



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 21, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Wayne Dust, City of Rockford Community Development; Kathy Miller, Boone-Belvidere Planning; Dan Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Dan Long, IDOT District 2; Curtis Jones, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Mike Weber, RRWRD; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago Co. Highway; David Townsend, Winnebago Co. Highway; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development; Jim Johnson, RMTD.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford Airport, RAEDC, Village of Machesney Park, Village of Roscoe, RAEDC.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Maddox, RMAP Staff; Winnebago County Board Member Jim Webster; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Gary Camling, Dave VanCamp, HR Green; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 23, 2011 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Vlk requested that a correction be made to June 23, 2011 Agency Report 2.02 – should read Allworth instead of Walworth project has been postponed until next year. Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the amended June 23, 2011 Technical Committee minutes. Motion to approve by Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department, seconded by the Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported that US20 at Weldon Road bridge replacement project has the steel in place and they are framing for the deck. They should have a deck pour in a couple of weeks.

IL251 at Spring Creek Road bridge replacement project has the deck and superstructure started and they are working on the center pier. They should have the first half done by early September. The Water Reclamation District is also in there working on the sanitary lines.

US BUS20 from Buckley Drive to Shaw Road shoulder improvement projects is halfway done and should be finished by the end of July.

RMAP Technical Committee Minutes

From July 21, 2011

Page 2

IL251 at Rockton Road beam repairs will start next week. Daytime closures on Rockton Road and it should take about two (2) weeks.

IL76 at Orth Road turn lane construction project has the paving for stage 2 has begun. The lane closure should finish by the end of the week.

US BUS20 at Anderson Drive intersection improvement has coring for the widening underway and we expect to be paving next week. The south side will start in about two (2) weeks.

US20 from Harrison Avenue to Farmington Way resurfacing project has all the paving done. Still needs stripping, shoulder stone and detector loops.

IL173 at IL251 RBT is the low bidder and has been accepted but it has not been awarded yet.

Alpine to Rock Cut there is some hydraulics concerns that are being taken care of but no major milestone.

I39/I90 there's only one parcel left to purchase so they are on target for a January letting.

IL2 South Main Beltline to Clifton section has 90% plans reviewed and returned to the consultant. Clifton to Cedar: bike path issue is resolved, ROW is moving along and on target for a March letting.

IL2 from Auburn to Riverside has a CAG meeting at Eiger Lab scheduled tonight from 6:00-8:00p and is by invite only. The alignment is agreed on and the cross section work is starting.

West State – Sunset to Kent Creek plans are ready, but there are some ROW concerns that may push it to a January letting.

IL2 Elmwood to Latham has RBT as the low bidder and has been accepted but it has not been awarded yet.

Mr. Zuroske asked if there was an update for IL70 Kilburn Avenue?

Mr. Long stated that IL70 Kilburn Avenue resurfacing project is still listed as a June letting with a start up the first part of August.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department: Mr. Vlk reported Kishwaukee Road Bridge project continues and is on schedule.

Perryville Road signal interconnect project continues and is on schedule.

Meridian Road project continues. The Auburn/Meridian Road Roundabout is scheduled to open early August.

The Cunningham Road Bridge project over Kent Creek started on Monday and detours are in place.

Winnebago County awarded a contract to do pavement patching at the intersection of Perryville Road and Harrison Avenue. The duration of the project should be about one (1) week but we don't know which week yet but we are looking at sometime in August. The intersection will be closed except all right turn movement will remain open and the southbound to eastbound left turn will remain open. There will be detours in place. Starting today we are closing Condone Road for day time asphalt work and detour will be on Southbend road for the area for the closures that will take place and the duration will be about three (3) days.

We are moving ahead with the design of our traffic signals going in at Perryville and Nimtz and Broadcast intersections. Funding is not in place yet but we hope to be ready to go in case funding comes in probably sometime in September.

Our guard rail safety upgrade project has started at various locations. The HSIP has signed our upgrade program and has been awarded and will start later this summer.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department: Mr. Zuroske reported that the City of Rockford's current projects are progressing well and are on schedule.

