

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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Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere
Board Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County
Deputy Director George F. Ryan, Illinois Department of
Transportation, Region 2*

RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, February 22, 2007

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT, District 2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, CIP Division; James A. Johnson, Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD); Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park, Community Development Department; Reggie Arkell, Winnebago County Regional Planning and Economic Development Department; Adam Tegen, Belvidere / Boone County Regional Planning Department; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Village of Machesney Park; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Cherry Valley; City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; Village of Roscoe.

NON-VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT: Bunny Anderson, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study (SLATS); Steve Graceffa, Rock River Water Reclamation District.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre and Hayes Morrison, City of Rockford and RATS Staff; Tonia Vrolyk, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, CIP Division; Angelo Caruana, Member of Public.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:12 a.m. with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 20, 2006, AUGUST 17, 2006 & NOVEMBER 16, 2006 RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No action at this time.

2. AGENCY REPORTS

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2 – No updates – other than what is contained in RATS Resolution 2007-1.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department – Several projects planned for Spring. April Letting: Rockton Avenue; Willowbrook – Prairie Hill; East Riverside; Perryville Road Extension. March Letting: Belvidere Road Resurfacing. June Letting: Perryville Bridge over North Branch of Kishwaukee.

2.3 City of Rockford, Public Works Department – CIP 2007-2011 passed at City Council on Tuesday, 2/20. No major changes in large projects. Harrison Avenue Reconstruction (Ohio Pkwy-Mulford Rd): 2nd phase of construction to start this spring. Harrison Avenue Phase II (20th-11th St): ROW Plats & Easements underway. Envision North Main: Corridor study is underway. A very well attended public meeting last night (2/21). Requested comments from RATS Technical Committee. Information available from Mr. Zuroske. He will e-mail documents upon request.

- 2.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department – (Nathan Bruck spoke on behalf of Dan Jacobson) No report.
- 2.5 Village of Machesney Park – No representative.
- 2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport – No representative.
- 2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District – Paratransit storage facility: Plans & specs at City of Rockford; out for bid shortly after that.
- 2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department – No report.
- 2.9 Village of Cherry Valley – No representative.
- 2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department – No representative.
- 2.11 Winnebago County Regional Planning and Economic Development Department – Comprehensive Planning Process is underway. Status memo has been released and is available on website. Committees are working on their reports. Tour of Dane County for April 21, 2007. Springfield Ave Corridor Study Land Use Plan presented to Zoning Committee 2/20. Eventually, to be presented to County Board Committee.
- 2.12 Belvidere / Boone County Regional Planning Department – Growth summits were held recently. Tonight is second phase of that process. Looking for solutions/consensus from the public.
- 2.13 Boone County Highway Department – No report. Timetable for highway postings – possibly next week.
- 2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department – No representative.
- 2.15 Village of Roscoe – No representative.
- 2.16 Village of Winnebago – No report.
- 2.17 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency - No representative.
- 2.18 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority – Provided maps showing areas of construction for 2007 construction – also includes a brief summary. I-55 opens in November. I-90 (Newburg to Rockton) opens this summer.
- 2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation - No representative.
- 2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning - No representative.
- 2.21 Ogle County Highway Department - No representative.
- 2.22 Boone County Council of Aging - No representative.
- 2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study – Stateline Mass Transit District is being organized. Study underway. Operations in May/June. Phase I Feasibility Study for Commuter Transportation: Connection to station at Harvard – still needs another year. Met with VanGalder Bus Company for possible bus connection. After Feasibility Study, Alternatives Analysis is likely.
- 2.24 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division – No representative.
- 2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council – No representative.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District – Auburn & Central: Bid awarded Tuesday night (2/22/2007) for \$915,000. Still needs an easement. I-39 Baxter Road Trunk Sewer: Consultant still working; out to bid this summer.

2.27 Growth Dimensions – No representative.

Members of Public, Angelo Caruana – General discussion of the NICTI open house meetings scheduled for later this month.

3. RATS FY-2007 to FY-2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT – RATS RESOLUTION 2007-1

Mr. McIntyre summarized the TIP amendment (essentially a technical correction) that covers the following projects:

- City of Rockford – Harrison Avenue Phase II (11th to 20th) - Land acquisition. This project is being moved from the 2nd year element to the 1st year element.
- Changes to IDOT's program from an updated version (Summer 2006) of their highway program.
- Winnebago County Highway Department – Perryville Road bridge over the north branch of the Kishwaukee River and Kishwaukee Road bridge over the Kishwaukee River

Winnebago County also mentioned an approved HSIP project for the Old River Road & Latham Road intersection. Mr. Ernst asked that this project be included in the motion to approve Resolution 2007-1.

Motion was made by the Village of Winnebago moved approve RATS Resolution 2007-1 with changes, seconded by the Winnebago County Highway Department. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

4. RATS BICYCLE / PEDESTRIAN STUDY

Mr. McIntyre requested that this item be deferred to the next meeting. He is waiting on comments from Belvidere and RMTD. They are working on the bicycle plan maps to resolve conflicts with specific route requirements.

5. RATS FY 2008 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP)

Mr. McIntyre requested hours and documentation of time from each of the RATS agencies for the time period of July 1 – December 31, 2006. Several agencies have turned in their information. He still needs data from others. RATS has not received notification of the FY08 allocation but expect it shortly. SLATS indicated they had received a letter from IDOT recently, and they received a moderate increase. Mr. McIntyre reminded members that Belvidere/Boone County Planning was deferring planning dollars until FY 2008-2009.

6. RATS FEDERAL CERTIFICATION REVIEW FOR 2007

Mr. McIntyre stated the review is scheduled for September 25-27, 2007. Certification is now required every four years by the SAFETEA-LU legislation. The review will be led by FHWA & FTA. Mr. McIntyre supplied a letter from USDOT summarizing the previous certification in 2003. Mr. Ernst provided a brief review of 2003 conclusions and our progress, which has actually been quite good, and cited some specific examples.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS

7.1 – Winnebago County Smart Growth Study – Village of Rockton report done; Village of Winnebago report is in house and being reviewed.

7.2 – NICTI Alternative Analysis – Executive Committee met 2/14/2007 – First level screening reduced original 13 alternatives to 4. Recommended to proceed to second level screening analysis.

7.3 – RMTD East Side Transfer Center – Hearing in front of Rockford Zoning Board of Appeals on 2/21/2007. Some opposition from Baymont Hotel, Aldermen, and Cracker Barrel. Received 4-3 favorable decision. Next step pre-design and land acquisition.

7.4 – IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park) – No report.

7.5 – Boone County / IL 173 Corridor Study – Project on hold pending outcome of growth summits and public participation. School district issues have clouded progress.

7.6 – City of Belvidere / Boone County: NE Transportation / Land Use Study – See item #5 above

7.7 – Population Projections – Mr. McIntyre received a request Amtrak in December 2006 for populations projections. Mr. McIntyre reviewed projections done by RATS staff against projections done by Joel Cowan at the School of Medicine. Very favorable results.

- 323,354 – Projected 2025 population for Winnebago County (Joel Cowan)
- 323,088 – Projected 2025 population for Winnebago County (Gary McIntyre)

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. McIntyre – New planning guidelines were issued in the Federal Register on 2/14/2007.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Hayes Morrison announced that she will be leaving for a new job with the Boston MPO on February 28th. All Technical Committee members wished her well in her new job.

10. ADJOURNMENT

At 11:25 a.m., Mr. Ernst entertained a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Boone County Highway Department and seconded by Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Commission. The motion was unanimously approved.