



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jonah Katz, City of Rockford Planning; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Traffic; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park CD; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Adam Tegan, Boone County Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Dan Long, IDOT District 2; Curtis Jones, IDOT Urban Program Planning; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago Co. Highway; David Townsend, Winnebago Co. Highway; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning; Patricia Diduch, Machesney Park Planning; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere PW; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Genevieve Borich, RAEDC.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford Airport, Village of Roscoe, FHWA, Village of Cherry Valley, RRWRD.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Mike Maddox, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Brandy Beals, RAEDC; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 17, 2010 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the June 17, 2010 Technical Committee minutes. Motion to approve by Boone County, seconded by the City of Rockford Community Development. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long stated there are no problems at the Meridian Road to US20 project and is ahead of schedule. The deck at IL2 at Fuller Creek is complete for stage 1 and will be going into the 2nd stage and will be switching traffic over in 2 weeks. The E. State Street signals are 93% complete. IL75 from Meridian Road to Rockton resurfacing project and two box culverts has detours and will be in place until August 16th and then paving will begin. The West State Street from Day Avenue to the DME Railroad resurfacing is complete. The IL2 from Auburn to Riverside has not started but will begin as soon as crews are freed up. The Alpine Road at US20 Ramp resurfacing has been awarded to Rock Road last week. The IL2 from Roscoe Road to Latham Road patching is done and binder course will start next week and flaggers will continue to direct traffic. The I90 & I39 bridge approach has been repaired. The US Bus20 7th Street to Fairview the milling started yesterday so signers will be out with lane closures and Mr. Long recommends avoiding the area if possible. The IL251 Forrest Hills to Windsor Road has some extra work being done on the median and could be complete by the 2nd week of August. The IL251 Leonard to New Milford is finishing up leveling binder and motorists should expect lane closures and delays. Mr. Long stated that IDOT will be working on 6 different structures all on the Rockford bypass but a problem has arisen and work will start after the Labor Day holiday. The US20 from Harrison to Farmington Way ramp patching is underway and does not require any lane closure. Mr. Long reports on IL173 update and states the section from IL251 is on track for the projected 2011 construction year. A Public Awareness Open House will be

held today (July 29, 2010) at the Village of Machesney Park from 1:00-6:00pm and comments are welcome. Mr. Long stated that the IL2 South Main update continues with no significant milestone and is on track for construction in 2012. IL2 from Auburn to Riverside has a Public Awareness meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 2010 from 1:00-6:00pm and held at the Eiger Lab and IDOT will be kicking off the CSS process. IDOT will be soliciting comments and asking for stakeholder to volunteer to serve on study group committees. Mr. Long stated that the Multi Year Program (MYP) public meeting hosted by IDOT for SLATS and RMAP areas will be held on Monday, September 13, 2010 from 4:00-6:00pm and held at the RMAP office and it will be the same open house format as last years.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vlk stated that the Hononegah Road project goes to letting tomorrow. Beltline Road ribbon cutting was Wednesday, July 14, 2010 and is now open. South Bend Ridge road was opened yesterday (July 28, 2010). Construction is ongoing on the Perryville Bridge over the South branch of the Kishwaukee River and remains closed for a new deck. The Bell School Road final surfacing is done but construction will continue even though there are some issues with getting thermal plastic for stripping. Ralston and Blue Bonnet project continues. Mr. Vlk is anticipating the start up of the widening for Condore Road between IL 251 and Kishwaukee sometime in August. Mr. Vlk reported an update on the flooding in the western part of the county which is down to one road and Winnebago Road is still closed due to a foot of water. Mr. Vlk stated that as the water recedes they will be checking on all structures in the area to check for any damages.

2.3 Rockford Public Works: Mr. Zuroske stated that the resurfacing of E. State Street starting at Fairview is well underway but it is very difficult to get through this area. The North Main resurfacing is still scheduled for Monday, August 2, 2010. Mr. Zuroske stated that the City of Rockford's ARRA project is pretty much buttoned up except for Rockton Road between Auburn Street and Fulton. Mr. Zuroske stated that new curb, gutter and sidewalk were installed but the most interesting news is that this section of the road has been converted to three lanes. Mr. Zuroske stated that several community meetings will be scheduled in the next few weeks to review these new changes with the community. Mr. Zuroske stated that an RSA was done and it was the thinking of the FHWA and IDOT that this would be a great alternative to reconstruct this section for road safety issues. Resurfacing of Kishwaukee Street from Harrison to Brooke is complete and this section has also been converted to a three lane. Morsay Drive Bridge is out and it will be another 2 months before it is open. The Kishwaukee bridge project is 90% complete. New lighting will be installed on Kishwaukee Street from Harrison to 1st Street and this scheduled to start in 3-4 weeks. The City of Rockford's residential program is 95% complete with a total of a 2.5 million dollar project. The Riverwalk Plan comment period with stakeholders is scheduled for Wednesday, August 4, 2010 from 1:00-5:00pm and held at the Discovery Center. The Central Avenue bridge project has been delayed till next year. The West State Street IDOT project is 75% complete with Phase II. Mr. Zuroske stated that the City is in the middle of land acquisition planning mode in plans of the Linear Park and public comments are being taken.

