

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 31, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Lawrence Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mr. Jay Howell, Illinois Department of Transportation – District 2; Ms. Patricia Diduch, Village of Machesney Park.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Maddox, RMAP Staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Curtis Jones, IDOT Metro Planning; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Morrissey with a quorum present at 1:23 PM. Mayor Brereton joined the meeting at 1:33 PM.

2. COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Ernst stated that the Illinois Tollway has published their Annual Report and it is available online for viewing. Also the I-90 construction in the vicinity of the City of Belvidere will start Monday, April 4, 2011.

3. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2011 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:

Motion to approve minutes by Boone County, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously.

4. RMAP FY 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Mr. Maddox stated that Resolution 2011-2 is to amend the TIP to add projects for the City of Rockford and IDOT. These additional projects are from the HBP program (bridges), HSIP program (safety) and the GCPF program (rail crossings). The Morgan Street rail crossing west of the river is receiving federal rail monies to augment the other funding for the river bridge replacement. Mr. Ernst indicated that the Technical Committee and staff recommend approval of RMAP Resolution 2011-2 at their March 24, 2011 meeting. Motion by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. RMAP Resolution 2011-2 was approved unanimously (6-0).

5 RMAP FY 2012 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):

Mr. Ernst provided and distributed a four (4) page summary of the 2012 draft UWP. This draft was provided to the Technical Committee for their review. The first 2 pages of the document contain the narrative on priority planning areas for the next fiscal year. The second 2 pages provide the funding tables. Within the tables carryover funding is being shown where planning projects are not complete, including the funding for the HUD Sustainability project. The local match for each of the partner agencies is the same as last year. No action is required at this time but action is anticipated on the 2012 UWP at the May meeting.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:

Mr. Ernst provided a brief summary of a meeting with FTA on Wednesday, March 30, 2011 which included Jim Johnson of RMTD, Bryan Davis of Congressman Manzullo's staff, and the NICTI consultant team. Much of the discussion was related to making sure that the technical documentation for the New Starts process is within FTA guidance. The FTA still is not sure what Congress is doing with this program and it is difficult for FTA staff to give locals guidance on when to enter the program or how to structure an actual New Starts application. The FTA was very honest and open with their comments. In particular the FTA was concerned that the region has not produced a definitive financing package at the local level for either the capital side or the operating side. Additionally the FTA would like to see documentation of METRA's willingness to partner with the NICTI project, either as the service provider or funding partner, or both.

6.02 RMTD East Side Transfer Center:

Mr. Ernst reported that the RMTD East Side Transfer Center project schedule is on target to be completed for an opening for the summer 2011. Jim Johnson reported at the Technical meeting on March 24, 2011 that RMTD has acquired additional land to the east that will allow a local street connection to North Showplace Drive. This added street connection will allow service to be provided to land uses on the north side of East State Street without having to walk along the State highway on the shoulder. One of the land uses is an assisted care facility.

6.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mr. Ernst reported that he is working on scheduling some time for John Lewis to meet with RMAP Policy members to give an update on the local broadband project (BTOP). Mayor Morrissey suggested that RMAP coordinate broadband issues with the regional IT Directors such as Glenn Trommels and Gus Gentner.

6.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study:

Mr. Ernst reported that the first opportunity for public comment regarding the Regional Freight Study is scheduled for the RAEDC Second Quarter Investment event to be held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at Cliffbreakers.

6.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Ernst reported that there are some projects being considered for JARC and New Freedom funding that will coming to Policy soon. The Mobility Subcommittee is also looking at alternative transportation needs for the proposed Embry Riddle University campus.

6.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

Mayor Morrissey stated that a smart grid or smart meter project may present a great opportunity to partner with local broadband projects, perhaps delivering broadband to the home. Mr. Ernst reported that he is working with Paul Callighan at ComEd to schedule a presentation to the RMAP Policy meeting to discuss partnering opportunities.

6.07 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee:

Mr. Ernst stated he has no report. Chairman Walberg stated that the Boone County Stormwater Management Plan will be wrapped up in the next few meetings.

6.08 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:

Mr. Ernst reported that all the work to create the document is complete. The economic development district staff (RREDD) are working on the final document of the new CEDS.

6.09 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90):

Mr. Howell reported that IL 173 (IL 251 to Alpine Road) project plans are done and a June letting is anticipated. Land acquisition for a couple of land parcels remains. The IL 173 (Alpine Road to Rock Cut) project design is underway and the consultant is evaluating alternates in the Rock Cut area.

6.10 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study:

Mr. Ernst reported that the development of South Main Corridor Revitalization Strategy is moving along. The next community Open House is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 6:00 PM to be held at Klehm Arboretum. Alderman Venita Hervey is hosting this open house. A public web site is available to view the current plans.

6.11 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN):

Mr. Ernst reported that the Boone & Winnebago Greenway Plan will be officially presented to the community at an Earth Day celebration event on Friday, April 22, 2011 at 9:30 AM to be held at Midway Village. Mr. Ernst also reported that RMAP has released a DRAFT Memorandum of Air Quality for the region that documents the “attainment” status of the region.

6.12 IEPA CCDD Regulation:

No report.

6.13 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Mr. Ernst reported that the hiring process for interns to work on the data gathering for the sustainability project has begun. Mr. Ernst stated that he will be sending out letters for organizations to join the HUD-required Consortium. Ms. Diduch asked if Machesney Park can come back to the table and support the sustainability process. There were some previous concerns on how the Village of Machesney Park would be involved with the sustainability process but they have been worked out those concerns and is interested in providing support.

7. OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Christiansen asked to discuss Resolution 2011-4 which supports regional rail connections between O’Hare Airport, the Rockford region and the Chicago Rockford International Airport. Chairman Christiansen suggested that the regional partners quickly to support Governor Quinn’s idea of high-speed rail to O’Hare and to align with a possible alignment to the HSR project between Chicago and the Twin Cities. A copy of the draft Resolution 2011-4 was provided to Policy members to review. A brief discussion took place. Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to move Resolution 2011-4 forward. Motion by Winnebago County, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion approved unanimously. Staff was directed to remove “draft” from the Resolution and hand circulate for signature

The Winnebago County Highway Department and RMAP have been invited to participate in a safety planning process for metro counties in Illinois that experience high crash rates. IDOT will be leading the effort through their Department of Safety Engineering.

With the recent news about changes at RFD Mayor Morrissey stated that there will be no impact on current operations. The Mayor’s office will be happy to answer questions and hear concerns from Policy members.

8. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business. Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Boone County, and seconded by the City of Loves Park. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:37 P.M.