



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 17, 2013**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Jeremy Carter, March Leach, City of Rockford Public Works; Colin Simpson, Village of Machesney Park; David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Dana Carroll, RRWRD; Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Mick Johnston, Boone County Conservation District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: City of Loves Park Public Works, Village of Cherry Valley, City of Rockford Community Development, Village of Roscoe, Village of Winnebago.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Christina Washington, RMAP Staff; Josh McClusky, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; Kyle Aulman, WCHD; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 15, 2012 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:
Mr. Bragg requested a correction for Agency Report 2.20; the limits of the Rockford Park District's Highway 251 Planning Project is between Ethel Avenue and Anderson Gardens.
Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the November 15, 2012 Technical Committee minutes as amended. First motion made to approve Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department, second motion made by David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Long reported that their construction projects are wrapped for the winter season.

In the office they are working on the three changes in the TIP to reflect some major projects for the upcoming construction season.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that the traffic signal projects on Perryville, Broadcast and Nimtz was completed at the end of the year. Mr. Vlk invited members for a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Peak Fitness Facility on January 30, 2013 at 10:00a.

Starting in the spring the Allworth Road resurfacing project will be let sometime in April.

The Toll Bridge Plaza removal and renovation project will be let the second part of February.

Rockton Road project east of IL-251 to west Willowbrook Road which includes a federally funded bridge replacement will be a widening and resurfacing project and will let in March.

Pecatonica Prairie Path will resume from last year and finish this year.

A sign upgrade project (HSIP) for the last half of replacing the retro-reflectivity sign project will be done in 2013 and scheduled for an April letting.

The southeast connection bike path along Argus Road and Bell School is scheduled for an April letting.

A township bridge replacement in Rockford Township that is Tipple Road Bridge over Rock Creek and the letting is scheduled for later in the summer.

The Perryville Road Bridge over the UP Railroad has a funding program and have been told verbally that it can moved up to 2014 but we don't have anything in writing yet so we are still progressing with that project.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Carter reported that the Morgan Street Bridge continues to move forward and is on schedule.

The City of Rockford is beginning their transition for the management of all of the city's parking spaces downtown.

Planning for the upcoming construction season is in the works. They are hoping that the Council approves the CIP next week.

Mr. Hren asked if there were still discussions about the Railroad Avenue project being moved forward to the FY2013 TIP? Ms. Leach indicated to her understanding that it was still being moved forward this year but would clarify with Mr. Matt Vitner and follow-up with Mr. Hren.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Bruck reported that their Sign inventory has been completed and digitized.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park:

Mr. Simpson reported that they are moving forward with a new Industrial Development Park at the northeast corner of I-90 and I-173.

The next portion of IL-173 is looking at a bidding in June. They are hoping to get the initial phasing done in 2013 if they can and start the road improvements in 2014.

The project in front of Machesney Park Mall is now complete and moving forward to the second phase to extend the detention ponds and also trying to move forward in getting the out lots sold at the mall.

Their 2013 residential program will be centered on the south side of town and will be smaller road projects.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Mr. Lindberg reported that survey work is being done for the first phase of Falcon Road/Airport Drive project. Falcon Road will start this spring.

Last fall we let the project for the overflow terminal parking lot across from the Shell Station on Airport Drive but due to weather issues construction will not start until spring.

The 2013 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Airshow is scheduled for June 1-2, 2013 and the feature act is the Navy Blue Angels.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

Mr. Johnson reported that the RMTD Route Study is still underway.

Their roofing project has received bids and they are making recommendations.

2.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

Mr. Bruck reported that they are still on track for the late March TIF District approval.

2.09 Village of Cherry Valley:

Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department:

Not present.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Ms. Mroz reported that they are busy with loan requests and currently has three grant requests which were deferred to the Chairman's Office.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Ms. Miller reported that they are working on updating the Flora Neighborhood story book /plan.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department:

Mr. Lundin reported that the Irene Interchange right of way (ROW) plats have been finalized and sent off to the appraiser. The IDS for the four ramps has been completed and revised and is going to the Tollway for approval. Fehr-Graham has been awarded the project for the design of the bridge and currently discussing those designs. They are looking at a late 2013 or early 2014 letting.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:

No report.

2.15 Village of Roscoe:

Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago:

Not present.

2.17 Rock River Water Reclamation District:

Mr. Carroll reported regarding getting sewer to the Village of Winnebago, the work east of Meridian Road is out to bid with state revolving money and this will also get sewer up to the vicinity of West State and Meridian.

Relative to the Morgan Street project there will be another lining in conjunction with the bridge work.

