



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Tom Strickland, Village of Machesney Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; James Ryan, City of Rockford; Dan Long, Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Michael Maddox, Christina Washington, Michael Hren, Jon Paul Diipla, Gary McIntyre, RMAP Staff; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park PW/CD; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Dave Taylor, NICTI; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star.

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION: Meeting was called to order by Mayor Fred Brereton with a quorum present at 1:16 PM.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Ernst announced that the Illinois Association of County Engineers awarded Mr. Rich Lundin with the County Zone Engineer of the Year award.

3. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 29, 2010 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes by Winnebago County, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously.

4. RMAP FY 2011 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP): Mr. Ernst provided a summary of the RMAP Unified Work Program for FY 2011, the proposed budget line items by category and RMAP Resolution 2010-5. Some slight modifications have been made since the draft UWP but it did not change the total budget. The UWP summary sheet detailed the federal planning dollars from the FHWA PL and FTA 5303 sources, which fund the bulk of the RMAP staff and main program, plus special study money from the IDOT SPR funding source. Special studies for FY 2011 are 1) S. Main Corridor Study and 2) Environmental Education project (GREEN). Planning dollars that were received from IDOT are the same as last year. As in previous years RMAP will carry over some funding from the Comprehensive Regional Planning Fund (SB 1201) to fund projects approved in prior years but not active until FY 2011 including \$25,000 for the Riverside Blvd Corridor in Loves Park, \$50,000 to match the economic adjustment grant and \$25,000 for updates to the RMAP website. Mr. Ernst stated that Technical Committee reviewed the FY11 UWP and unanimously recommended approval. Motion to approve Resolution 2010-5 by Winnebago County, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously.

5. RMAP FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Mr. Ernst stated that Resolution 2010-6 has been prepared to approve a TIP amendment for the leftover ARRA funds. The remaining ARRA funds will be used for projects submitted by the Winnebago County Highway Dept. and the Rockford Public Works Dept. The Technical Committee reviewed this topic over several meetings and unanimously recommended approval. Moved to approve Resolution 2010-6 by Winnebago County, seconded by Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously.

6. RMAP HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) AMENDMENT:

Mr. Ernst stated that agenda items 6 and 7 speak to the same issue. RMAP has identified carryover money from 2008 JARC and New Freedom funding, and the associated planning document (HSTP) must be amended. Mr. Ernst stated that approval to reallocate the carryover amount of \$22,000 would be used by RMTD to purchase bus shelters. Approval was recommended by both the Mobility Subcommittee and the Technical Committee. Motion to approve Resolution 2010-7 by City of Belvidere, seconded by Winnebago County. Chairman Brereton called for a roll call to approve Resolution 2010-7. Unanimously approved.

7. RMAP FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Resolution 2010-8 programs the funds discussed in #6 above as a TIP amendment. This will allow RMTD to program the carryover funds into a grant. Motion to approve Resolution 2010-8 by Loves Park, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried unanimously.

8. RMAP FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Mr. Ernst stated that Resolution 2010-9 would allow surface transportation program funds (STP-Urban) to be used for the development of passenger rail stations. Earlier this year, at the termination of the federal transportation law (SAFETEA-LU), the US Congress required STP-Urban dollars to be returned to the US DOT in an action known as "rescissions". RMAP was required to return approximately \$860,000. In May of 2010 the US Congress approved the H.I.R.E. Act that overturned the rescission action. The FHWA staff has concurred that the development of transportation facilities, such as passenger train stations, is an eligible expense under the STP-Urban program. RMAP staff is recommending that the \$860,000 be used for this purpose as a not-to-exceed budget amount. The dollars should be sufficient to fund the development of architecture/engineering/construction documents (A/E/C). It is anticipated that there will be a separate process for the Belvidere and Rockford rail stations, allowing these projects to be developed on their own timeline. A 20% local match is required. Motion to approved Resolution 2010-9 by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Rockford. Resolution 2010-9 was approved unanimously.

9. RMAP YEAR 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has been working on a 30-year transportation plan (2040 LRTP) for several months. This long range transportation plan is one of the core MPO documents and is required to be updated every five years. RMAP has scheduled four open houses to solicit public input to the plan. The dates are May 25 and May 26, 2010.

While the document is a complete update to the 2035 Plan some new sections have been added. Of major note is a new section on technology, which details topics such as broadband and fiber optics, intelligent transportation systems, green technology and alternative energy, and the associated job creation. RMAP staff has structured the document to look holistically at the region, and introduces discussion on education, housing, sustainable communities, livability, and economic development. Mr. Ernst feels the 2040 LRTP will set the tone for discussion for the next 5 years. Several new federal programs, such as the Sustainable Communities Partnership, may provide additional planning dollars to expand on these new topics. Mr. Ryan asked about green house gas emissions and how RMAP could provide regional GHG inventory information that would complement work by the City of Rockford under the EECBG program. RMAP is negotiating with the Center for Neighborhood Technology in Chicago to perform the regional inventory but CNT's methodology is slightly different than the EECBG methodology.

Chairman Christiansen raised the issue of a capital needs plan beyond the 5-year capital program recently approved by the Illinois General Assembly which expires in 2016. After discussion Chairman Christiansen made a motion to have RMAP staff draft a plan for future capital needs. The motion was seconded by Loves Park and carried unanimously.

10. PROGRESS REPORTS

10.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: Referred to follow-up meeting at 2:30 pm of NICTI.

10.2 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Mr. Ernst stated that RMTD has received bids for the East Side Transfer Center, with many bids below estimate, and they are awaiting award concurrence from IDOT. The award is expected within the next 30 days.

