

RATS

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

POLICY COMMITTEE

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Transportation, Region 2*

RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Johnson, RMTD; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Rick Gualandi, IDOT-District 2; Adam Tegen, Belvidere – Boone County Planning Department; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere Public Works Department; David Noel, Village of Roscoe; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Steve Ernst, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Katie Coble, City of Rockford Community Development.

MEMBERS MISSING: Village of Cherry Valley, Greater Rockford Airport Authority, Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department, Winnebago County Highway Department, Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Soltau, SLATS; Sharon Durbin, IDOT Springfield; Josh Barbee, Charlie Smith, and Craig Holan of Hanson Engineering; Angelo Caruana, Local Resident; Gary McIntyre and Hayes Morrison, City of Rockford and RATS staff.

1. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Steve Ernst of City of Rockford Public Works Department at 10:12am with a quorum present. Mr. Nathan Bruck made a motion to approval of the minutes from the July 21, 2005 RATS Tech meeting. Mr. Craig Lawler seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously carried.

2. Agency Reports:

IDOT, District 2 – No update.

Winnebago County Highway Department – Meeting scheduled with Mr. Gary McIntyre to reflect on the TIP projects. Hononegah Road project was awarded and will start in a couple of weeks. Perryville master road projects and Willow Brook will be led on the 29th of August. Riverside at Mulford awarded August 5th will start in early October. Forest Hills and Riverside projects are completed.

City of Rockford – No update.

City of Loves Park Public Works – The annual maintenance program is under way. The Pearl St. Bridge project has run into design issues with IDOT, so completion will be moved to the middle of September. The completion of the project will take just six weeks. Bridge will remain closed pending completion.

Village of Machesney Park – Have submitted through the county an IDOT grant for a connector to the Willow Creek Path. The reconstruction of Elm has had a two week delay and completion will not be done prior to school starting.

Rockford Mass Transit District – No update.

City of Loves Park Community Development – No update.

City of Rockford Community Development – No update.

Belvidere – Boone County Regional Planning – Working on the tollway neighborhood plan and interchange plan. Have had a kick off meeting with the consulting firm hired and are hoping to move quickly. They are doing a Land Use and Transportation Study for the potential Irene Road interchange. The goal is to have an adopted plan in place by Christmas.

City of Belvidere Public Works – Have five projects pending related to the Chrysler Plant expansion, which are still in the works and pending funding. They are included in the TIP. The 6th St/ 7th Ave. is moving on, a third will be done in 2005, the balance to be done in 2006.

Village of Roscoe – Bid openings are starting for the McDonald Road project. Working with the Sanitary District to do testing on the sewer so that completion of the resurfacing between N North St and Elevator Rd.

Village of Winnebago – The Elias St. project will be completed near the end of September.

IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning – The IDOT fall planning conference will be held at the Millennium Knickerbocker Hotel on the 12th and 13th of October. If anyone would like more information they can contact Steve Ernst or Sharon Durbin. Rooms are \$130 before Sept. 13th and conference fee is \$70 before Sept 30th.

SLATS – The Long-Range Transportation Plan is underway, the highway section is next to be complete and the Transit will be available for everyone to review shortly. Plan to be completed by late October or early November.

3. RATS FY2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Ms. Hayes Morrison gave an update of the transit section of the TIP. To this date, RMTD had not finished with their preliminary numbers for the TIP. They had however, given a list that detailed a probable budget and expenditures amounts to FY 2008. The updates to the text of the TIP and the draft budget and expenditures list were passed out to all members. A better draft will be done by Monday the 29th.

The policy meeting will not be held this month, so there will be no vote to move with a recommendation to Policy. This will be done at the next Technical Committee Meeting.

Mr. Gary McIntyre then handed out an update of all of the highway projects so far listed in the FY 2006 TIP. Rich Lundin has moved a project from FY 2006 to FY 2007. This is reflected on the handout. In table 23 City of Rockford included a forgotten project that affected the budget. The fourth page holds the sum total of projects in the TIP which is almost a half a billion dollars over the next three years. The majority of this comes from the Tollway Authority, as they are doing a lot of work in the area with the US 20/I-90 interchange, two open toll plazas, and widening.

