



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mr. Ken Terrinoni, Boone County.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Machesney Park, IDOT-District 2.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Michael Maddox, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Steve Nailor, Better Roads Association; Joe Altenhoff, Arc Design; Tom Kelso, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Morrissey with a quorum present at 1:24 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst gave an announcement from Governor Quinn's Office stating that Ann Schneider has been appointed Illinois Secretary of Transportation as of Monday, October 24, 2011.

In July 2011 the Federal Register announced a final comment period on a proposed final rule for accessibility guidelines for the public right of way. The final rule originates with the American With Disabilities Act (ADA) and includes guidance for pedestrian traffic signals, crosswalks, sidewalks, curb ramps and other appurtenances in the public right-of-way. A brief discussion took place among members and as more information becomes available, RMAP will assist members and provide guidance on any new regulations.

Mr. Ernst provided members a summary of the Rebuild America Jobs Act that has been submitted to Congress by President Obama.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE JULY 28, 2011 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by City of Belvidere, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **SUSTAINABILITY STEERING TEAM AND GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE:**

Mr. Ernst thanked Policy members for their participation in the launch of the Sustainability project. The Steering Team brings community leaders together to act as the guiding force behind the major policy decision that will result from the HUD Sustainability process. A 2012 Sustainability summit is planned for January or February 2012.

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Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
City of Rockford, Chairman
Chairman Bob Walberg
Boone County, Vice-Chairman

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

Mr. Ernst suggested that the RMAP Policy meetings could be extended for the entire afternoon (1:00 – 5:00 PM) to allow additional meetings that could cover a wide range of needs and bring alignment to the various efforts currently underway, such as the Sustainability teams, the Accelerating Growth at the Airport project, and others. There was a brief discussion among members and there was a consensus that a monthly regional meeting is a good idea. Mr. Ernst will look at beginning these regional meetings sometime in early 2012.

5. CERTIFICATION REVIEW:

Mr. Ernst stated that every four (4) years RMAP participates with its federal oversight agencies in an internal audit of the planning process. The RMAP November Policy meeting will be moved to Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 1:15p and will be held at the Boone County Administration building. The Technical Committee meeting will be held at 10:00a on the same day and location to accommodate the federal review team.

6. ITEP / NEW ROUND OF APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Ernst announced that information for a new round of ITEP enhancement applications is available on IDOT's website. IDOT is targeting smaller projects in this round, most likely in the range of \$1 million or less. The due date has not yet been announced.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has been requested to provide a letter of support for advocacy by the Midwest High Speed Rail Association including IDOT's high speed rail project from Chicago to St. Louis. Mr. Ernst will coordinate on behalf of the Policy Committee.

Mr. Ernst reviewed the current status of the Amtrak route from Chicago to Dubuque. The operating agreement between IDOT and the Canadian National is complete. The Canadian National will be complete their construction documents between January - April 2012 and is scheduled to start construction in May 2012. Service initiation is anticipated for the Spring of 2014. Chairman Christiansen asked for a timeline on construction for the train station. Mr. Ernst stated that the City of Rockford staff and RMAP are developing request for proposal documents for design and engineering professional assistance. A brief discussion took place on the process to get to construction.

7.02 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Mr. Ernst reported that the RMTD East Side Transfer Center construction is complete and RMTD is waiting for furnishings. A December grand opening is anticipated. The Belvidere fixed route bus service started on Monday, October 24, 2011. Staff will work with RMTD to arrange a future Policy Committee meeting at the facility.

7.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Mr. Ernst reported that there is good news; the underground conduit between Rockford and Belvidere is in the ground and the new fiber optic cable will be installed in the coming weeks. Fiber installation within the City of Loves Park and City of Rockford will begin in a few weeks. Mayor Lindberg asked for clarification on broadband service that could be provided with the new infrastructure. Mr. Ernst stated that the NITT is reviewing options for an internet service provider that could serve municipal and county interests. Mayor Morrissey suggested that it would be a good idea to invite the regional IT Directors to be invited to the future Policy meetings in 2012 so they are able to prove a more detailed report.

7:04 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

7:05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: No report.

7:06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: No report

7:07 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: No report.

7:08 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: Mr. Ernst reported that this project will be wrapping up shortly.

7:09 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): No report.

7:10 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study: Mr. Ernst reported that the final implementation plan for the Illinois 2 Corridor South Main Street project will be presented at Khlem Arboretum tonight at 6:00p.m.

7:11 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN): A GREEN Workshop was held on Monday, October 3, 2011 at UIC School of Medicine and was well attended.

7:12 IEPA CCDD Regulation: No report.

7:13 HUD Sustainability Grant: Covered in agenda item #4.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

TIGER III

Mr. Ernst stated that pre-applications were due October 3, 2011 and regional projects were submitted. The final applications are due on Monday, October 31, 2011. Two applications from our region are in process, the Edson Road project by Winnebago County and the I-90/Irene Road Interchange by Boone County.

CONCRETE REGIONAL DESIGN

Mr. Ernst stated that the Civic Design Advisory Group and RMAP have completed their work and will be brought to Technical and Policy Committee next month.

RMAP DESIGN CENTER

Mr. Ernst stated that the demolition work is well underway and anyone is free to arrange a visit by contacting the RMAP staff. The new space will be flexible and can accommodate a large engagement space, gallery space and studio style space. The low bid contractor for the project is a Loves Park contractor and their construction time table is 30 days less than what was estimated. The HUD Sustainability grant has provided some funds for some furnishing for the space and IPAD style engagement tools. Mayor Morrissey thanked Representative Winters on who assisted us with a DCEO grant for the RMAP Design Center remodeling.

ILLINOIS 2 / LATHAM RD TO VILLAGE OF ROCKTON

Chairman Christiansen recapped earlier meetings with IDOT. Six or seven years ago we the north end of the Illinois 2 corridor was prioritized. While this section is not currently funded IDOT intends to correct a high accident location at IL 2 and Roscoe Road as an interim step. Chairman Christiansen indicated that more information will be provided as the project moves forward. Mr. Ernst stated that all the of the RMAP members should all be thinking about projects we would like to see in the next capital bill.

9. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business. Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Loves Park, and seconded by Boone County. Approved unanimously (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 P.M.