Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization

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Meeting Minutes
RATS Technical Committee
Loves Park City Hall – August 21, 2003

Members Present:
Chad Atkinson, Machesney Park;
Steve Ernst, Rockford Public Works;
Rick Gualandi, IDOT-District 2;
Terry Houghton, Rockford Mass Transit District;
Troy Krup, Belvidere/Boone Planning Dept.;
Craig Lawler, Belvidere Public Works Dept.;
Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway;
David Noel, Loves Park Planning;
Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway.

Members Absent:
Chris Hodges, Village of Roscoe;
Elizabeth Kinsinger, Rockford Community Dev. Dept.
Bob Martin, Loves Park Public Works;
David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley;
Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago;
Greater Rockford Airport Authority;
Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development.

Others Present:
Jason Dupruis, City of Beloit;
Russ Petrotte, RATS staff;
Bob Spenle; SLATS;
Pat Nelson, League of Women Voters;
Bob Soltau, IDOT-Springfield.

1. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES: At 10:10 am, with a quorum present, Steve Ernst called the meeting to order. Mr. Ernst explained that the minutes for the June 19, 2003, meeting have not been completed. He asked for action on the minutes of the May 22, 2003 and July 17, 2003 minutes. By consensus, the Committee laid over the June 19th minutes. Joe Vanderwerff moved that the May 22nd and July 17th minutes be approved as submitted. The motion was seconded by Rich Lundin and the minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

2. AGENCY REPORTS: The members present discussed the status and progress of the projects and various issues under the responsibility of their respective jurisdictions. Those present updated the progress of projects listed on their respective TIP Status Report sheets.

Rick Gualandi asked that the contract numbers be added to the IDOT projects on the TIP Status Report sheet and that the sheet be sorted by those numbers. The result will be a grouping of projects that are related.

Bob Soltau reminded the Committee that the deadline to submit Illinois Tomorrow grant applications is August 29, 2003. He also reminded the Committee that the IDOT Fall Planning Conference will be held next month on September 11th and 12th at the Rend Lake Resort in southern Illinois.

Terry Houghton reported that RMTD's administrative office expansion project and their paratransit vehicle storage building project are proceeding according to schedule. The East Side Transfer Facility project is on hold until the finalization of the route and schedule changes. Public meeting are now being held on the proposed route and schedule changes. The earliest the route and schedule changes would be implemented will be January of 2004.

David Noel reported that right-of-way plats have been approved for the Interstate Boulevard projects and related roads in the vicinity. He said the Spring Creek interceptor sanitary sewer is being expanded eastward to accommodate growing capacity needs.

Bob Spenle reported that the work on IL-75 in the South Beloit area (between the Wisconsin State Line and I-90) has been completed and the new segment is open to traffic. He also said the next State Line Area Transportation Study (SLATS) meeting is scheduled for September 15th at 1:00 pm and will be held at a new location: the Grinnell Senior Center, 631 Bluff Street in Beloit.

Joe Vanderwerff said the Utility Coordination meeting scheduled for next week might be delayed unless specific interest was expressed.

Troy Krup reported that the Belvidere Comprehensive Plan is being amended to include recent proposed changes to the Town Hall Road Realignment Project. Eventually the Boone County Plan will also be amended.

Pat Nelson asked about the status of the new Federal transportation bill. Bob Soltau said Congress is working on a new bill but there is considerable debate over proposals to raise the gas tax. If the new bill is not finalized in time, Congress will likely pass a resolution authorizing the temporary continuation of the current legislation.

Russ Petrotte said he was informed by Bunny Anderson that the construction of an I-Pass Only Lane at the Belvidere Toll Plaza (Project 14-2000-1) will be bid this year (2003). The Intermittent Pavement Repair project (an annual maintenance project) between Newburg Road and the Elgin Plaza (14-02-3) is not needed because the Tollway is re-paving much of the entire stretch.

3. RATS FY 2004 TIP: Russ Petrotte said the proposed RATS FY 2004 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) remains largely as presented at the last meeting. He expressed gratitude to Denny Hendricks for carefully going through the document and pointing out a number of spelling and grammatical errors. These will be corrected in the final version.

Mr. Petrotte said two items need to be added to Table 8. Via negotiations between the Illinois Public Transit Association and IDOT's Divisions of Public Transit it appears that RMTD may be awarded sufficient Federal 5309 funds to purchase 18 replacement bus for their fixed route service. Three of these are likely to be part of the FY03 allocations and the other 15 from the FY05 allocations. Mr. Petrotte distributed a revised version of Table 8 that includes these changes.

Mr. Petrotte reiterated that Tollway project 14-02-3 is to be removed because it is redundant with the current re-paving project that is now underway. For the same reason, the FY 2005 Tollway construction projects in FY 2005 (14-03-3, 14-03-4, and 14-03-5) can be removed because they will not be needed for several years.

Mr. Petrotte said the four maps illustrating the locations of the various projects will be added to the end of the final document. Also, the public involvement steps (Part X) will be updated to reflect recent opportunities for comment. RATS Resolution 2003-8 (the adopting resolution) will be prepared and added, and, the **"**Planning Process Certification**"** will be added.

Joe Vanderwerff moved that the draft TIP be updated to reflect the changes noted by Mr. Petrotte and forwarded to the Policy Committee with a recommendation for adoption. The motion was seconded by Steve Ernst and approved unanimously.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS ON OTHER MAJOR PROJECTS

4.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth (Phase 2) – No Report.

4.2 Rockford Rail Consolidation Study – No report.

4.3 Roscoe-Rockton Public Transit Study – No report.

4.4 WinGIS – Steve Ernst reported that the WinGIS Technical Committee will meet today at 1:30 pm in the Board Room of the Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD).

4.5 Winnebago/Boone Co. Transportation Planning Study – No report.

4.6 RMTD Route and Schedule Study – Discussed previously in Agency Reports.

4.7 RMTD East Side Transfer Center – Discussed previously in Agency Reports.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Steve Ernst told the Committee that the Transportation Planning Certification Review will be conducted next month on September 23, 24, & 25, 2003. This will be conducted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Preliminary findings will likely be presented to the Policy Committee at their September 25, 2003 meeting. Russ Petrotte asked if it would be necessary to publish a notice in the newspaper and if a public hearing would be needed. Bob Soltau advised him to call John Donovan and pose those questions to him.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Steve Ernst told the Committee that a Public Information Open House is scheduled for August 26, 2003 for the purpose of informing the public about a possible amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). It has been proposed to add a bicycle/pedestrian facility to IL-173 between Perryville Road and the Village of Caledonia. The open house will be held from 4:00 to 6:00 pm in the Machesney Park Village Hall.

8. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct, Joe Vanderwerff moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Rich Lundin and approved unanimously at 11:17 am.