Table 21 lists all the projects submitted to Mr. McIntyre. Though Mr. McIntyre is aware that Mr. Lawler of Belvidere Public Works is waiting funding for projects, it was programmed incorrectly, it was intended for him to notice the discrepancies and to then give Mr. McIntyre a correction. It was noted that Mr. McIntyre still had another meeting, mentioned by Mr. Wayne Vlk to attend with Winnebago County Highways Department to finalize their numbers. Mr. McIntyre passed out these spreadsheets to the Technical committee and those present. Based on the numbers given to Mr. McIntyre by Winnebago County Highway Department, the awarded project at Riverside and Mulford has moved from Table 24 to Table 25. Table 24 is intended to show a list of projects that are in-between phases, projects approved by the Federal Highway Administration, but have not gone to letting or been awarded yet. It is a link between the current and past TIP's.

Table 25 shows projects that have been awarded from previous TIP's. The project is moved from Table 24 to Table 25 after being awarded. This does not mean the projects are complete. If you have other projects to be listed in Table 25, please let Mr. McIntyre know. We would like to have a final draft out to everyone in about two weeks. If you have corrections to your sections, please notify Mr. McIntyre or Ms. Morrison within a week.

Mr. McIntyre also handed out the financial numbers as they are maintained by the MPO. The first page shows the history of projects that have used FAU, now STP-U funds, like the completed Harrison Ave. and the 6th St. project the City of Belvidere is doing. The second sheet shows annual allocations from 1972 to present. Last year RATS received approximately 2.5 million dollars and projections of what we might see over the next three years. The last sheet takes the balance which then is placed into Table 15 (about 6.5 million dollars) and that table demonstrates the next series of projects the City of Rockford. In this TIP the majority of money is programmed for the reconstruction of Harrison Ave. At the end of the three-year TIP the City has about \$17,000 left, which in effect is nothing.

Mr. Ernst commented that there are a couple of missing items in the tables and that if each agency would go over them thoroughly all of those items could be identified and resolved.

Mr. McIntyre then commented that comments were needed back within a week and that the new draft would be out in about two weeks. The final draft would then be ready for the September 22nd Technical Committee meeting. The Technical Committee meeting will be asked to make a recommendation to the Policy Committee meeting of September 29, 2005.

4. Progress Reports on:

4.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth Study
Project is ongoing.

4.2 Commuter Rail Feasibility Study
Awaiting the signing of SAFETEA-LU to start next phase of study.

4.3 Springfield Corridor Planning Study

No report.

4.4 RMTD East Side Transfer Center

RMTD is in the land acquisition phase of this project.

4.5 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study

Work is beginning on this project. There will be a public open house given by IDOT on September 8th between 1 and 6pm at the Loves Park City Hall Cafeteria Room.

4.6 Boone and Winnebago County Regional Greenway Plan

The Greenway Plan is done. Mr. McIntyre distributed the new maps. The plan and its maintenance will be discussed at the WinGIS tech meeting later today.

4.7 RATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

The Mayor of Belvidere gave RATS corrections to be made. These corrections have been made and the plan should be completed this month.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

No one at the committee had any communication to add.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ernst added that as part of the WinGIS budget for 2006 (which was approved) there will be a full color aerial of the County done in the spring of 2006. Mr. Ernst added the enhancement application had gone in for the WRAPS committee and that the Rock River Walk in Downtown Rockford was one of the projects submitted and recommended. Mr. McIntyre follow-up by saying that the RATS Urban area submitted a total of six applications. Besides the City of Rockford's Downtown Riverwalk, the Rockford Park District submitted three applications for landscaping along a section of IL 251, for historical preservation for Tinker Cottage and for Riverside Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge – Phase 2; the Village of Machesney Park submitted an application for the Willow Creek Path connection between IL 251 and Harlem High School; the Village of Roscoe submitted an application for Porter Park Trail.

7. ADJOURNMENT

At 10:53 A.M., with no further business to conduct, Mr. Adam Tegan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mark Painter and approved unanimously.