The Riverwalk project is about 25% complete. Mr. Zuroke stated that if anyone is interested in taking a closer look he could schedule a tour. Mr. Ernst indicated that RMAP would be interested in participating in the tour.

Later next week the bid opens for our bike route signage. We have an extensive bike route project going on this year including one that will hopefully connect to Loves Park over on Pepper Drive. Those should be in by the end of August. This will significantly increase the City's bike route signage.

A piece of Kishwaukee Street that is going out to bid shortly, Brooke Road to Sandy Hollow will be resurfaced.

Ethel Avenue turn lane is going to bid. Turn lane into the new Nicholas Conservatory. We expect this to go to construction within the next 2-3 weeks and should be done before the beginning of October.

The Whitman interchange project went out to bid and it came back a little over the engineers estimate and it will be awarded Monday night.

Morgan Street Bridge did get additional gap funding from IDOT. City Council has voted to provide 20% match. Project has been awarded as of this morning. Preconstruction conference will be held next Friday, July 29, 2011. We expect construction to start mid-August.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department: Mr. Bruck reported that they are still cleaning up from the storm.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park: Not present.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District: Mr. Johnson reported that the Route Study is still in progress and moving forward.

2.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department: Mr. Bruck reported they are working a couple TIF Districts and finishing up their comp plan otherwise no other report.

2.09 Village of Cherry Valley: No present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department: No report.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department: Ms. Mroz reported that they have seen recent activity in their manufacturing sector.

I-39 has been a big project. The Winnebago County Highway department has bought the water tower. Water and sewer is being put in place for the area which is making this a hot spot for economic activity in the future.

We completed a large loan to join up with the Village of Machesney Park on their TIF. The Machesney Park Mall infrastructure in hopes to bring new life to the area.

Allegiant is here but we are still looking to get two (2) more airlines to the Chicago/Rockford International Airport in hopes of bringing more jobs to the area.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: Ms. Miller reported that recently had a Demographics presentation from Joel Cowen.

We are starting to work on the comprehensive plan again and we hope to have it done by the end of the year. Ms. Miller stated she's been working with Wayne Dust on a Citizen Planner Training Session that will be regional and it will be held on Monday, November 5, 2011 and held in Belvidere.

There is a Regional Groundwater meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at 5:00p.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department: Not present.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: No report.

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: Ms. Anderson provided a brief update on the Tollway construction on the I-90 corridor which is all on schedule and completion this year.

The Illinois Tollway is required to do report on their Capital Plan every ten (10) years. In the last two (2) weeks 5 Capital Forums have been held to discuss and receive input regarding the Tollway's Capital Plan. The first of these forums was hosted by RMAP and held on July 7, 2011. The Rockford Region's Illinois Tollway Forum was well attended and provided excellent dialogue among the leaders of the Rockford Region along with Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur. Because the Tollway considers the I-90 Corridor a major priority on the maintenance and rehabilitation we have created an I-90 Planning Council and they have had two (2) meetings. This council is looking at ways to better handle congestion.

On a good note, Fortune Magazine calls the Illinois Tollway's electronic toll collection system one of "100 Great Things About America".

Mr. Ernst displayed a draft drawing of the I-90 Planning Council's concept for the I-90 Tollway section for the Rockford Region. I-90 from the Kishwaukee River to the 294 interchange where the Kennedy Tollway starts; the tollway section would basically split in half from the Elgin toll plaza to the Kishwaukee River as one section and the Elgin toll plaza to 294 will be a second section. The section for our region from Elgin toll plaza to Kishwaukee River would widen to six (6) lanes. The additional lane would not be a managed lane with variable pricing, but the technology would be there for future use if it is needed. The section from Elgin toll plaza to 294 essentially has a series of different cross section that the Tollway feels could handle future congestion. The base case is they are going to widen the section which is currently a three lane construction to a four lane construction. In a short term they would also like to widen the center median section by two and half feet on each side and widen the inside lane from 12 feet to 14 feet. They would introduce this inside lane in both directions as a managed lane, which means as congestion gets worse you are allowed to use that lane but the toll structure would go up. The more congestion there is the more expensive it is to drive a managed lane. This starts the process to introduce transit into the corridor. The stakeholders are also looking at a process with both pace and with the transit in our regions to look at where park and ride lots might be built at the various interchanges along the entire length of the corridor to see where it would be possible to introduce more express bus style transit. In this particular short term scenario there would be nothing more than a stripe between the managed lane and the rest of the lanes.

