



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, August 20, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vlk, Dave Townsend, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Nathan Bruck, Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Adam Tegen, Rich Lundin, Boone County; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Jessica Roberts, City of Rockford Community Development; Steve Asche, Village of Roscoe.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Cherry Valley; Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Soltau, SLATS; David Almy, Hanson Professional Services; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Steve Ernst, RMAP; Michael Maddox, RMAP; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP; Mary Swanson, RMAP; Michael Hren, RMAP.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:07 a.m., with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 18, 2009 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Boone County Planning, seconded by Boone County Highway, motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported on the status of several road projects throughout the region. Their stimulus resurfacing projects are complete, except for IL 2.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vlk gave a status report on the County's projects. The Bell School Road project came in at 60% of the estimate and several projects are set for a September letting.

2.3 City of Rockford: Mr. Zuroske reported that the City's construction program is progressing very well. The Kishwaukee Bridge project is approximately three weeks behind schedule but it should be open for the winter. Phase I of the roundabout project has been approved. The first round of ARRA projects is set for a September letting and the second round set for a January letting.

2.4 City of Loves Park: The Orth Road project came in 60% of the estimate and should be complete by the end of November. The residential resurfacing and curb programs are nearing completion. ARRA projects have been let.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: A status report was given regarding their residential overlay projects.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present

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City of Belvidere, Chairman

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey,
City of Rockford, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg,
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom Strickland,
Village of Machesney Park

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2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: RMTD had a procurement audit by the FTA on Monday and Tuesday of this week for receiving ARRA funds. Preliminary results of the audit discovered that there is a need for better documentation of information. There was an open house for the East Side Transfer Center and it went well.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development: The Harlem school district received \$250,000 from the State to be spent on school crosswalks and sidewalks.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development: No report.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: Not present.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Dept: Their Board approved the 173 plan. The Comprehensive Plan is moving slowly.

2.13 Boone County Highway Dept: Mr. Lundin gave an update of road projects. Their stimulus projects will begin in the near future.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: Their stimulus projects were let in late July. The three pedestrian signal projects are 90% complete and the arterial overlay project is complete.

Mr. Ernst suggested the members document their stimulus savings to present to the Policy members in the near future.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Their ARRA projects came in under estimate, also, and their MFT projects have been awarded.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: Westfield Road project came in 2% over estimate but is scheduled to be awarded.

2.17 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: Not present.

2.18 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority: Not present.

2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: Mr. Jones mentioned the IDOT Fall Planning Conference, October 14-16 and the IDOT website lists all the ARRA projects.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council on Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: The Policy Committee will meet on Sept. 21 and a public hearing will be held on October 22 for their TIP program. Mr. Soltau also mentioned the ARRA savings from the low bids and the need to consider how to allocate these savings. Mr. Ernst stated that the Policy Committee has already given guidance for the use of the funds.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Not present.

2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council: Not present.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District: Not present.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Not present.

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3. RMAP FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT REGARDING AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) FUNDS:

Winnebago County and the City of Rockford has requested an amendment to the FY 2009-FY 2012 TIP. Amendment to Resolution 2009-11 will include the following changes: County Guardrail, \$382,493; RMAP ARRA \$172,623; Winnebago County ARRA \$209,870. Mr. Zuroske mentioned that the Whitman Interchange project did not meet requirements for ARRA funds and the City's changes will include projects on Longwood, Central Avenue, West State Street and Alpine road. With the changes made, RMAP staff will recommend approval to take this before the Policy Committee.

Motion to recommend Resolution 2009-11 approval to Policy, by City of Loves Park, seconded by Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried.

4. SECTION 5310 CONSOLIDATED VEHICLE PROCUREMENT (CVP) APPLICATIONS: Mr. Diipla reported that three applications were reviewed by RMAP staff and sent to IDOT. IDOT will contact those agencies which will receive vehicles. A call for projects has not occurred for JARC and New Freedom funds yet. This item needs no action taken today, it is informational only.

5. RMAP FY 2010 – FY 2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP): Mr. Maddox gave an overview of the TIP and the new formatting and style of the document. Information is needed from Winnebago County and the City of Rockford regarding their CIP plans and he will be contacted those agencies next week. Mr. Zuroske and Mr. Vlk both stated their CIP plans are scheduled for approval in September.

