

RATS **ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY** **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

POLICY COMMITTEE

CHARLES E. BOX, MAYOR, ROCKFORD
JOSEPH F. SINKIAWIC, MAYOR, LOVES PARK
STEPHEN KUHN, PRESIDENT, MACHESNEY PARK
WILLIAM D. OST, DISTRICT ENGINEER, IDOT DISTRICT 2
EUGENE R. QUINN, CHAIRMAN, WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

LOVES PARK TRANSIT / BELVIDERE-BOONE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
BOONE COUNTY HIGHWAY / ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS
CHERRY VALLEY PLANNING / ROCKFORD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
LOVES PARK PLANNING / GREATER ROCKFORD AIRPORT
MACHESNEY PARK PLANNING / ROCKFORD PUBLIC WORKS
WINNEBAGO COUNTY PLANNING

POLICY COMMITTEE **MEETING MINUTES** **September 26, 1996**

The following are the minutes of the September 26, 1996, RATS Policy Committee meeting held in the Council Chambers of the Loves Park City Hall, Loves Park, Illinois.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Bill Ost, District Engineer, District 2, Illinois Department of Transportation; Charles Box, Mayor, City of Rockford; Gene Quinn, County Board Chairman, Winnebago County; Joe Sinkiawic, Mayor, City of Loves Park, Chairman; Chad Atkinson representing Stephen Kuhn, President, Village of Machesney Park.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Al Werner, Rockford Public Works Department; Gary McIntyre, RATS staff; Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT District 2; Pankaj Mahajan, Winnebago County Highway Department; Russ Petrotte, RATS staff;

4. FY97 TIP: Russ Petrotte and Gary McIntyre gave a detailed presentation on the proposed Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY97. Mr. Petrotte called attention to the August 16, 1996 draft that had been mailed to all persons on the RATS mailing list, including the media and the public libraries in mid-August. He also discussed his September 12th memo that had been similarly distributed. The September 12th

Steve Ernst, Rockford Public Works Department; Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Planning; Kevin Davies, State Line Area Transportation Study.

1. CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:40 PM by Chairman Joe Sinkiawic. Chad Atkinson presented a letter from Stephen Kuhn authorizing Mr. Atkinson to represent him at this meeting.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: No communications were reported.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Gene Quinn moved to approve the minutes of the June 26, 1996 meeting of the RATS Policy Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Bill Ost and approved unanimously without discussion or modification.

memo proposed a number of minor corrections or changes to the August 16th draft. Both had been thoroughly reviewed and approved by the RATS Technical Committee and the area's public transit operators. He noted that the September 12th memo had erroneously listed two highway projects: [1] the Broadway Avenue reconstruction project has not been fully approved and should not be added to the TIP until further authorization is

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received from the governor or IDOT; [2] the U.S. 20 Bridge reconstruction was erroneously listed twice, in both FY97 and FY98 (in FY98, the added project should have referred to the reconstruction of the Whitman Street Bridge over the Rock River and Madison Street). The funding sources and amounts were, however, stated correctly.

The Policy Committee reviewed the above changes and there was a brief discussion of the decline of federal transit funding for operating purposes. This decrease occurred in FY96 but is not projected to decrease further in FY97. Also, the State has passed legislation that will increase State operating subsidy over the next five years but not quite enough to offset the decline in federal subsidy. Local funding has been projected to increase.

Mr. Petrotte discussed the revised version of proposed Resolution 96-11. This resolution approves the August 16th draft of the FY97 TIP, including the above mentioned changes and instructs staff to codify the changes and republish the document. A motion was made by Gene Quinn to approve Resolution 96-11. The motion was seconded by Charles Box and approved unanimously.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS ON CURRENT PROJECTS

SPRINGFIELD HARRISON PROJECT: Pankaj Mahajan reported that the County approved an expenditure of \$250,000 for early hardship acquisitions in conjunction with this project. However, full State and federal approval has not been received and care must be taken not to violate any federal guidelines.

