

# RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
City of Rockford, Public Works Department  
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 967-7062

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

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Transportation, Region 2

## ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nathan Bruck – Loves Park Community Development Dept., Dan Jacobson – Loves Park Public Works Dept., Adam Tegen - Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning, Rich Lundin - Boone County Highway Dept., Dan Long – IDOT District 2, Wayne Vlk - Winnebago County Highway Dept, Patrick Zuroske – Rockford Public Works Dept., Craig Lawler – Belvidere Public Works Dept., Jim Johnson - Rockford Mass Transit District, Janet Mueller - Rockford Area Economic Development Council, Robert Soltau - Stateline Area Transportation Study, Bunny Anderson - Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Curtis Jones - IDOT Springfield.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Winnebago; Village of Roscoe; FHWA; Village of Machesney Park; Village of Cherry Valley; Rock River Water Reclamation District; Growth Dimensions; Boone County Council on Aging.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre, RATS Staff; Jon-Paul Diipla, RATS Staff; Brad Holmberg, Baxter & Woodman; Terry Pitkus, Winnebago County Rail Advisory Council;.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:05 a.m. with a quorum present.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2007, MEETING:** Motion by Adam Tegan, Belvidere/Boone County Planning Dept., to accept the minutes, seconded by Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway. Motion carried unanimously,
2. **AGENCY REPORTS**
  - 2.1 **Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2** – Mr. Long reporting. There will be a public hearing January 24, 2008, at the Crusader Clinic for the environmental assessment report for the West State Street project (Meridian Road to Rockton Avenue) from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
  - 2.2 **Winnebago County Highway Department** – No report.
  - 2.3 **City of Rockford, Public Works Department** – Mr. Zuroske reporting. Mr. Zuroske gave updates on the Harrison Avenue project, and Kishwaukee Street project. Also, he gave updated reports on the

Harrison Avenue and Kishwaukee bridge projects. He mentioned that the city/wide maintenance contracts will be bid in the next 3-4 weeks. The IDS has been submitted for the N. Main & Auburn roundabout, and it is in the environmental portion now, so construction is possible in 2009/2010. The City-Wide Arterial program is ready to be bid this spring. Repair of Alpine Road, Springcreek to Riverside was questioned with IDOT stating they are doing in-house design for that resurfacing project.

- 2.4 **City of Loves Park, Public Works Department** - Riverside Boulevard utility relocation to begin next week. Riverside Bridge replacement will be a total replacement with traffic maintained during construction. County Highway 5 work has been suspended due to weather. The Park District is working on a brochure for routing traffic during construction for getting to Sportscore.
- 2.5 **Village of Machesney Park:** Not Present
- 2.6 **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** Not Present
- 2.7 **Rockford Mass Transit:** Paratransit building is progressing. It is enclosed and they are pouring concrete floors. It is on schedule with completion by the end of March.
- 2.8 **City of Loves Park Community Development:** No report.
- 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:** An open house will be held for community focus group members on February 12, with regard to land use plans. Another workshop will be held on Feb. 20 for the public for viewing the land plans. Location has not been confirmed. More information will be coming.
- 2.12 **Belvidere/Boone County Planning:** A meeting will be held in the future for the Village of Poplar Grove and the Village of Caledonia for input on the 173 plan.
- 2.13 **Boone County Highway:** Working with the Tollway on the Irene Road project.
- 2.14 **City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:** Working on right of way acquisition for intersection improvements. Improvements to include signals, turn lanes, and upgrades.
- 2.15 **Village of Roscoe:** Not present.
- 2.16 **Village of Winnebago:** Not present.
- 2.17 **Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:** Not present.
- 2.18 **Illinois State Toll Highway Authority:** I-90/ I-39 interchange reconstruction will begin this year, including the construction of a new flyover ramp and adjacent mainline pavement reconstruction. Also tied into the I-39-I-90 interchange improvement is the creation of a northbound exit ramp at Irene Road as part of the construction detour. As part of the "add lane" program, reconstruction of I-90 from Newburg Road to Rockton Road with widening from 4 lanes to 6 lanes. Also, there will be the creation

of an I-90 Corridor Council to meet in early Spring of this year. Members of the council will include mayors, city manager and members from RATS. The council will overview scopes, schedules, etc. of 2008 construction projects.

**2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.**

**2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:** The web site "www.transportationfortomorrow.org" is available to look at and has many transportation related issues for viewing.

**2.21 Ogle County Highway Department:** Not present

**2.22 Boone County Council of Aging:** Not present

**2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study:** There will be a press conference regarding the State Line Mass Transit District held at the North Pointe facility at Rockton Road and Willow Brook at 10 AM on January 30<sup>th</sup>.

**2.24 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:** Not present

**2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:** No report.

**2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District:** Not present.

**2.27 Growth Dimensions:** Not present.

**3. RATS COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) UPDATE – RATS RESOLUTION 2008-2:** The RATS COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN DRAFT REPORT (Dated January 17, 2008) FOR THE ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA: A revised edition of the HSTP was sent out to members listing updates and revisions from the November 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Copies of this revision and the 2008-2 resolution were available for members. RATS staff noted the revisions on the Resolution, specifically, Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 (Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities); 5316, Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC); and 5317, New Freedom. A call for projects came in from RMTD. They want to continue service to CherryVale Mall and start service to the Highway 173 retail corridor in Machesney Park. They would also like to start a program that would affect individuals with disabilities to get to fixed routes of RMTD.

After discussion, a motion to approve Resolution 2008-2 was made. Moved by Loves Park Public Works and seconded by RMTD. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

#### **4. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**4.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** Quite a bit of work has been done since the last meeting. CMAP will provide the model runs for the ridership analysis to the consultant team. Once this is provided, the next executive meeting will be scheduled and e-mails will be sent.

**4.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:** Still waiting for a capital program in Springfield. The majority of the dollars will come from this capital program. Staff are working with area legislators to get consensus on a plan that may combine inter-city rail and commuter rail.

- 4.3 **RMTD East Side Transfer Center:** Received concurrence back from IDOT on the RFQ for architectural services with an ad in the paper on Monday. Almost complete on the environmental assessment.
- 4.4 **IL 193 Corridor Planning Study (Mach. Pk):** No report.
- 4.5 **Boone County IL 173 Corridor Study:** No additional information to report.
- 4.6 **RATS & Regional Planning:** The staff will be making a presentation to the Policy Committee next week on the proposed changes to the MPO.
- 4.7 **RATS FY 2009 Unified Work Program (UWP):** Draft document is due in two months to IDOT in Springfield. Will be asking for more information via e-mail.
- 4.8 **RATS Mobility Subcommittee:** The next meeting will be held Tuesday, February 12, at the YWCA in Rockford.

**5. OTHER BUSINESS:** Mr. Ernst brought a copy of the regional planning law that was passed in Springfield which was behind our additional funding.

**6. ADJOURNMENT:**

At 10:53 Mr. Ernst entertained a motion to adjourn, moved and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.