



Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization

POLICY COMMITTEE

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District Engineer William D. Ost, Illinois Department
of Transportation, District 2*

Meeting Minutes – RATS Technical Committee

Meeting Date: April 22, 1999 – Loves Park City Hall

Members Present: Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; Steve Ernst, Rockford Public Works Dept.; David Noel, Winnebago County Planning Dept.; Gary McIntyre, Rockford Community Development; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Bob Martin, Loves Park Transit System; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Dept.; Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT District 2.

Others Present: Bob Soltau, Illinois Department of Transportation (Springfield), Russ Petrotte, RATS.

1. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES : At 10:04 AM, on behalf of Wayne Dust who would not be in attendance, Gary McIntyre called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 1999 and March 18, 1999 Technical Committee meetings was made by Steve Ernst. The motion was seconded by Rich Lundin and both were approved unanimously with no changes.

2. AGENCY REPORTS: Agencies present reported on the progress of their ongoing highway projects. An updated TIP Status Report is attached to these minutes reflecting the updated information.

3. FY99 UWP: At the last meeting agencies had been asked to submit their 3rd Quarter Progress and Expenditure reports so that Mr. Petrotte could make an accurate assessment of our remaining funding balances. It might be possible to reallocate some of the funding for 4th Quarter work if some of the agencies are not likely to use all of their allocations.

Mr. Petrotte distributed copies of a year-to-date report. As of March 31st, the funding balances are summarized in the following table. Each agency was then asked to provide an estimate of how much of the remaining fund they are likely to use in the last quarter. The amounts for those agencies that could be specific are shown in the last column. A representative from Machesney Park was not present. The Rockford Public Works Department indicated they could use nearly all of any available balances, if such funds were made available to them. Rockford Public Works does considerable traffic data gathering and analysis on an ongoing basis, which is eligible for FHWA PL funds but is funded locally because the Federal funds are usually not adequate. Also, this year, Rockford Public Works will incur extra expenses as part of the 5-Year Comprehensive Area-wide Traffic Count Program that will commence this Spring.

All Committee members agreed that all eligible expenses should be considered and funded if possible, rather than leaving the funds idle. By consensus, it was agreed that agencies should submit all of their eligible expenses even if those expenses exceed the amount allocated to them by the FY99 UWP. It is unlikely that the combined total will exceed the total RATS allocation. If it does, Mr. Petrotte will consult with IDOT to determine a fair method of reimbursement. Participants should not apply for reimbursements for work that was not identified as eligible in the FY99 UWP. All requests should be submitted with thorough documentation and a description of the work performed.

4. UWP FOR FY 2000: Russ Petrotte directed the Committee's attention to the summary of the proposed FY2K UWP that was included in the last mail out. He said the document is still open for discussion. Of special interest is the proposed allocation of \$50,000 to WinGIS, the proposed core agency for the regional geographic information system.

Steve Ernst said it was presumptuous to allocate funds to an agency that did not really exist yet. Mr. Petrotte said, in the event WinGIS is not created, the Work Program would be amended to direct the funds to other work. Mr. Ernst proposed that the funds marked for WinGIS be directed to the proposed Pavement Management System for the City of Rockford. He explained that the City is requesting \$50,000 for this effort. Of that amount, \$12,500 would be used for training, equipment and startup costs and \$37,000 would be used for the actual pavement assessment which would be conducted next Spring. Four persons from the existing City of Rockford engineering staff would be sent to training at the University of Illinois this Fall. Those four would then conduct City-wide assessments next Spring. The effort would then evolve into a maintenance mode whereby one City staff member would reassess roughly one quarter of the City each year and this would be a regular recurring task. This would cost roughly \$15,000 per year.

Joe Vanderwerff said he favored the use of the \$50,000 for the WinGIS effort and, more specifically, he said the funds should be aimed at one vital component of that effort – the development of an accurate ground control network throughout the County. A system of highly accurate, recoverable and monumented control points would be developed on roughly a 2-mile grid

throughout the county (perhaps, with slightly lower density in rural areas and higher density in developed or likely-to-develop areas). The cost of this network would be between \$80-\$150,000.

Mr. Petrotte said he supported the use of the funds for ground control although he thought the costs would be slightly higher. He said this system is long overdue in Winnebago County. It is essential to the regional GIS and has stand-alone value that is worth the expense. Such a system would greatly improve the accuracy of all property surveying throughout the County, would aid in resolving property disputes and datum disputes, be important to new flood hazard studies and determinations, and pave the way for requiring accurate "digital" platting.

Members of the Committee questioned why the City was requesting existing funds for pavement management if the City intended to use existing, already funded, staff to do the work. Mr. Ernst said that the City considered the pavement management assessment to be of high priority. He reiterated his request that funds be allocated to the City.

Mr. Noel suggested that the use of RATS funds for WinGIS might be put off until we get a better idea of the timing of related WinGIS efforts and a firmer commitment to WinGIS in a general sense. Members of the Committee were asked to go back to their respective agencies and discuss this matter further. The issue will be readdressed at the May Technical Committee meeting.

5. BOONE/WINNEBAGO/SLATS TRANSPORTATION STUDY: Gary McIntyre updated the Committee on the progress of the joint RATS/SLATS transportation modeling and needs assessment study. He said the Study Steering Committee has continued to meet. He distributed a copy of a revised time line for the Study. He said a cooperative agreement between Rockford, Winnebago County and Boone County has been developed and is now under review/adoption by those entities. The agreement will establish Rockford as the lead agency and will commit Boone and Winnebago Counties to reimbursing Rockford for the local match expenses for the Study. He said the Steering Committee is still aiming at selecting a consultant for the study sometime this Summer.

6.1 SPRINGFIELD HARRISON PROGRESS: Mr. Vanderwerff said the County received authorization from IDOT to proceed with ROW acquisition. Appraisals have been started. The relocation team has been set up in the County Highway Department's office. A newsletter is being prepared to inform citizens of the area and the community on the progress of the project.

6.2 WinGIS: Mr. Petrotte said the WinGIS Implementation Plan is in its final stages of completion. A presentation will be made before the Policy Committee soon – most likely, the May meeting.

6.3 ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PROGRESS: Gary McIntyre updated the table identifying the projects submitted thus far in Round 1 of the TEA-21 Enhancement Program.

Name	Sponsor	Type	Fed. Cost
Davis-Pec Path	Winn Co/Rkfd	Bike Path	\$1,756,500
Pec Prairie Path	Winn Co	Bike Path	\$12,352,000
Perryville Rd	Winn Co	Landscape	\$227,352
Tinker Cottage	Rkfd Park Dist	Bike / Historic	\$1,562,500
Belvidere Main St	Belvidere	Historic	\$719,140
Rock Cut Segment	IDNR	Bike Path	\$1,305,124
Perryville Path-SE Connection	Winn Co / Cherry Valley	Bike Path	\$2,177,900
Kishwaukee River Path	Winn Co/ Winn Co FPD	Path	\$1,456,000
8 Total Projects			\$17,240,281

The total cost of the above projects (Fed and local match) is estimated at \$21.6 million. Bob Soltau said that 315 applications were submitted State-wide.

8. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: None.

10. ADJOURNMENT: At 11:35 PM a motion was made by Steve Ernst to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dan Jacobson and approved unanimously.