2.18 Winnebago County Forest Preserve District:

No report.

2.19 Boone County Conservation District:

Ms. Hoesley reported on Mr. Johnston's behalf stating that the Boone County Conservation District Acquired 221-acres of Important Conservation Lands which is located at the confluence of the Beaver Creek and Kishwaukee River. The property includes the riparian corridor of Beaver Creek between the Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area off of Bus. Route 20 on the north and the Ipsen Road Conservation Area and Lib Conservation Area on the south. The \$1,560,000 property was purchased with \$472,500 in grant funds from the Grand Victoria Foundation's Vial Lands grant program; and \$775,000 in grant funds from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation's Natural Areas grant program, which included an additional \$10,000 in funding to be used to restore cropland to native habitat; and a generous landowner donation; and technical support from open lands.

BCCD acquired 82-acres of Important Conservation Lands that includes the Piscasaw Creek and riparian corridor extending south from Woodstock Road. This property will be acquired with a \$164,400 grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation's Natural Areas grant program and a generous donation from the previous landowner. This site is also the location of the first known pair of bald eagles to construct a nest and successfully rear offspring since DDT was banned.

2.20 Rockford Park District:

Mr. Bragg reported that work continues on Highway 251 Planning Project for recreational paths.

They are in the tentative stages of looking at redeveloping opportunities for the former Alpine Hills Golf Course which was donated to the Rockford Park District. We are looking at opportunities to make this a year round recreational facility.

2.21 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

2.22 Illinois Tollway:

Ms. Anderson provided members fact sheets and an overview. Ms. Anderson reported that this year will be a very major construction season for the Illinois Tollway. This is the second year of the capital plan which calls for an interchange at I-294 and I-57 and will start the building of the ramps later this spring. We anticipate opening the fall of 2014. We are also going to be doing the advance work of the building of Elgin O'Hare western access. The major work for 2013 and 2014 through 2016 will be the I-90 corridor. Because of the 62 mile corridor roadway improvements it will be divided into two segments: western segment and eastern segment. The western segment of I-90 is considered to start at the Elgin Toll Plaza going out Rockford. The eastern segment of I-90 is starting at the Elgin Toll Plaza going to the Kennedy Expressway. The focus for the next two years will be the western segment of I-90. Last year (2012) the advance work was done for the western segment of I-90, this year will be the main line work being done. The eastern segment of I-90 advance work will start in 2015 and will be completed in 2016. The western segment of I-90 work will include the completion of the interchange at I-90 and Route 47. This interchange is scheduled to be open late summer/early fall depending on the weather.

2.23 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

2.24 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Mr. McClusky reported work continues on the Long Term Planning activities. The Long Range Transportation Plan, the Rail Plan and Freight Plan have been released and are available on the website. There was an addition of an Action Plan which has several main topics of concern including maintenance, economic development, human capital and several others. These are policies that are anticipated to be implemented in the next twenty years.

Mr. McClusky stated that Planning & Programming staff is currently meeting with MPO staff to discuss what will be used for Performance Measures and the meetings started last week. IDOT staff will be meeting with all the MPOs in Illinois.

Mr. Ernst asked if the upcoming Complete Streets meeting at CMAP is open to organizations outside of the CMAP area. Mr. McClusky stated that it is open to everyone. Urban Street Design Training from CNU is scheduled for February 8, 2013 and held at CMAP and costs \$90.00.

Mr. McClusky stated that there is a TIFIA Workshop scheduled on Wednesday, January 23, 2013 at 8:00a and will be held at CMAP. The discussion will be regarding funding and the mechanisms they are moving towards.

2.25 Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

2.26 Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

2.27 State Line Area Transportation Study:

Mr. Soltau reported that SLATS has a Public Open House on Review of Urbanized Area Maps, Unified Work and Urban Project (Wisconsin only) on January 22, 2013 from 3:00-6:00p and held at the Rotary River Center in Beloit, WI.

There is a Technical Meeting on February 11, 2013 at 10:00a and held at Beloit Engineering Dept. Facility in Beloit, WI.

There is a Technical & Policy Meeting on February 25, 2013 at 10:00a and held at the Rotary River Center in Beloit, WI.

2.28 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:

Not present.

2.29 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:

Not present.

2.30 Growth Dimensions:

Not present.

2.31 Stateline Mass Transit District:

Not present.

2.32 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning:

Mr. Ernst reported a Save the Date for the 2013 Northern Illinois Farmland Conference scheduled on June 21-22, 2013 and held at the Boone County Community Building Complex in Belvidere, IL.

