

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

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TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

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WINNEBAGO COUNTY PARATRANSIT / CHERRY VALLEY
PLANNING
ROCKFORD MASS TRANSIT / WINNEBAGO COUNTY PUBLIC
WORKS
LOVES PARK TRANSIT / ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION*

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 1995

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 20, 1995, TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING HELD IN THE LOVES PARK CITY HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Dust, Rockford Community Development Dept.; Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Planning; Hong Liu, Rockford Public Works Dept.; Lori Tharp, Machesney Park Planning Dept. (arrived 10:10 a.m.); Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT-Dixon; David Noel, Winnebago County Planning; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; Nick Licary, Winnebago County Paratransit System.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Winnebago County Public Works Dept.; Loves Park Transit; Rockford Mass Transit District; Greater Rockford Airport Authority; Non-voting members absent: Boone County Highway Dept.; Belvidere/Boone County Planning; Ogle County Highway Dept.

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary McIntyre, RATS Staff; Russ Petrotte, RATS Staff; Steve Baker, IDOT-Springfield; Jon-Paul Kohler, FHWA; Lori Hitzke, WCPS Board.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: At 10:07 a.m., Wayne Dust called the meeting to order. David Noel moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 1995, Technical Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously (7-0). Dan Jacobson moved to approve the minutes of the April 4, 1995, meeting of the Technical Committee. The motion was seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously (7-0).

2. AGENCY REPORTS: Members present reported on the status of the major projects within their jurisdictions. Information pertaining to highway projects is contained in the TIP Progress Report sheets accompanying these minutes. Nick Licary reported that WCPS has laid off some workers and made a number of other changes in a effort to control costs. He also noted the new vehicles WCPS has received and is putting into operation. Wayne Dust noted a meeting the Rock River Water Reclamation District has scheduled and encouraged attendance. David

Noel stated that a citizen committee has been formed to encourage and oversee the planning for the Charles Street pedestrian/bike path.

3. REQUEST FOR BOONE/BELVIDERE VOTING MEMBERSHIP: Mr. Petrotte and Mr. McIntyre recapped the discussions that had occurred at the special Technical Committee meeting held on April 4th. They noted that several officials were in attendance from the Boone/Belvidere area and IDOT, and that the meeting was primarily informational. IDOT reiterated information regarding funding. Belvidere's STP funding could be melded with the STP-Urban funding for the Rockford Urban area or held separate for Belvidere. A question remains regarding whether adding Boone County and or Belvidere to the Policy Committee would constitute a formal redesignation. Formal redesignation would, in turn, mandate other membership considerations. IDOT is asking their legal staff to give an opinion on this. At the end of the April 4th meeting, a recommendation was made that a subcommittee be formed to continue to review and make recommendations regarding the Boone/Belvidere membership requests. The suggested membership on this subcommittee was one member from each of the following entities: Winnebago County, Boone County, Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Cherry Valley and IDOT. Lori Tharp moved that the Technical Committee create a Membership Subcommittee with the composition as noted above. The motion was seconded by David Noel and approved unanimously (8-0).

4. FY96 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM: Russ Petrotte recapped the discussions on the proposed FY96 Unified Work Program as it was presented to the Committee at their March 23rd meeting. No further comments have been received from the public or RATS participants. He said the Work Program must be approved by the end of May and the Committee could act on it now or wait until the May meetings. There was a brief discussion of the possible need to

suballocate some funds to Cherry Valley and Boone County. Mr. Petrotte noted that no request had been made and that Boone County is receiving assistance, through IDOT as noted in the Work Program, to continue their traffic simulation modelling work. David Nord moved to recommend Technical Committee approval of the draft FY96 UWP as currently prepared. The motion was seconded by David Noel and approved unanimously (8-0) without further discussion.

5. LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Gary McIntyre and Russ Petrotte distributed a new draft of the proposed Long-Range Transportation Plan (dated April 20, 1995). This version updates and expands on the Interim Plan adopted by the Policy Committee in December of last year. They noted that the major goals of the ISTEPA have been included and addressed as goals in the LRP. An extensive Financial Plan has been added, but noted that data and costs on railroad crossings, river/creek crossings and ROW preservation need to be added. This information will be included before the final version is presented for adoption. Mr. McIntyre noted that the Plan is not fully financially constrained as drafted and he requested a work session at the end of this meeting to help decide which projects should be included in the 20-year time frame and which ones would be placed in a beyond 20-year time frame. The Committee agreed to this work session. Mr. McIntyre explained that the maps related to highway network would need to be altered to reflect a fully financially constrained plan. For the most part, the projects in the plan appear financially feasible. The most notable exception is the proposed Woodruff/Wallenberg Expressway.

Mr. McIntyre said a public information meeting had been held in the Rockford City Hall on the

Long-Range Plan yesterday. Notice of this meeting had been published in the Rockford Register Star. No one attended the meeting. Another public information meeting will be held in May. A public notice will be published and staff has contacted the press with the request that they publish a news article.

6. FHWA/FTA/IDOT CERTIFICATION OF RATS PLANNING:

Mr. McIntyre said the Federal Highway Administration, the Federal Transit Administration and IDOT will be holding a series

7. RATS TIP FOR FY96: Mr. McIntyre noted that staff will begin work on the FY96 TIP as soon as work is completed on the Long-Range Plan. He reiterated requests made at the last several RATS meetings that all participants continue to assemble their proposed projects and priorities and forward this information to staff.

8. WOODRUFF/WALLENBERG EXPRESSWAY STUDY:

There was no further progress to be reported on this study at this time. The final report is not yet available. Somewhat related to this, Mr. McIntyre said that Bucher/Willis/Ratliff staff (the consultant hired by IDOT to provide modelling assistance) will be visiting the area next week to gather information and provide assistance on the TRANPLAN modelling efforts -- related to both modelling efforts in the Rockford area and in Boone County.

8. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: Nick Licary asked that the resolution designating RMTD and LPTS as Joint Coordinated Service Providers (paratransit) be reconsidered. Mr. Petrotte noted that this issue had been voted on by the Committee at a meeting that Mr. Licary failed to attend. Mr. Licary said other business had prevented him from attending the meeting and asked that it be

of certification meetings with RATS staff on May 23-25, 1995. A presentation will be made to the Policy Committee on May 25th regarding the results of these meetings. Staff is gathering data and information to assist in answering the anticipated questions. The meetings will be held in the Rockford City Hall. The public is invited to comment on the RATS process and a public notice announcing these meeting will be published in the newspaper.

discussed again. He asked that WCPS be included with RMTD and LPTS in this role. He said WCPS has served in this capacity for many years, and that WCPS provides service beyond that required of RMTD and LPTS. WCPS and the persons outside the service areas of RMTD and LPTS would be inadequately represented if WCPS was not included. Lori Hitzke spoke in support of Mr. Licary's views and asked that they be included. Mr. Petrotte said WCPS has representation as a member of the Technical Committee. They can present their views before both the Technical and Policy Committees. After a brief discussion, David Noel stated that the Committee had already acted on this and their recommendation had been forwarded to the Policy Committee. He suggested that WCPS take their request and suggestion to the Policy Committee if they did not agree with the Technical Committee recommendation.

13: ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct, David Noel moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Allen Verdun, and approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11.25 a.m.

Following the meeting, most of the Committee members stayed and continued an open work session with Mr. McIntyre for the purpose of reviewing the projects in the Financial Plan of the proposed Long-Range Plan. Several

recommendations were made by consensus and Mr. McIntyre was asked to incorporate these into another draft of the Financial Plan and the maps related to it.

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