Mr. Ernst suggested that members have their federally funded projects ready to have included in the draft document. Copies will be electronically sent for members to review the draft document.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS:

6.1 NICTD Alternative Analysis: The consultant team and Mr. Ernst met with the Federal Transit Administration in Chicago on July 29. A new person is in charge of our projects within the FTA and that is Mr. Steven Polito. He comes from the Metropolitan Planning Organization in the Quad Cities. He is very familiar with documentation processing. The FTA should have their formal comments ready by the end August then we can move to the New Starts application. The Obama administration has made significant changes to the New Starts criteria, however these changes favor our initiatives. There is no scheduled date for the next Executive Committee meeting but it probably will be in October.

6.2: Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: The stimulus program had dollars for intercity passenger rail in it. The DOT has submitted a pre-application for the Chicago/Dubuque and Chicago to Quad City service. It is anticipated that the final application, due September 15, 2009, will be submitted in the same manner as the pre-application was. Chicago to Dubuque is being submitted as a one train a day, to start. The Chicago to Quad City has expanded to Iowa City with assistance from Iowa and will be submitted as two trains per day.

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There was a question regarding the train times. The Chicago to Dubuque route would have one in-bound train in the morning and one out-bound train in the afternoon. The Chicago/Quad Cities/Iowa City would have two trains in each direction per day.

6.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: No update.

6.4 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: A presentation by the Consultant for the Policy Committee is scheduled for next week. The Policy Committee meeting will be held in the same room and the Technical Committee next week.

6.5 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Winnebago County, Boone County, RMAP and NIU are partnering on a project to link the government assets together and to provide connection with adjacent land parcels within the development community. This project has morphed a little. We now have also partnered with the health care organizations, the three large hospitals in the region, and the health care network. The project has expanded to include McHenry County as well. The application which is due Sept. 15, is now a three county application of Boone, Winnebago and McHenry. The application is in the \$70 million range and we have secured a \$5 million matching commitment from the Governor's office through their information technology department. NIU submitted a pre-application on our behalf and we received a letter agreeing to a commitment from the State to match their \$5 million to the \$70 million. Details are still being worked out.

Mr. Ernst mentioned there are two broadband programs within the stimulus, one called BTOP and one BIP. These programs come from the US Department of Agriculture, one is rural and one is urban. We are seeking the urban funds.

6.6 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Mr. Hutchins gave a presentation to the Policy Committee in June. Chairman Christensian hosted a meeting with the Canadian/Pacific Railroad which recently purchased the assets of the Dakota/ Minnesota/Eastern (DM&E) and the Iowa / Chicago and Eastern (ICE). The Canadian Pacific is in the process of doing strategic planning for the newly acquired assets. Our consultants attended this meeting and provided information on what the Rockford area had to offer. The Railroad showed interest in the property located near the airport.

RMAP has new transportation model software called VZOOM. Mr. McIntyre is using this traffic forecasting model which also has a freight component included.

6.7 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 8th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m.

6.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): The document has been submitted to the EDA for their review. Their comments are due in September. Once the document has been approved, the economic adjustment grant can be applied for.

6.9 RMAP Website: Mr. Hren gave a presentation of the RMAP web-site to the members. The site is up and functional and he urged the members to look at the information it provides.

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7. COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Ernst received correspondence from James Oberstar and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the US House of Representatives. The letters both indicated that we have had 5 months to submit recovery projects and be prepared to submit the information because they are prepared to start a “use it or lose it” attitude on selection. We are set to report our information and have been in contact with IDOT on this also.

Also, Mr. Ernst received a report from the General Accounting Office regarding the expenditures of the Highway Trust Fund. Correspondence was received June 30th. Some members of Congress were upset with some of the projects being funded out of the Highway Trust Fund and the report is available for those who want to see it.

8. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Ernst has been directed by the Policy Committee to develop a Storm Water Management Sub-Committee. He is planning to elect one RMAP staff member to take the lead and is asking for volunteers from the Technical Committee to be part of this sub-committee and to meet on regional stormwater issues. Mr. Ernst will be making a report to the Policy Committee next week regarding the creation of this new Sub-Committee. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled to be in September. During discussions, attention focused on what committees are already in place throughout the region. Mr. Tegen of Boone County stated that they already have a storm water committee in place. Winnebago County mentioned the WinAqua group that held meetings in the past and possibly resurrecting this group to help with this newly created Sub-committee. A concern was mentioned on the amount of time this will take up and funding of this to do a regional program. Mr. Zuroske mentioned contacting Kane and Lake Counties to get information on their programs that are in place.

Mr. Jacobson mentioned the need to take a positive regional approach to inform the communities of the importance of complying with the census. Getting people to fill out their census forms will aid in the money allocation for the communities within the MPO. Ms. Roberts stated that Jonah Katz is the City’s lead on the 2010 census count and to contact him with questions.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Boone County, seconded by Winnebago County. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.