



**Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning  
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

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**POLICY COMMITTEE**

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford  
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park  
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere  
Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County  
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park  
Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County  
Deputy Director George F. Ryan, IDOT Region 2*

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Dave Taylor Boone County; President Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Ross Monk, Illinois Department of Transportation; Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** City of Loves Park

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, RMAP Director; Gary McIntyre, RMAP staff; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP staff; Mary Swanson, RMAP Staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Michael Maddox, RMAP staff; Bunnie Anderson, Illinois Tollway Authority; Marta Peralez, Director of the Illinois MPO Advisory Council.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Brereton with a quorum present at 1:16 p.m.
- 2. COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst received correspondence from the Illinois Department of Transportation regarding delayed payments for the first and second quarters to RMTD. This delay leaves RMTD in some dire straits.

Received information from the U.S. Bureau of Census. Ms. Ginny Gregory from the Department of Community Development has been the lead person for census tracking but is stepping down from this task. She has asked that RMAP become the designated organization to run the census. RMAP has submitted paperwork to the census designating Mr. Diipla as the PSAP primary participant.

Mr. Ernst attended a meeting held by the County regarding their 2030 Land Use Plan. A comment form is available for people to fill out and return to the County. Mr. Ernst urged members to fill out this form and return to the County as soon as possible. The plan can be viewed on-line at [www.wincoil.us](http://www.wincoil.us).

Chairman Brereton recognized Ms. Anderson from the Tollway Authority and went to Progress Reports, item 6.1 first for reporting.

- 6.1 Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements:** Ms. Anderson gave an update on the I-90 corridor. Traffic has been shifted to the new east bound lanes. This project is projected to be complete in 2009. Cherry Valley ramp work is continuing with completion scheduled in the next few weeks. Irene Road is due to open in Spring of 2009. She also handed out a brochure regarding the Congestion Relief

Program – phase 2. There are three major components in this relief program, dedicated “green lanes”, and two interchanges, the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90)/I-290-IL 53 and the Tri-State Tollway (I-290/I-57 interchange. The dedicated green lanes will offer access to buses and ride-sharing commuters at regular I-PASS rates and providing single –occupant and environmentally friendly vehicles access at premium prices. Commercial trucks can use these lanes but their cost will be higher. Mr. Ernst mentioned that the green lanes are I-PASS only, there will be no toll booths for taking money. This will be a \$400 million dollar project. The two interchange projects will cost \$1.4 billion to construct or roughly, \$500 million each. There will be a number of public hearings held in the coming weeks. Winnebago County’s comment open house will be held on Nov. 12 at the Clock Tower from 2-4 pm. Also, the information will be posted on the Tollway web-site. Ms. Anderson also asked Policy Members to please submit letters of support for this Program.

Ms. Vaughn mentioned how appreciative she is for the e-mails sent from Ms. Anderson and that the information is very helpful. She stated she has driven through the construction area and felt the traffic flow was good.

Mr. Taylor questioned the cost for the interchange work and asked for more clarification. Was it \$500 million for both? Ms. Anderson clarified that each interchange would cost \$500 million and the Green Lanes would cost \$400 million. Also, the Boone County comment open house is scheduled for Nov. 13 at the Community Building in Belvidere from 7-9pm.

Chairman Brereton asked for the time-line for implementation and Ms. Anderson stated the Tollway Authority Board would like to adopt this at their Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, thus the need to move quickly with the letter of support.

Mr. Christiansen complimented the Tollway on how well the Riverside project is progressing.

Ms. Anderson thanked Boone and Winnebago Counties for working so well with the Tollway on the project and handed a sample letter of support to Mr. Christiansen and to Mr. Ernst.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2008 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by City of Rockford, seconded by Machesney Park. Motion carried.
  
4. **RMAP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (M & O) PLAN:** This is the last item required for full certification and must be complete by January 1, 2009. This document provides a planning process to utilize the existing transportation system, maximize the use of public transit, and reduce the amount of single occupant vehicles. Embedded within the M & O Plan will be the Congestion Management Process for RMAP and its member agencies that will guide transportation investment decisions with priority to reducing congestion.

Before beginning the power point presentation on the M&O plan, Mr. Ernst asked to move the next meeting from November 27<sup>th</sup> (Thanksgiving) to December 4<sup>th</sup>, in the Rockford City Council Chambers. This move also allows for the public comment period.

He stressed the need for each agency in our MPO to consider the congestion management issue when planning and selecting projects for their capital programs.

**6. RMAP RESOLUTION 2008-11 AMTRAK INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ROUTE**

**PREFERENCE:** This resolution endorses the co-location of intercity passenger rail and commuter rail on the NICTI LPA route. This was an important topic of discussion at the Illinois Municipal League conference. In attendance was Mayor Spring whose dynamic comments stressed that this type of rail service is an economic engine for urban communities. His message was to go after the rail corporations, because they will not come to you. Chairman Brereton thought it maybe worthwhile to invite Mayor Spring to come and speak to our MPO.

