming weeks. Upon award an intergovernmental agreement will be brought before the Policy committee.

PROGRESS REPORTS:

- 8.1 Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements:** Literature on project status was distributed to the Policy members. All projects are on schedule.
- 8.2 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** Alternative analysis and commuter service were the topics of discussion at the Executive Committee meeting. The committee members are working with the Illinois delegation in Washington to make sure that ARRA funds will be applied for the new Chicago to Dubuque Amtrak service. The discussion centered on making sure that Senator Durbin and Secretary LaHood are advocating for the new Amtrak service in Illinois.
- 8.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center:** Design is continuing and RMTD is looking for partners to occupy some of the available space in the new transit center.
- 8.4 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County:** Technical work continues with the consultant and Mr. McIntyre. The next meeting has not been scheduled yet.
- 8.5 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** The next meeting will be April 14, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the YWCA, 4990 East State Street, Rockford, IL. The Subcommittee will look at sustainability criteria for any new projects to be funded with JARC and New Freedom funds.
- 8.6 RMAP & Regional Planning:** Mr. Ernst presented the second quarter budget status report and staff are tracking the many hours spent working on the stimulus program.
- 8.7 RMAP Regional Freight Study:** Dr. Hutchins presentation has been rescheduled to accommodate the changed date of the Policy Committee. It is anticipated Dr. Hutchins will be at the May meeting.
- 8.8 2010 CENSUS PSAP MATERIAL:** Geography changes for the census was presented to the Technical Committee members. The program remains on schedule.



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Chairman Brereton asked for monthly updates regarding the CEDS program. The lead agency of this regional effort is the Rockford Area Economic Development Council. RMAP is funding a consultant contract with NIU center for Governmental Studies to write the required CEDS documents. Mr. Jacobson briefed the Policy Committee on the status. A CEDS steering committee was required, and is comprised of more than 50% private business members. Working sessions with NIU and the committee have happened at an accelerated pace to try to condense what is normally a 10 month process to 120 days. The CEDS looks at projects that will spur economic development, create jobs and meet the shovel-ready definition. Brownfield sites will be included in the draft project list.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Ernst reviewed the current status of HB 2359 (the Transportation Investment Accountability Act). The bill has now moved into committee. Representative Kathy Ryg is the chief sponsor.

Mr. Ernst mentioned that the new domain for the RMAP website has been secured (www.rmapil.org). Content will be moving to the site during the next 2 months. Users can now link to the old website to get archive information until the data is moved to the new site.

Mayor Morrissey mentioned the Governor's comments on the proposed airport at Peotone and that the Policy Committee members and staff should be prepared to advocate for regional needs instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on this airport. Mr. Christiansen mentioned that the proposed budget for the Peotone airport (possibly in excess of \$10 billion) could be better spent building high speed rail connections to the local communities and the substantial airport assets already in place for a fraction of the proposed Peotone budget. Staff will continue to monitor. Mr. Ernst will be attending the Midwest High Speed Rail Annual meeting on Saturday March 21, 2009.

Mr. Ernst presented Village President Linda Vaughn a plaque expressing our appreciation for her many dedicated years of service to RMAP and for her vision as a former RMAP Chairman.

10. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by the City of Rockford, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.