

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 May 25, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; William Bittner, City of Rockford; Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; David Taylor, Boone County; Ross Monk, IDOT-District 2.

OTHERS PRESENT: Paula Hughes, RMTD; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; John McCormick, IDOT District 2; Steve Ernst, Gary McIntyre and Hayes Morrison, RATS Staff

1. Call to order, roll call and representation

With all agencies in attendance, Chairman Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

2. Communications

Mr. Ernst reported that the Illinois Tollway provided a status report to the Technical Committee and staff have placed that report on the RATS website.

3. Approval of minutes of the March 29, 2006 RATS Policy Committee meeting

Mr. Brereton made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2006 Policy Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christiansen and approved unanimously.

4. RATS FY 2007 Unified Work Program: RATS Resolution 2006-6

Mr. Ernst reported that the Technical Committee had unanimously recommended approval of the FY 2007 UWP at their last meeting. Mr. Ernst referred to Page 38, Chart 10 to explain the funding for the MPO planning work tasks for the coming fiscal year. The top half of Chart 10 shows the distribution of planning dollars to the RATS member agencies for the traditional work activities, which is consistent with previous years. The bottom of Chart 10 shows all of the special studies that will involve outside consultant assistance. Mr. McIntyre also explained that action on this item should include signing of the MPO self-certification page by the Policy Committee Chairman.

Mr. Brereton made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bittner and approved unanimously without any changes or corrections.

5. IL 173 Corridor Plan: RATS Resolution 2006-7

Mr. McIntyre discussed the history of the IL 173 access management plan starting with action by the Policy Committee in 1994, being amended into the RATS Long Range Transportation Plan. The section of IL 173 covered by the corridor plan started at IL 251 and ended at Belvidere Road. In 2000 the plan was further amended to change the median type from a flush median to a raised median.

Mr. McCormick and Mr. Monk discussed the proposed changes to the access management plan which was endorsed by the Technical Committee. These changes were:

- (1) the median width was changed from 30 feet to 32 feet
- (2) an additional right-in/right-out access point was recommended to be placed between Burden Road and Forest Hills Road
- (3) the section of IL 173 which had a recommended spacing of access points at 1320 feet was modified so that the western terminus would now be Burden Road instead of Forest Hills Road
- (4) the access plan would be modified to allow slight changes in access locations directly adjacent to the new interchange ramps based on an engineering analysis
- (5) the recommended spacing of 660 feet for right-in/right-out access points could be modified slightly based on an engineering analysis
- (6) full access points would require that the drive or street locations on the north side and south side of IL 173 to line up

Mr. Christiansen made a motion to approve RATS Resolution 2006-7. The motion was seconded by Mr. Atkinson. Under discussion Mr. Lindberg expressed a desire by the City of Loves Park to amend item (2) above to allow the new access point to be a full access point if an engineering analysis met with IDOT approval. Mr. Christiansen moved that the Technical Committee recommendation be modified to allow the request by the City of Loves Park. Mr. Atkinson seconded the amended motion. Mr. Lindberg called for the roll call vote on the amendment. The amendment was approved (Ayes – Mr. Bittner, Mr. Lindberg, Mr. Christiansen, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Brereton; Present – Mr. Taylor; Abstain – Mr. Monk). The amended resolution (RATS 2006-7) was then placed up for passage and was approved (Ayes – Mr. Bittner, Mr. Lindberg, Mr. Christiansen, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Brereton; Present – Mr. Taylor; Abstain – Mr. Monk).

6. RATS FY-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment: 2006-8

Ms. Morrison and Ms. Hughes explained that RMTD is requesting two changes to the FY-2006 TIP for transit. The first change will modify the matching funds for the NICTI Alternatives Analysis to be 100% State of Illinois, thus eliminating the need to fund the match with local dollars. The second change allows RMTD to use Toll Revenue Credits to purchase one (1) new fixed route bus, one (1) replacement bus, and four (4) new vehicles for the new transit initiative in the Village of Rockton, leveraging the earmark from the federal government. The Technical Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution at their meeting.

Mr. Brereton made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-8. The motion was seconded by Mr. Christiansen and was approved unanimously.

7. Progress Reports On:

7.1 – Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements

No Report.

7.2 - Winnebago County Smart Growth Study

No Report.

7.3 - Springfield Corridor Planning Study

Pre-final report has been received by Winnebago County staff and should be available for the next Policy Committee meeting.

7.4 - NICTI Alternatives Analysis

Eight proposals were received by the NICTI Executive Committee. The list of finalists has been narrowed down to three, and formal presentations will be made on May 31, 2006 and a recommendation should be forthcoming soon.

7.5 - RMTD East Side Transfer Center

No Report

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

No Report

7.7 - Expansion of RATS Technical Committee

No Report

7.8 – RATS Bicycle-Pedestrian Study

The contracts with TY Lin International have been signed and the consultant team has started work. There will be a Saturday bicycle ride in September to look at existing conditions in the study area and identify opportunities, barriers and conditions for bicyclists. All members of RATS are welcome to attend the ride. Following the ride will be a workshop to be held in Loves Park City Hall.

8. Other Business

Mr. Lindberg, on behalf of all of the Policy Committee members, expressed condolences to Chairman Susan Anderson and her family in the tragic death of her brother in a mountain climbing accident. Mr. Taylor thanked the Committee on her behalf.

Adjournment

At 1:55 P.M., with no further business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mr. Christiansen. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bittner and approved unanimously.