Mr. Ernst asked members to think about new space/location for the 2013 Technical Committee meetings due to the fact that we have outgrown the space that is currently being used at Loves Park City Hall. Mr. Ernst offered the use of the Regional Planning & Design Center located at 315 North Main Street. In a prior meeting the RMTD East Side Transfer Center was also offered as another meeting location. Mr. Ernst indicated to members that he would like to have a final decision within the next few meetings.

Mr. Ernst stated that as good succession planning for himself he is stepping down as Technical Committee Chair and turning over the Technical Chair position to Jon Paul Diipla starting with the February 21, 2013 Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Diipla provided a follow-up with the Highway Safety meetings that RMAP has been involved with. The Highway Safety meeting was held in September 2012. IDOT, Winnebago County and Boone County were contact by Priscilla Tobias regarding the United States Road Assessment Program (usRAP) which IDOT is partnering with. This particular program is focusing on county owned facilities. There will be an initial fact finding kick-off meeting scheduled for February 1, 2013 from 10:00-3:00p and held at the DuPage County Department of Transportation. Mr. Diipla stated that he inquired on whether this particular program would be expanded to the local municipal units such as the City of Rockford, City of Loves Park, Village of Machesney Park and Belvidere, etc. It seems at this time IDOT is focusing on the county facilities but Mr. Diipla stated he would like to discuss further with Ms. Tobias at the upcoming meeting and will report his finding to members at the next scheduled Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Carter asked about a possible meeting with Gary McIntyre to discuss Functional Classification of the Streets and wanted to know how soon the meeting will be scheduled. Mr. Ernst stated that he would ask Gary to attend the next Technical Committee meeting to provide members an update.

WCHD / Mr. Kyle Aulman

Mr. Aulman stated that he is the coordinator for *We Choose Health* which is a committee transfer grant IPH. One of their initiatives is the complete streets initiative. The transportation area is new to Mr. Aulman but is very interested in keeping people active and getting people active which is part of the complete streets model is getting people out and using active transportation. Mr. Aulman stated he's working with RMAP on several projects including complete streets and also Safe Routes to School which falls under complete streets model. Mr. Aulman stated he would be interested in attending the Complete Streets training. Mr. Aulman stated he is trying to work with different organizations in the community in adopting more complete streets model.

3. TIP AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2013-1:

Mr. Hren stated that the TIP amendment is three projects for IDOT which includes IL-173 from 251 to just east of Mitchell Road in Loves Park, US BUS-20 from Sunset Avenue to west of Ken Creek in Rockford and IL-2 from south of Pond Street to Cedar Street southwest of Rockford. All projects are either changing funding source, funding amounts but were already planned for previously.

Mr. Hren stated for the Boone County Highway side we have the Orth Road Bridge and Centerville Road Bridge both design and construction over Beaver Creek and Garden Prairie Road Bridge over Kishwaukee River. All of these projects are new numbers to the TIP.

Mr. Hren stated that RMAP is asking for a recommendation to the Policy Committee to pass this TIP Amendment.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-1. The first motion was made by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway; second motion was made by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department. Motion carries.

4. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERSHIP – RESOLUTION 2013-2:

Mr. Ernst introduced Mr. Dennis Anthony, Executive Director of the Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mr. Anthony stated that the District was established in 1937 under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act. The Act gives SWCD's the responsibility to provide technical information to individuals and groups on methods of soil and water conservation, and provide natural resource inventory information on properties slated for zoning changes. The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District was formed in 1940. The Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District is a locally operated unit of government functioning under Illinois Law. Our purpose is to promote the protection, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of soil, water, and related resources within the District.

The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District is a public body made up of citizens concerned with the protection of our natural resources. It is governed by a five-member board of directors elected by District landowners and residents. This board of directors, the Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) develop annual and long range plans that direct the activities of the District and NRCS.

Districts have no taxing authority. Funding is provided by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA). Districts offer several programs which supplement IDOA funding. The additional funding is utilized for operation expenses and education programs.

Mr. Anthony stated they have five main goals: 1) Sustain and improve the county's soil resources by reducing erosion on crop land and on non-crop land sites, 2) Sustain and improve Winnebago County water resources by protecting our surface waters and ground water supplies, 3) Improve Eco-System diversity by providing landowners the tools to manage and enhance their natural resources through planning and participation and local, state and national federal programs, 4) Community Assistance such as promoting conservation, environmental education and providing units of government methods and solutions in dealing with natural resource issues, 5) Minimize the conversion of private Ag land to non-Ag land uses. Recent planning activities included the Winnebago County 2030 Land Use Plan, Winnebago/Boone County Greenways Plan, 2011 FEMA and Illinois State Water Survey and currently involved with two watershed studies (Madigan Creek & Buckbee Creek).

