

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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Transportation, Region 2*

RATS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Johnson, RMTD; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Ross Monk, IDOT-District 2; Adam Tegen, Belvidere – Boone County Planning Department; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere Public Works Department; David Noel, Village of Roscoe; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; and Steve Ernst, City of Rockford Public Works Department.

MEMBERS MISSING: Village of Cherry Valley, Greater Rockford Airport Authority, City of Loves Park Public Works, Village of Machesney Park, City of Rockford Community Development Department, Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department, Village of Winnebago

OTHERS PRESENT: Bunny Anderson, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority; Bob Soltau, SLATS, Shawn Goetz, Hanson Professional Services, Sherri van der Wege, Baxter & Woodman, Ross Monk, IDOT District 2, Ed Conderman, IDOT District 2, Sharon Durbin, IDOT Springfield, Carlos Molina, First Rockford Group, Channel 23 News and Hayes Morrison, City of Rockford and RATS staff.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Steven Ernst of City of Rockford Public Works Department at 10:10am with a quorum present and Mr. Ernst asked that agency reports be skipped because of time, there are two presentation scheduled for this technical meeting. Also, there were no meeting minutes to accept.

1. Northwest Tollway (I-90/I-39) Open Road Tolling Express At Plaza 1 (Near Roscoe) Presentation

Ms. Bunny Anderson of the Illinois Tollway gave a presentation on the status of the conversion of the existing toll plaza 1 near Roscoe from its current configuration to Open Road Tolling for all I-Pass users.

Ms. Anderson stated that currently I-Pass users passing through Plaza 1 near Roscoe must slow down and proceed through a closed plaza. With the new configuration there would be two lanes in either direction that will be free flowing. She explained that this means that I-Pass users will not have to slow down at all and that there toll transaction will be registered from transmitters that are mounted above the lanes of traffic. Users still using cash to pay their toll will have to exit the tollway. There will be five lanes of traffic in either direction that will accommodate those cash users and they will enter a traditional closed plaza setting.

Questions were asked of Ms. Anderson by Rich Lundin and Steve Ernst as to the ability of this new configuration to accommodate tractor trailers that are of “wide load” those being 11.8 to 12 feet in diameter. Ms. Anderson stated that this would not be a problem. Hayes Morrison inquired as to the potential for three lanes of traffic as demonstrated in the presentation. Ms. Anderson stated that three lanes of traffic will be built and as the tollway expansion to three lanes gets to plaza 1.

Ms. Anderson stated that construction of the project would start in September of this year to be completed in 13 months. The open lanes of traffic for I-Pass users will be operational and open by August of 2006. Ms. Anderson also stated that the McCurry Road bridge will be closed during some of this construction and that the Winnebago County Highway Department was aware of this and all were in agreement.

2. IL-173 Corridor

Mr. Ross Monk of the Illinois Department of Transportation District 2 gave a short presentation on the Illinois Route 173 access plan. He presented a map that illustrated the access points that exist and ones that are proposed along the IL-173 corridor. The map also included level of service data for each of the intersections along this corridor.

Mr. Monk had previously given a presentation at the June technical committee meeting, but because there was not a quorum at that meeting he restated the presentation and alluded to the June presentation throughout this presentation

Mr. Monk then presented the motion that the RATS technical committee “Reaffirm its endorsement of the Illinois Route 173 access plan, as originally adopted by RATS Policy Committee in RATS Resolution 94-11, on October 27, 1994. This reaffirmation will serve as an official amendment to the Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan.”

A motion was then made by Mr. Monk for the technical committee to recommend to the Policy Committee to pass this motion. The motion was seconded by Nathan Bruck of Loves Park Community Development and was unanimously carried by the Technical Committee.

3. Rockford Area Transportation Study 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Steven Ernst gave a short update as to the status of the Year 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan. Mr. Ernst told the committee that on July 6th and 7th four public hearings on the Long-Range Transportation plan were held in Rockford, Loves Park, Roscoe and Belvidere.

Mr. Ernst stated that at those meeting three major areas of interest were repeatedly inquired about by the public: first was the desire for more RMTD routes and services in the community. Second were inquires about a commuter rail/Metra extension into Rockford, and thirdly, there was inquiry into the Eastside connector and how that will affect the residents of Argyle and the surrounding areas. Mr. Ernst went on to state that it was very important to have a quorum at the July 28th Policy Committee so that the 2035 Long-Range Transportation Plan be adopted.

Mr. Ernst then stated that he would like to make a motion to the Technical Committee that they recommend to the Policy Committee that the Policy Committee adopt the Year 2035 Long-Range

Transportation Plan. The motion was moved by Rich Lundin of the Boone County Highway Department and was seconded by Nathan Bruck.

4. Progress Reports on:

7.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth Study

No Report

7.2 Commuter Rail Feasibility Study

No Report

7.3 Springfield Corridor Planning Study

No Report

7.4 RMTD East Side Transfer Center

No Report

7.5 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study

No Report

7.6 Boone and Winnebago County Regional Greenway Plan

No Report

8 COMMUNICATIONS

No one at the committee had any communication to add.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

10 ADJOURNMENT

At 10:43 A.M., with no further business to conduct, Mr. Steven Ernst made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lundin and was approved unanimously.