

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

POLICY COMMITTEE

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere
Board Chairman Susan L. Anderson, Boone County
Deputy Director Gregory L. Mounts, Illinois Department of
Transportation, Region 2*

RATS RESOLUTION 2006-1

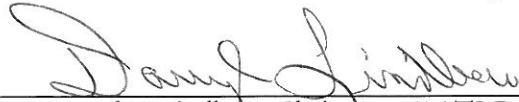
- RE:** Amendment to the FY 2006 TIP – Transit Element for the Alternatives Analysis of the Central Northern Illinois Commuter Corridor and Urbanized Area Apportionments
- WHEREAS** the Rockford Area Transportation Study (RATS) is the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Metropolitan Area, and the Policy Committee has the specific responsibility to direct and administer the continuing urban transportation planning process; and
- WHEREAS** the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for the Rockford Metropolitan Area for FY 2006 was developed in accordance with State and Federal laws and established local procedures in Resolution 2005-7 and adopted by the RATS Policy Committee on September 9th of 2005; and
- WHEREAS** on July 28th of 2005, the Policy Committee unanimously approved Resolution 2005-6 endorsing the Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan in which the feasibility of commuter rail within the RATS boundary is addressed; and
- WHEREAS** the Rockford Area Transportation Study (the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the area), the Cities of Belvidere and Rockford, the Rockford Mass Transit District, and Growth Dimensions, a not-for-profit economic development agency for the City of Belvidere and Boone County (collectively referred to as the Northern Illinois Commuter Rail Initiative, “NICRI”) have been spearheading the effort to continue the New Starts Planning and Project Development Process; and
- WHEREAS** on March 28th of 2002, the Policy Committee unanimously approved Resolution 2002-4 endorsing a comprehensive feasibility study to extend commuter rail service into the Central Northern Illinois region; and
- WHEREAS** on January 12th of 2005, NICRI accepted this feasibility study and started to secure funding for the next step in the New Starts Planning and Project Development Process, an Alternatives Analysis; and
- WHEREAS** the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act, a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) provides financial resources to improve the efficiency of the nation’s surface transportation system; and
- WHEREAS** the Federal Transit Administration, as part of their FY 2006 budget has allocated \$1 million dollars in the National Planning and Research Program (NPRP) under the section 5339 Alternatives Analysis, \$96,140 dollars under the section 5309 New Starts Funding, and apportioned \$2,330,186 under the section 5307 Urbanized Area Apportionments, as indicated in the attached Addendum;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Policy Committee:

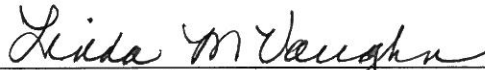
1. Amends the FY 2006 RATS Transportation Improvement Program as documented in the attachment ADDENDUM to include the “Metra-West Line Extension, Elgin to Rockford Alternatives Analysis” specifying said study as described and funded above and for changes to the Urbanized Area Apportionments; and

2. Directs that the Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) be engaged to assist RATS and the RATS Study Director in the application and administration of the grant for said Alternatives Analysis; and
3. Appoints NICRI as the official Steering Committee for the "Metra-West Line Extension, Elgin to Rockford Alternatives Analysis," ; and
4. Directs NICRI and RMTD to cooperate in the coordination of said Alternatives Analysis and to periodically report to the RATS Technical and Policy Committees as to the progress of the study and when needed seek guidance from the Policy Committee on all matters critical to the study and decisions on the study; and
5. Directs the RATS Study Director and staff to forward this Resolution to all relevant transportation stakeholders.

DATED THIS THE 26TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2006



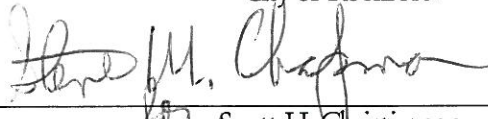
Darryl F. Lindberg, Chairman - RATS Policy Committee
Mayor,
City of Loves Park



Linda M Vaughn, Vice-Chairman - RATS Policy Committee
Village President,
Village of Machesney Park



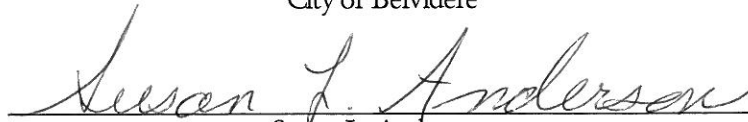
for Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor,
City of Rockford



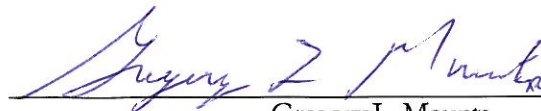
for Scott H. Christiansen
Winnebago County Board Chairman,
Winnebago County



Frederic C. Brereton,
Mayor,
City of Belvidere



Susan L. Anderson,
Boone County Board Chairman,
Boone County



Gregory L. Mounts,
Deputy Director,
Illinois Department of Transportation, Region 2