



**Rockford Area Transportation Study**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mayor Charles E. Box, City of Rockford  
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park  
Board Chairman Kristine Cohn, Winnebago County  
President Stephen Kuhn, Village of Machesney Park  
District Engineer William D. Ost, Illinois Department  
of Transportation, District 2

## **Meeting Minutes – RATS Technical Committee**

**Meeting Date: August 19, 1999 – Loves Park City Hall**

**Members Present:** Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; Wayne Dust, Rockford Community Development; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; David Sliktas, Belvidere/Boone Regional Planning Commission; Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT District 2; Michael Zonsius, Greater Rockford Airport Authority; Steve Ernst, Rockford Public Works; Dennis Hendricks, Rockford Mass Transit.

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

**1. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** At 10:07 A.M., Wayne Dust called the meeting to order. A motion to approve the minutes of the June 17 and July 22, 1999 meetings was made by Dan Jacobson, seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously without corrections.

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

**3. FY 2000 TIP:** Mr. Petrotte called attention to the July 16, 1999 version of the TIP that was mailed to all persons on the RATS mailing list. This draft, with a few minor changes, will be presented to the Policy Committee next week for adoption. The minor changes that will be needed are documented in the latest version of proposed Resolution 99-8 and its Addendums. Those documents were mailed to all persons on the mailing list as part of the last mailout. Referring to Addendum 1, Mr. Petrotte said that the addendum describes all

changes that have occurred over the past several months to the various versions of the proposed TIP. He called attention to the most recent proposed changes to the July 16 version which are documented on pages four and five and dated July 22, 1999. Resolution 99-9 recognizes these changes and instructs staff to incorporate them into a final version of the TIP, to be dated August 26. If approved by the Policy Committee, along with any other changes to be documented in the meeting minutes, the August 26 version will be the final and adopted version.

After a brief discussion, Steve Ernst moved to recommend Policy Committee approval of the latest draft of Resolution 99-8, including its addendums. The motion was seconded by Joe Vanderwerff and approved unanimously.

**4. TIP / STU-FUNDING CANDIDATES:** Russ Petrotte said he had received a FAX from Dan Jacobson, dated 8/18/99, stating the following:

The City of Loves Park submits improvements to Riverside Boulevard/Forest Hills Road/Alpine Road as delineated in the recent congestion mitigation study for consideration as the next STU project. I believe the projected costs of the improvements identified in the study are \$8,000,000.

Joe Vanderwerff said the County also supports this project.

Steve Ernst said the City of Rockford is issuing an RFP for consultant services the Harrison Avenue project that they have proposed as a candidate. The City will be seeking engineering design and will also

ask the consultant to phase the study into small enough parts so that we do not have to accumulate large sums. Mr. Petrotte suggested that we develop a broad list of candidate projects and that we proceed to get a large share of these projects engineered. Having such projects ready to go gives us the best chance of obtaining funding when special opportunities arise such as the passage of a new Federal transportation bill or a statewide funding package similar to that issued by Governor Ryan several weeks ago. From that standpoint he asked if it might be sensible to devote STU funds specifically for engineering such a list of projects. This would be a departure from past practice but might be worth considering.

Mr. Dust asked that all representatives come prepared at the next meeting to discuss the pros and cons of the various projects proposed.

5. **PROGRESS REPORTS ON SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

- a. **The Springfield/Harrison Project.** Joe Vanderwerff said the County is striving for a January letting on Phase 1, the section from Montague to Cunningham. He said property acquisition is well underway. The project will require the total or partial acquisition of 33 parcels. Of these 32 have been appraised, 31 are under negotiation, 7 have been closed and another 8 are ready to close. The preliminary plans for the project are done and the consultant hopes to get the final plans to IDOT by September 1, 1999.
- b. **IDOT's Enhancement Program.** Bob Soltau said the Department's recommendations on the funding requests will be going to the Governor soon. The Governor's office will ask two weeks for review. Therefore, awards may be possible in September.
- c. **WinGIS.** Mr. Petrotte said the Cooperative Agreement Task Force has been working diligently. A draft of the Agreement is likely to be released to the legal advisors of the eight core participants within the next couple of weeks. The Task Force developing the aerial photography and ground control specifications will be convening soon.
- d. **Boone/Winnebago/Beloit Transportation Planning Study.** Mr. Petrotte said consultant interviews are scheduled for August 24 (all day) and 25 (morning only). The consultants to be interviewed are: (1) A team comprising Bucher, Willis & Ratliff; Arc Design Resources; and TMODEL Corporation; (2) A team comprising Wilbur Smith Associates and R.

of STU monies to complete any single part.

Webster and Associates; (3) A team comprising Parsons Brinkerhoff Quade & Douglas; Cambridge Systematics; and McClure Engineering Associates; and (4) HNTB and McClure Engineering Associates. He said the presentations will begin at 8:30 A.M. the first day and 9:00 A.M. the second day and will take place in the Rockford City Hall. Anyone interested is invited to attend.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** None

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Petrotte presented the Resolution 99-11 honoring the contributions of Bill Smith. Dan Jacobson moved to recommend Policy Committee approval of the resolution. The motion was seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business to conduct the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 P.M.