2.4 Loves Park Public Works: Mr. Bruck stated that the surfacing project for IL 251 has some additional work being done on the median (7 additional medians being replaced).

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Ms. Diduch stated that all of Machesney Park Road improvement projects are all under construction.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: No report.

2.8 Loves Park Community Development: No report.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.10 Rockford Community Development: Mr. Katz stated that the City of Rockford has a Zoning Map exhibit displayed in the Lobby of City Hall.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: Ms. Mroz stated that the County has noticed a pick-up in permit activity which is a good sign. Ms. Mroz stated that Winnebago County is a sponsor of The International Bio Energy Days which is scheduled for September 2010 and Freedom Field will be featured. Ms. Mroz stated that they are attempting to get another Brownfield grant. Ms. Mroz announced that the County has also published a pictorial of Winnebago County to promote our area.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning: No report.

2.13 Boone County Highway Dept: No report.

2.14 Belvidere Public Works Department: Mr. Lawler stated that the annual street overlay program is 100% complete.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: No report.

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: Mr. Jones stated that the IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for September 28-29, 2010 and held in Springfield, IL and the main theme will be 'Livability and Sustainability'.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council on Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: Mr. Soltau stated on Thursday, August 5, 2010 a meeting will be held regarding the Bike/Pedestrian plan to update the current plan and that the public hearing will be held that evening from 5:00-6:00pm. SLATS will be holding Tech and Policy in late October or early November to discuss their work program which will take effect January 1, 2011.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Not present.

2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council: Ms. Borich reported that they have been working to help set up the Economic Development District which hopefully will become a federally designated unit. Ms. Borich stated that the RAEDC are also assisting with the Sustainability Communities Plan Grant that RMAP is submitting an application for.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District: Not present.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Ms. Hughes reported that at SMTD's last Board meeting, SMTD approved allowing their riders from South Beloit, Roscoe, Rockton and Rockton Township to be dropped off and picked up along the 173 corridor in Machesney Park from North 2nd Street on the west to just east of the theatre. Previously

their riders were only allowed to be dropped off and picked up at Target on IL 173 to transfer to the RMTD fixed route. This change now allows their riders access to the entire IL 173 shopping corridor.

2.29 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Mr. Ernst stated that during his report he will be combing Item #6 on the agenda with his report. Mr. Ernst reported that the Federal Sustainable Communities Partnership between HUD, DOT and EPA has launched their grant opportunities and is categorized into Planning Grant and Implementation Grant. RMAP will be applying for the Planning Grant which focuses on a regional plan. Applications are due Monday, August 23, 2010 and starting Monday and Tuesday of next week RMAP will be launching full force into the project. RMAP is working with Winnebago County, City of Rockford and the RAEDC on the application process. Mr. Ernst stated that the Feds have delayed the release of the notice for at least two months. Mr. Ernst stated that the Federal Guidance stated in order to qualify for this grant it will be required that a consortium be created. This group will be representing the interest of the majority of the regional players involved in housing, economic development, transportation and the environment. RMAP is asking for letters of support from individual members as well as asking Policy to endorse the project. RMAP staff will be the lead on this project. Resolution 2010-12 is on the agenda for Policy to vote on this afternoon. RMAP is very interested in hearing from the members on what they would like to see in the grant application. Mr. Ernst is looking for endorsement and recommendation of the Resolution 2010-12 being submitted to Policy. Mr. Ernst encouraged members to submit support letters at least the week before application due date of August 23, 2010. Mr. Ernst stated that if RMAP staff needs to attend Council or Board meeting to discuss the Sustainable Communities Grant they would be happy to attend to discuss and answer questions. Mr. Ernst anticipates that some assistance will be needed on a Technical capacity. Mr. Ernst is entertaining the idea of having NIU act as the project manager for the project and would be an eligible expense under the grant award. Mr. Ernst stated that there is a 20% local match required which RMAP will be covering on behalf of its members. RMAP will be contacting members for information needed in the application. Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 2010-12. 1st motion by the City of Rockford, CIP; 2nd motion by RMTD; motion approved.

