



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 21, 2010**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vlk, Dave Townsend Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford Community Development Planner; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere; Adam Tegen, Boone County Planning; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Chad Hunter, Village of Machesney Park; Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park; Steve Asche, Village of Roscoe; Patricia Diduch, Village of Machesney Park, Planning and Zoning; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Cherry Valley; Winnebago County Planning and Econ. Development Dept.; Village of Winnebago, Boone County Highway

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

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:04 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 19, 2009 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes by City of Loves Park, seconded by Belvidere Regional Planning. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported that the State held an open house at the RMAP offices Jan. 20, 2010 from 4 to 6 pm for their multi-year program. Comments can be forwarded to the IDOT office. Mr. Ernst mentioned IDOT's website for road show information, www.dot.il.gov/roadshow/index.html. There are several links on this web site and RMAP will be posting this site on their web site also.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vlk reported that all projects are on hold for the winter. An open house is planned for March for the South Bend bridge project. Willow Brook and Bluebonnet projects both came in approximately 15% under the engineer's estimate.

2.3 City of Rockford: Mr. Zuroske reported that the City's CIP plan was passed in mid-November and they are in the planning stages for the 2010 program. He also mentioned that an agreement is complete with IDOT for the West State Street project. This large project could spend approximately \$4 million in land acquisitions and demolitions.



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2.4 City of Loves Park: The Riverside bridge project is almost complete. Information regarding approximately 40 applications for ER funds submitted to Springfield has not come out of their office yet.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Work has started on their 2010 projects.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: The cargo discussions continue. The AFS application has gone to the Foreign Trade Zone Board. Cellusuede is looking to activate in mid-February or early March.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: RMTD submitted an updated procurement document and it was accepted.

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: Not present.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Dept: Hanson Engineering has been hired to begin a study on the Irene Road interchange. Also, work has begun on a low end land use impact for this study.

2.13 Boone County Highway Dept: Not present

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: Their fall projects are complete.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Completed all their projects. Also, their new Village Hall is done and they are holding their first board meeting at the facility tonight at 7:00 p.m.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: Not present.

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: The Department is now under new management and has a new bureau chief. The department is still undergoing some streamlining. Mr. Keith Sherman is the new chief in Urban Programming.

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 ad hoc task force for the bypass study for Beloit will disband due to the study not moving forward. If the proposed 700+ home subdivision is built, there will be a need for this bypass as Bluff Road cannot handle the traffic volume the subdivision will generate. The savings from the stimulus money will be used for a road project on the west side of South Beloit. There is a March meeting planned to discuss this So. Beloit project and their amendments to their long range plan.

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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Mayor Frederic C. Brereton,
City of Belvidere, Chairman

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

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg,
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom Strickland,
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Mr. Zuroske thanked the Rockford Park District for their work on the intergovernmental agreement for the river front project. The agreement has been reached and the City is grateful for the work they did.

2.29 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Mr. Ernst handed out a copy of the Media Advisory from Rep. Jefferson's office being held Jan. 28th, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Zeke Giorgi Center Auditorium regarding a job creation task force.

The Tri-State Alliance meeting will be held in Beloit, Wisconsin on May 14th, 2010. State General Assemblies will be invited to attend and there will be an evening event held on May 13th. More information will be sent regarding where it will be held and the times.

Mr. Ernst mentioned two letters he received regarding funding for MPO's. One regarding STU funding and urban allotments and one from Mr. Keith Sherman for research dollars which are available to us.

RMAP is working on procuring a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to help fund an update a multi-phase planning approach identifying and linking transportation and environmental concerns that we are calling the **Greater RMAP Environmental – Education Network (GREEN)**. Gary McIntyre is spearheading this grant process.

A workshop is planned for area companies to participate in on Feb. 17th, 2010 at the Eigar Lab in Rockford located on Fulton Street. The workshop is titled "Things you Need to Know".

Mr. Ernst attended a rail summit meeting held in Springfield on Jan. 15th. Comments were given by Mr. Sabow regarding rail. The Obama administration is proposing a major shift in funding which will have an impact on NICTI.

There will be a high speed rail conference held in Chicago, on Feb. 9-11, 2010. More information will be forthcoming on RMAP's website.

3. RMAP FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:

Resolution 2010-1: An amendment to the TIP is needed due to the City of Rockford's Capital Improvement Program being passed and the Illinois Department of Transportation had a change submitted this week. There are four addendums and RMAP received comments just today from IDOT resulting in some modifications to be made to the TIP prior to presenting to the Policy Committee.

Motion to approve the amendment and bring it before the Policy Committee by City of Rockford, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion carried.

4. FEDERAL FUNDING DISCUSSION: The U.S. House of Representatives proposing a jobs bill to be passed which could provide a second round of stimulus projects.

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Mr. Ernst also urged the Technical Committee members to start considering shovel ready projects for the reauthorization funding and to have a priority list in place for these dollars, if they become available. Members lists should be sent to Mr. Ernst by the end of February for compilation and presentation to the Policy Committee. There was discussion on funding of large scale projects that could be in the \$1 million range and using stimulus “2” dollars for these. Mr. Ernst will try and leverage funding for these projects.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Still waiting for written comments from the Federal Rail Agency regarding the environmental portion of the analysis document.

5.2: Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: An announcement should be coming from Washington any day.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Received word from IDOT that RMTD was awarded approximately \$500,000 for inner-city bus funds toward the construction of the new transfer center.

5.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Received word that some awards have been given that our application was part of but haven’t heard of any mid-west receiving any awards.

5.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No new report but hope to have the study complete by the end of the year.

5.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Feb. 9th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m. New Freedom projects are being reviewed.

5.7 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): The process is complete. A copy of a resolution was handed out regarding authorizing of an application to the US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration to create an economic district organization. If the Policy committee approves this resolution, Mr. Ernst will be authorized to sign it. Mr. Zuroske pointed out some language in the last paragraph that should be changed, not to reference the Mayor. Mr. Ernst will make the appropriate changes. There was discussion regarding staffing and funding the economic district organization. There may be possible economic adjustment grant money available to apply for, as much as \$5-700,000 range.

5.8 Housing, Human Services & Workforce Development Subcommittee: No new report.

5.9 Stormwater/Drainage Subcommittee: The City of Rockford is about 65% done with its stormwater master plan. Public participation meetings will be planned for this Spring and the consultant will provided an overview to the Technical Committee also. The County is working on a new plan to address flood areas in the County.

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6. COMMUNICATIONS: Previously covered.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: There is an informal boundary agreement with Timberlane and once it is finalized, all boundary agreements will be complete for Loves Park.

Mr. Zuroske would like the South Main Corridor analysis added under progress reports. Mr. Ernst stated it would be added when more contractual information becomes available.

The RMAP staff compiled maps and updates to the LRTP and have a comprehensive list included in the document. Any comments can be forwarded to Michael Hren and the document is posted on the RMAP website. There are CD's available today which includes a comment sheet, also. Open houses have been scheduled for viewing the plan, March 10 at the RMAP office, 11 a-5p; march 11 at Belvidere City Hall during the day (specific times will be coming); and an evening meeting at Machesney Park Village Hall. More information and specifics will be forthcoming.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by City of Rockford, seconded by County of Winnebago. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.