Mr. Quinn expressed frustration and concern for property owners in the area that want to sell their property but are unable to proceed because of the pending nature of this project. Mr. Ost said that hardship acquisitions are easier to implement if the property owner has officially placed his property up for sale for a period of time and is able to document that fact and the fact that he has not received reasonable offers. If the person has not

tried to sell the property on the private market the hardship determination is more difficult.

RIVERSIDE/ALPINE/FOREST HILLS CONGESTION STUDY: Mr. Mahajan reported that an RFP for this study has been drafted. He distributed a time table for the study. The County and RATS are now in the process of securing commitments for cost-sharing the 20 percent local match for the federal funds to be used for the study. The FY97 UWP proposed that the local match be split evenly, three ways, between Rockford, Loves Park and Winnebago County. Mayor Sinkiawic asked for clarification that the "triangle" property was to be included in the study. Mr. Mahajan assured the Committee that this was part of the study and that the County was also willing to work with the developer of the "triangle" to facilitate development.

BOONE COUNTY EAST STATE STREET STUDY: Russ Petrotte reported that a start-up meeting has been scheduled for October 10th. He and Mr. McIntyre have been appointed as members of the Steering Committee for the Study. The consultant will also be conducting individual interviews with all Steering Committee members.

Mr. Ost noted that the State has developed an access plan for the stretch of road under study. The road is planned as a four-lane road with designated access points. He said he would have the State's plans forwarded to the consultant.

Mr. Ost asked who was on the Steering Committee. Mr. Petrotte said the agencies on the list are: the City of Belvidere, the Boone County Conservation District, the Belvidere Boone County Regional Planning Commission, the West Boone County Property Owners, Boone County, the Belvidere Township Park District, School District # 100, and RATS. He asked if IDOT or other agencies wished to be appointed to the Steering Committee. If so, he would make that request. Mr. Ost said he would contact Mr. Kolata, the City Manager in Belvidere.

Charles Box and Gene Quinn asked that the consultant be requested to attend the next Policy Committee meeting so that the Committee would

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have an opportunity to express their views on aspects of the study that need to be emphasized.

IL-251-NORTH SECOND STREET STUDY: Mr. Atkinson reported that the committee guiding this study met on September 5th for the purpose of giving direction to the consultant. Items discussed included signage, parking entrances and exits, redeveloping the frontage roads. The committee suggested that the consultant prepare some conceptual drawings or plans for the purpose of stimulating further discussion. The next meeting with the consultant has not been scheduled and RATS staff will be advised so that they can attend.

Gene Quinn asked that Machesney Park consider assuming the responsibilities for the maintenance of the signal lights at the entrance to the Machesney Mall. These are the lights at Machesney Road and Copper Drive.

LOVES PARK COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Dan Jacobson reported that Loves Park held the first public meeting regarding the ongoing update of their Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The meeting was well attended (50-70 persons) and there was considerable open discussion on a wide range of land use, development and transportation issues. The meeting was facilitated by the consultant that Loves Park recently hired for the project. Mr. Jacobson said the study is primarily in the data collection phase.

RATS TRANSPORTATION MODELING STUDY: Gary McIntyre reported that work is progressing on the recalibration of RATS transportation model.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FY97: Gene Quinn nominated Mayor Sinkiawic to continue as Chairman of the RATS Policy Committee. The motion was seconded by Charles Box and approved unanimously. Mayor Sinkiawic nominated Gene Quinn to continue as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Quinn declined because he is not running for reelection and will be out of office in two months. Charles Box nominated Stephen Kuhn for Vice Chairman. The motion was seconded by Gene Quinn and approved unanimously.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Gary McIntyre said the Perryville Path Committee (PPC) has reiterated their request to host a pre-meeting luncheon for the Policy Committee on Thursday, October 24, 1996. The PPC wants to report on recent progress and seek the Policy Committee's support as they proceed in future pathway planning and implementation activities. The Policy Committee agreed to attend. The luncheon will start at noon on the 24th and will be held in the Machesney Park Village Hall. The lunch will be catered. The October Policy Committee meeting will follow the luncheon.

10. ADJOURNMENT: Bill Ost moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Gene Quinn and unanimously approved at 1:25 PM.