After a brief summary Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP has closed the Fiscal Year 2010 and Mr. McIntyre is about ready to submit 3rd quarter billing to IDOT for reimbursement. Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP came really close to being on target to our budget and were able to capture all of the dollars for FY 2010.

3. RMAP YEAR 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:

Mr. Ernst stated that at the June Technical Committee meeting RMAP presented a draft of the 2040 LRTP. There are a few sections that were expanded such as the Freight & Rail section, Sustainability promotion, and Technology & Broadband section. Mr. Ernst stated that he will be asking Policy to approve the 2040 LRTP this afternoon. Mr. Ernst stated that 7 LRTP open houses were held and we received quite a few favorable comments which are included in the document. Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 2010-11. 1st Motion by City of Rockford CIP, 2nd motion by Village of Machesney Park. Motion carries. Mr. Ernst and Mr. Zuroske thanked RMAP staff on their diligence to complete the 2040 LRTP.

4. FY 2011-2014 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

After a brief discussion Mr. Maddox stated that he would like to put together a final copy of the FY 2011-2014 TIP by Tuesday, September 14, 2010 so that the final TIP projects can be submitted on Wednesday, September 15, 2010. Mr. Maddox stated that once each members plan is approved by their Council/Board we will amend into the TIP at a later date.

5. EECBG (ENERGY EFFICIENT CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT) DISCUSSION:

Mr. Hren stated that applications are due by Thursday, August 5, 2010. Grading applications are at least a 2 week process. If there are questions regarding the process please feel free to contact Michael Hren or Steve Ernst as soon as possible.

6. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY PLANNING GRANT DISCUSSION:

See agency report 2.29.

7. ITEP ENHANCEMENT DISCUSSION:

After a brief discussion, Mr. Ernst stated that the Governor has announced the new round of enhancement projects which is a total of 80 million statewide available. The projects will have an 80-20 match requirement. Applications will be submitted electronically and are due Friday, August 31, 2010. Any questions regarding ITEP, please contact Gary McIntyre at RMAP.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

8.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Mr. Ernst along with Ms. Lynn Otte (TranSystems) attended the FTA Schedules Outreach Sessions for New Starts/Small Starts Rule Change in Chicago on Tuesday, June 29, 2010. Mr. Ernst reports that the FTA is entertaining new ideas regarding how to improve the New Starts Program and they are looking for comments which are due by Tuesday, August 3, 2010. RMAP will be submitting comments on behalf of the region.

8.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Mr. Ernst reported that he and several members attended the Great American Stations Amtrak Event which was held on Thursday, July 22, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois. It was a very good meeting and provided a lot of information on station designs and the Amtrak process.

8.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Ms. Hughes reports that Mr. Jim Johnson is picking up a letter from Representative Chuck Jefferson to take to IDOT in Chicago and hopes to return with a pre-award concurrence letter which will allow the project to get started.

8.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: No report.

8.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Mr. Ernst reports the anticipation of the final product by the end of the year.

8.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: No report. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2010 at 10:00a and held at YWCA located at 4990 E. State Street.

8.7 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): No report.

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

8.9 Stormwater/Drainage Subcommittee: Mr. Vlk reports that Winnebago County is close to receiving the draft grant application back from the consultants.

8.10 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): Covered in agency report (2.19).

8.11 South Main Street / IL-2 (SM2): Mr. Ernst reports that both project (8.11 and 8.12) has gone through the consultant selection process and is in contract negotiations with the first choice. Any questions, please contact Gary McIntyre.

8.12 Greater RMAP Environmental-Educational Network (GREEN): See 8.11.

9. COMMUNICATIONS: None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Zuroske asked if anyone had information on the Safe Route Programs, he had heard that applications were being taken and would like more information and asked that he be contacted if anyone had more information. Mr. Zuroske asked Mr. Diipla if ADA Ramps project would be available for funding through New Freedom. Mr. Diipla stated that it might and he would look further into Mr. Zuroske's request and follow-up with him on the details. Ms. Hughes reminded members of RMTD's Golf Play scheduled for Friday, August 6, 2010 and held at Timber Point Golf Course.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Boone County Highway and seconded by Winnebago County Planning. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.