



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Dan Long, IDOT Region II.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** All present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Michael Maddox, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren RMAP Staff; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Curtis Jones, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; David Werner, FTA; John Donovan, Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA; Bola Delano; IDOT Office of Planning & Programming; Joe Altenhoff, Arc Design; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:19 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 27, 2011 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by the City of Belvidere, seconded by the City of Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. **RMAP FY2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2011-8:**

Mr. Ernst asked Mr. Maddox to provide more information on the TIP amendment, Resolution 2011-8. Mr. Maddox stated that RMAP Resolution 2011-8 amends the FY2012-FY2015 TIP due to changes in projects from multiple agencies. There are two economic development (EDP) projects and two safety (HSIP) projects for the City of Rockford and IDOT. In addition, the Winnebago County Board recently approved their capital program. Previous TIP action of RMAP stipulated that the Winnebago County program was proposed only. Resolution 2011-8 removes that stipulation.

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Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford, Chairman  
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Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg  
City of Loves Park  
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton  
City of Belvidere

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen  
Winnebago County  
Mayor Tom Strickland  
Village of Machesney Park

Acting Deputy Director Eric Therkildsen  
Illinois Department of Transportation,  
Region 2

With unanimous endorsement of the Technical Committee and RMAP staff Mr. Ernst recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2011-8. Motion by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Winnebago County. RMAP Resolution 2011-8 was approved unanimously (7-0).

**5. VERTICAL CONCRETE DESIGN GUIDELINES – RESOLUTION 2011-9:**

RMAP has taken the lead to develop guidelines for Vertical Concrete Design that can be used across the region. With the support of the Civic Design Advisory Group, comprised of design professionals from many different disciplines, a draft standard has been developed. RMAP and the design group will continue to look at many aspects of urban design in the future. Mr. Ernst stated that Rockford Register Star reported Brian Leaf received 500+ responses to an online blog poll conducted within the last several weeks. This request originally came through Joe Vanderwerff from Winnebago County Highway and he feels comfortable that we have accomplished the goal we set out for this particular process. A brief discussion took place among members on the process and design guidelines. Mr. Ernst recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2011-9. Motion by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Loves Park. RMAP Resolution 2011-9 was approved unanimously (7-0).

**6. RMAP CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**

Mr. Ernst stated that every four (4) years RMAP goes through a Federal Certification Review by the federal oversight agencies (FHWA/FTA). This year's process was a two day process led by John Donovan of FHWA. Mr. Donovan stated that this is the third review he's participated in for the Rockford Region. From 2003 to present, there has been significant positive changes to regional planning. The 2011 RMAP Certification Review has gone very well and the FHWA/FTA wants to be supportive of RMAP. FHWA/FTA welcomes comments from Policy Committee members and will take it into consideration while finalizing the review. RMAP does a good job analyzing how regional investments get made, how federal dollars are allocated, and reporting the benefits and impacts of those projects. Mr. Donovan anticipates that the final report will recommend slight process modifications to federally-required documents, but does not anticipate any substantial recommendations to alter the new RMAP structure.

Mr. Donovan thanked Patrick Zuroske, Bola Delano, and RMTD staff for participating in the process and providing comments.

**7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

**7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:** Mr. Ernst reported that the Canadian National Railroad will start the track up[grades in early Spring and the improvements will take 2 years to complete. The likely start of Amtrak service will be in 2014. The NICTI project team continues to work towards completion of the Alternatives Analysis phase and the consultant team is concentrating on the environmental documents. The AA portion of the NICTI project will wrap up by the end of the fiscal year in June 2012.

**7.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:** This project is moving along and going smoothly.

**7.03 RMAP Regional Freight Study:** No report.

**7.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** Mr. Ernst reported that the next RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 13, 2011 at 10:00a and held at the YWCA.

**7.05 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:** Mr. Ernst stated that he is trying to arrange for Paul Callaghan to attend a future Policy Committee meeting to talk about the legislation that went before the General Assembly so that he can give more detailed information.

**7.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** Mr. Ernst reported that the Economic Development Administration has accepted the updated CEDS plan. Projects that are prioritized in the CEDS document can now move towards implementation using EDA funding.

**7.07 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study:** Mr. Zuroske reported that a significant presentation was given to the stakeholders. The IL 2 plan provides strategies for land use changes and includes comprehensive streetscape design alternatives. Mr. Long from IDOT indicated the southern portion (Harrison Avenue to Bypass 20) is scheduled for a March 2012 letting.

**7.08 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN):** No report.

**7.09 HUD Sustainability Grant:** Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP will be hiring a consultant to do a parcel-level environmental inventory for both Boone and Winnebago County. This effort will be funded through the Vital Signs grant dollars and will assist all of the regional partners to understand the magnitude of environmental challenges. The inventory will also assist partner agencies considering Brownfield Assessment or remediation grants. The inventory is expected to be complete by early summer 2012.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** As there was no further business. Chairman Walberg entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Belvidere, and seconded by the City of Loves Park. Approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 P.M.