



POLICY COMMITTEE
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of Transportation, District 2

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**

Meeting Minutes – RATS Technical Committee

Meeting Date: July 20, 2000 – Loves Park City Hall

Members Present: Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; Bob Martin, Loves Park Transit/Public Works; Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Planning; Mary Allen Verdun, IDOT District 2; Jim Ryan, Rockford Public Works; David Noel, Winnebago County Planning; Denny Hendricks, Rockford Mass Transit District; Chad Atkinson, Machesney Park Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway.

Others Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway; Bob Soltau, Illinois Department of Transportation (Springfield); Gary McIntyre, RATS staff; Russ Petrotte, RATS staff.

1. CALL TO ORDER / APPROVAL OF MINUTES: At 10:10 A.M. and with a quorum present, Dan Jacobson was appointed to Chair the meeting. The meeting was called to order. Approval of the minutes was laid over because they were not completed.

2. AGENCY REPORTS: Agencies present reported on the progress of their ongoing highway projects. An updated TIP Status Report listing highway improvement projects was presented, discussed and updated at the meeting. Bob Soltau briefly discussed the new proposed planning regulation that were published in the Federal Register on May 20, 2000. He stated that IDOT has concerns with several parts of the document and that IDOT would be submitting comments. He encouraged MPO staff to review the document and consider submitting comments.

3. RATS FY 2001 TIP: Russ Petrotte and Gary McIntyre presented and discussed additional projects and table revisions to the proposed FY 2001 TIP. None of these additions or changes involved significant amounts of federal funds or controversial projects. Staff was instructed to incorporate these changes into a final version for presentation to the Policy Committee on July 27th for adoption. A motion to this effect was made by Joe Vanderwerff, seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously.

4. RATS LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN: Russ Petrotte and Gary McIntyre presented rewrites of Goal 6 and modified parts to the Financial Plan (in response to comments from the FHWA). They also presented and discussed their response to comments on the proposed plan that had been received from William Charles, LTD. After a brief discussion of these changes, the Technical Committee recommended that all of these changes and comments be incorporated into a

new draft of the Long-Range Plan (and Resolution 2000-10) and recommended to the Policy Committee for adoption on July 27, 2000. A motion to this effect was made by Joe Vanderwerff, seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously.

5. RATS FY 2000 TIP: Gary McIntyre explained that IDOT District 2 recently requested that seven projects be advanced from the 2nd and 3rd Years of the FY 2000 TIP to the 1st Year of the TIP. The TIP and RATS Planning Process allow such advancements without formal action by the Technical and Policy Committees as long as the proposed advancements are not considered controversial or objectionable. Mr. McIntyre was instructed to prepare a letter documenting the advancements.

6. RAT TRUCK ROUTE MAP: The existing and proposed RATS Truck Route Maps have been included in the proposed Long-Range Plan update. Further discussion on the proposed truck routes will continue at the next Truck Route Subcommittee meeting. Trucking and freight stakeholders will be asked to participate and comment.

7.1 SPRINGFIELD / HARRISON EXTENSION PROJECT: Joe Vanderwerff discussed the status of this project and the controversy surrounding the acquisition of the Ditzler property. He noted the determination of U of I archeologists that the site was not significant archeologically.

7.2 BOONE/WINNEBAGO PLANNING STUDY: Gary McIntyre discussed the status of the Boone/Winnebago County / Beloit modeling study. He said changes in consulting staff had temporarily disrupted the study but these matters are being resolved and the study is now proceeding at full speed. He is continuing to assemble the necessary employment location data and this work is on schedule. Special assistance on this aspect will be needed in Boone County. Staff is exploring ways to fund this work.

8. COMMUNICATIONS: Bob Soltau announced the IDOT Fall Planning conference scheduled for October 5th and 6th in Chicago. All are invited to attend.

9. OTHER BUSINESS: The following items were briefly discussed: the Census Transportation Planning Package and urban boundaries; the interview by WNIU/WNIJ on passenger rail efforts in the area; and boundary agreements in the Loves Park, Machesney Park, Boone County area.

10. ADJOURNMENT: With no further business to conduct, Joe Vanderwerff moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mary Allen Verdun and approved unanimously at 11:44 AM.