10.3 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Mr. Ernst stated that the first regional application (3-county) under the Recovery Act did not receive an award, but a second round of applications is underway. The Rockford region is now part of a 9-county application with a total project estimate of \$70 million. The project is comprised of \$47 million federal, \$14 million state and \$8-9 million of private investment. The current application has made it to the due diligence stage. Mr. Ernst stated that awards are expected by September 2010. Additionally, the City of Rockford has agreed to map the regional broadband assets that are owned by the local government partners, including the NITT. The mapping will be made available as a WinGIS layer to all participating agencies.

10.4 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

10.5 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Dipla stated that the Mobility Subcommittee will be reviewing 2009 JARC & New Freedom funding in the next couple of meetings.

10.6 RMAP Housing, Human Services & Workforce Development Subcommittee: No report.

10.7 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: A meeting has been scheduled for June 17, 2010 at 5:00 pm to be held in Belvidere City Hall to discuss stormwater in Boone County. The City of Rockford should be releasing their Stormwater Master Management plan in the near future. RMAP will then fold all that into the regional look and activate this Committee full time. Recently Chairman Christiansen called a meeting to look at Madigan Creek which is one of the problem drainage basins that has generated interest from private citizens and folks from resource agencies like the DNR. Winnebago County is exploring an application under the IEPA's 319 program.

10.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Mr. Ernst distributed a flyer for the new Economic Development District, or EDD. The region is still waiting for the award of an economic adjustment grant and will likely be delayed until the start of the new federal fiscal year in October of 2010. At that point the RMAP matching funds (\$50,000) will be used.

10.9 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): Mr. Long stated that this project has been divided into two (2) pieces; (a) IL 251 to Alpine Road and (b) Alpine Road to Rock Cut State Park. The first section, which includes the intersection of IL 251 and IL 173, has reached 50% Phase II Engineering and still on target for construction in FY 2011. IDOT has selected the Upchurch Group as the consultant for second section.

10.10 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study: Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has received contract authority to start the Qualifications Based Selection (QBS) process. Proposals will be opened on May 27, 2010. There is

a team of folks from the City of Rockford and RMAP that will be reviewing proposals and eventually making a recommendation to the Rockford City Council for a contract award.

10.11 Greater RMAP Environmental-Educational Network (GREEN): Gary McIntyre will be holding a pre-proposal meeting on Thursday, May 27, 2010 at 9:30 am to be held at the RMAP office to review the scope of services and answer questions from prospective consultants. The GREEN project consists of 1) a mapping project to update the Greenway Plan, 2) a desk review of current RMAP planning documents, and 3) engagement of the four local public universities to develop educational materials on these GREEN topics. The desk review will identify any significant gaps in environmental planning work including GHG emissions reduction. Other environmental sustainability issues such as groundwater planning and stormwater planning will be reviewed for best practices.

11. OTHER BUSINESS:

Chairman Christiansen stated that the section of IL 2 (North Main Street) from Elmwood Rd. to Latham Rd. will be on IDOT's spring letting. Chairman Christiansen indicated that he has asked IDOT to review the safety concerns for the intersections of IL 2 & Latham Rd. and IL 2 & Roscoe Rd. due to the high crash rates at these intersections.

Mayor Brereton stated that previously Chairman Walberg had brought up the topic of Boone County's groundwater issues and he wanted to see if RMAP could provide technical assistance in this regard. Mr. Ernst stated that a regional focus on groundwater could be added to the tasks of the Drainage Subcommittee. Chairman Christiansen stated that a Sustainability Conference will be held at Cliffbreakers on June 30, 2010 and groundwater will be a topic of the symposium.

Mr. Ernst and Mr. Wayne Vlk participated in a webcast of the TIGER II program on Tuesday, May 18th. Mr. Ernst indicated that we might have to rethink the idea of what we might apply for in TIGER II. For background purposes there were 1,400 applications in TIGER I with 167 applications making it through the initial screening process. The TIGER I applications amounted to roughly \$12 billion and the USDOT had \$1.5 billion to award. TIGER II will amount to roughly \$450 million and will be highly competitive. All applications for TIGER II will require a comprehensive cost/benefit analysis, and the USDOT is looking for projects that demonstrate significant benefit to the nation, not just regional benefits. TIGER II is not a Recovery Act program and therefore is not required to focus on short term job creation and regions in economic distress. Additionally, TIGER II will require a local match, so 100% federally funded projects will not be considered. The minimum local match will be 20%, but the federal guidance is suggesting that every federal dollar in TIGER II leverage two local/state dollars. Mr. Ernst and Mr. Hutchins anticipate that there will be approximately 18 projects across the nation to receive awards under TIGER II. RMAP staff believe that contractual assistance would be required to prepare a TIGER II application. RMAP will contact leaders in the Chicago area to see if they plan to submit under TIGER II, review potential partnering opportunities, and ask for them to lend support and advocacy for our project. There is general agreement that a freight rail project in the vicinity of RFD has considerable value if the freight rail companies can lend financial support to our local efforts. Mr. Ernst stated that a highway project should not be overlooked. Mr. Ryan asked if the Illinois Tollway was eligible to apply for TIGER II, and if US 20 could be considered as a potential TIGER II project. The Illinois Tollway is not eligible to receive TIGER II funding, but IDOT could structure a US 20 project with tolling as a revenue component.

12. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business, Mayor Brereton entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Winnebago County, and seconded by City of Loves Park. Approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 P.M.