Adoption of this Resolution supercedes previous Policy Committee action (Resolution 2007-3) and documents the regional support for Route A: Chicago-Elgin-Belvidere-Rockford-Galena-Dubuque via Amtrak-Metra-UP-CN as the regional choice for inter-city passenger rail service.

Motion to adopt Resolution 2008-11 made by City of Loves Park; seconded by Boone County.

MOTION PREVAILED by a Roll Call vote of:

Ayes: City of Belvidere, City of Loves Park, Boone County, Village of Machesney Park, City of Rockford, Illinois Department of Transportation –6-

Nays: -0-

Absent: County of Winnebago

**7. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**7.1 Northwest Tollway (I-90) Improvements:** The lane expansion project is on schedule. Two lanes remain open in each direction during construction keeping delays at a minimum. Mayor Lindberg mentioned the temporary traffic signals at the interstate ramps to Riverside Blvd. are now operational.

**7.2 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** This was previously covered under item 6.

**7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center:** A architectural consultant has been selected for the site and building design and RMTD is in the process of pursuing tenants to share space with the transit district.

**7.4 RMAP FY 2009-FY2012 Transportation Improvement Program:**Policy members are currently preparing their project lists to be included in the amended TIP. Mr. Diipla is working with Ms. Hughes from RMTD, preparing a transit projects list.

**7.5 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County:** The consultant team for the study is working with Mr. McIntyre on some of the preliminary options for the corridor, including modern roundabouts with emphasis along Poplar Grove Road and Woodstock Road.

**7.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** The next meeting will be October 14, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the YWCA, 4990 East State Street, Rockford, IL. Subcommittee will review human service needs with findings presented to the Policy Committee in December or January. The Mobility Subcommittee will then assist the MPO staff in the next update to the Human Services Transportation Plan.

**7.7 RMAP & Regional Planning:** RMAP staff is in the process of interviewing candidates for the two planner positions. One candidate has accepted the position and more interviews will be conducted October 6. All the final candidates have planning degrees and expertise in the areas of economic planning, environmental planning, urban design and related transportation planning disciplines. Mayor Morrissey asked for an update on the offices for RMAP. He suggested that stakeholders tour the facility and view drawings of planned projects. Mr. Ernst hopes to have the office available by the end of the month, but the move is contingent upon computer network connections to be completed by City of Rockford IT. Mayor Morrissey mentioned the need to negotiate a lease agreement between RMAP and the City of Rockford for the office space soon.

Mayor Morrissey mentioned his recent trip to China and invited everyone to view his blog about the trip. He had the opportunity to ride on their high speed rail system and visited the "planning and design center" for Rockford's Sister City in China.

**7.8 RMAP Regional Freight Study:** The freight study is slowly moving forward. Mr. McIntyre has met with the project lead, Lee Hutchins, who has been interviewing the four regional railroads and major rail freight customers in the RMAP urban area.

**7.9 RMAP Certification (SAFETEA-LU) Compliance Update:** Mr. Ernst spoke of needs for the M & O process earlier in the meeting. During the next month, is anticipated that a plan be created and documented. Technical Committee members have been asked to work on data collection activities as part of their internal budget and work program of their agency.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:** President Vaughn asked the status of the train ride event to Dubuque. The event has been delayed due to cost. It is hoped that this event can occur as part of the second Tri-State Alliance meeting to be scheduled for March or April, 2009. Mr. McIntyre stated that the County's 2030 Comprehensive Land Use Plan is available for review on their web site. A public open house will be held Tuesday, October 7th from 5:30 to 7:30 at Memorial Hall regarding this Plan.

**9. RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** A motion to move into closed session to discuss personnel matters made by City of Rockford, seconded by Village of Machesney Park. MOTION PREVAILED by a Roll Call vote of:

Ayes: City of Rockford; City of Loves Park; Village of Machesney Park; Boone County; Illinois Department of Transportation; City of Belvidere -6-

Nays: -0-

Absent: County of Winnebago

Policy Committee went into Executive Closed Session at 2:00 p.m., October 1, 2008.

The meeting returned to open session at 2:12 p.m. and found the following members present:

City of Belvidere; City of Loves Park; Boone County; Village of Machesney Park; City of Rockford; Illinois Department of Transportation. Absent: Winnebago County

Motion to approve the job description for the Executive Director made by City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. Motion unanimously approved.

Motion to authorize the RMAP Policy Committee Chairman to offer the position to Mr. Stephen Ernst with salary and benefits moved by City of Loves Park, seconded by City of Rockford. Position offered and accepted by Mr. Ernst. MOTION PREVAILED by a Roll Call vote of:

Ayes: City of Belvidere; City of Loves Park; Village of Machesney Park; City of Rockford; Illinois Department of Transportation; Boone County -6-

Nays: -0-

Absent: County of Winnebago

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. Motion unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.