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP staff has also reached out to the Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District to join the Technical Committee and asked Ms. Hoesly to provide more details.

Ms. Hoesly stated that she has talked to Jackie at the Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District regarding interest in joining the Technical Committee and that at this time they did not have the staff power to take on a voting role on the Technical Committee.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-2. The first motion was made by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; second motion was made by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Motion carries.

5. RMAP FY2014 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):

Mr. Ernst stated that every year around this time RMAP asks members what planning projects are being looked at for the upcoming year. Mr. Ernst stated that Federal funds from MAP-21 should increase slightly this year and will give RMAP a status quo on funding for FY2014. Mr. Ernst asked members to let RMAP staff what their needs are for planning assistance for FY2014.

Ms. Hoesly stated that in addition to the UWP with the addition of Ogle County into our planning area we have begun seeking SPR funds to expand our Travel Demand Model. RMAP has been using the TDM for the past 22 years and originally just covered the City of Rockford, Loves Park, Machesney Park, Cherry Valley and the suburban portions of Winnebago County surrounding these communities. Ten years ago we expanded the modeling area out to cover Winnebago & Boone County and also the urban area of Beloit and Rock County. We have had several discussions on how we want to expand the model and have met with the DeKalb MPO to discuss the possibility of RMAP running their models for DeKalb and Lee Counties. At this time it sounds like DeKalb will be going in another direction. Our modeling area will be expanded to consist of Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. In addition to the TDM another area we have been exploring is the addition of an economic impact modeling software from REMI (Regional Economic Modeling Incorporated). They have a program called TranSite which is an economic and demographic impact analysis model that fully integrates with the TDM. It has the ability to evaluate changes to a region's transportation network. The model will allow RMAP to forecast through the impacts of transportation projects out to 2060 with dynamic economic and demographic outputs. The software can also model short and long term economic impacts of major infrastructure spending projects as well as simulate different financing options. We have discussed this software with Tom Austin from the Illinois Department of Employment Security as well as John Lewis who is a former Economics Professor with NIU and they are both very supportive of this programming, Ogle County is in support of going after this software. RMAP has met with IDOT District #2 as well as Josh McClusky our Metro Program Manager and at this point have been given the green light to continue exploring the options. We will continue to update members as these projects move forward.

6. URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP continues to work on designation of the MPA for Rockford's urbanized area and this has been discussed at previous Technical meetings. We have gone back and reassessed the boundary. For the most part, the planning boundary follows roadway segments which follow census block geography.

However, in a few spots the roads and census block geography did not match up so we have gone back reassessed so that the MPA follows the census block geography which would help us determine demographic information within the planning boundary. At the next meeting Mr. Diipla stated he hopes to have a series of maps showing the old boundary, the proposed 2010 MPA as well as the adjusted UA. Ogle County has been included in our Metropolitan Area and we have been in discussions to hash out the MPA portion in Ogle County. There were a few areas where roadways and census blocks did not match up and we have received the final edits yesterday and those will be incorporated in GIS and we will be ready to present that at next month's Technical meeting. In terms of the Adjusted Urbanized Area we will continue to work on that and that will also play a part in functional classifications.

Mr. Diipla will talk to Mr. McIntyre on when we can set up a meeting to discuss functional class and also the adjusted boundary. Mr. Diipla stated our boundary with SLATS will be formalized and we have come to an agreement. We are very close to having the MPA completed and anticipate to have completed by a March/April timeline.

7. IDOT BICYCLE ACCOMODATIONS DATA FORM:

Mr. Diipla stated that Gary McIntyre received an email from IDOT requesting information regarding bicycle facilities. IDOT is in the process of updating their bicycle and pedestrian plan. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has provided a link in the agenda for members needing more information.

Mr. McClusky stated that members are not required to do this but we are asking that if you do have bike facilities in your areas to please let us know. IDOT currently does not have a centralized bicycle facility in the state, just a generalized idea. IDOT is hoping to have a more effective bike and pedestrian plan.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

8.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:

No report.

8.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:

No report.

8.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

No report.

8.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Diipla reported that the next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at 10:00a and held at the RMTD East Side Transfer Center. Call for projects for JARC/New Freedom funds will be discussed.

8.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):

No report.

8.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

No report.

8.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:

No report.

8.08 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:

No report.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway and seconded by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.