Passenger vehicles will be able to enter and leave the managed lanes easier. In the mid-term section they are calling it bus on shoulder but it really it's changing from an express bus concept to more of a bus rapid transit concept. You already have the center section widened to the appropriate width to allow transit vehicles and stations to be built at certain locations along the corridor. You would be able to build a station in the center of the road. An area they are looking at is the Schaumburg interchange section. In this particular case when you get to the mid-term this bus lane then becomes its own lane and only buses are only allowed in this lane. In the long term it's essentially the same concept as this except the center lane is converted to rail. Whether that's an extension of Blue line CTA, METRA, high speed rail – no one knows at this point. But they wanted to make sure that the ROW can accommodate whatever the future needs are. It's not an easy transition to get to this plan but they want to try and plan for this type of concept in the long term future.

2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: Mr. Jones reported that Rural Transportation Planning Funds from ILARC is prepared to release a dedicated source of funding to regional planning agencies for effective transportation planning in rural areas across the state.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council of Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: Mr. Soltau reported that a Public Meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2011 for SLATS LRTP and it will be held at Beloit's Rotary Center.

The Technical Committee meeting is scheduled for August 29, 2011 at 10:00a. Hoping to have final LRTP signed in September.

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: Mr. Weber reported that they are moving along on the DOT project at Spring Creek and IL251. The project is scheduled to be completed mid-September.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Not present.

2.29 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP received the signed UWP from IDOT. A week later we received additional PL funds that we did not expect and we will probably have to do a UWP amendment for the extra PL funds.

RMAP was approached by FEMA. They are interested in the Sustainability Communities Grant and they want to work on a pilot project and our region to tie in pre-mitigation for disaster planning as part of our Sustainability Communities Grant.

RMAP was approached by FEMA regarding the sustainability communities grant and their interest in working with the grantees on pilot project. Our region was identified by FEMA to tie in pre-mitigation disaster planning as part of our Sustainability Communities grant. The meeting was held last week and we indicated to FEMA that we would be very interested in participating in FEMA's pilot program. Potentially this could mean additional dollars that could be a startup for this Regional Stormwater Management project for the region.

Mr. Zuroske stated that there was not a lot of depth on the definition of what the pilot program is yet but it definitely has regional implications.

3. RMAP FY 2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – RMAP Resolution 2011-7:

Mr. Maddox stated that the FY 2012-2015 TIP plan is complete. The final version is available on printed and CD copy. If there are any changes that need to be made this week before going to policy please let me know ASAP so we can make the changes before Policy's meeting on Thursday, July 28, 2011.

Mr. Zuroske thanked RMAP staff for the TIP Open House that was held on July 12, 2011. Mr. Zuroske stated that it was very informative and it was a nice presentation and RMAP has really stepped it up their efforts the last several years.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 2011-7. First motion by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP, Second motion by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department. Motion carries.

4. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

4.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis: No report.

4.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Mr. Ernst reported that he received an email from Joe Shacter, IDOT Director of Department of Public and Intermodal Transportation saying that the Canadian National has responded back to IDOT favorably. Their operation model, they anticipate to have all the engineering work done by November this year and anticipate of starting construction and the infrastructure of laying down the tracks starting the spring of 2012. They are still shooting for a spring 2014 open for service.

4.03 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Mr. Johnson reported that water and sewer are connected to the building and they have reached substantial completion. The Fire Department has made their final inspections. We are still looking at late September or early October for the East Side Transfer Center to be fully operational.

Mr. Ernst asked if there was any chance that a future Technical Committee meeting be held at the new East Side Transfer Center and then a quick tour of the facility after the meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that he would look into it further and he would look at the September Technical meeting date (September 22, 2011).

4.04 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: No report.

4.05 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

4.06 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Diipla stated that the next RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 9, 2011 at 10:00a and held at the YWCA.

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

4.08 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: No report.

4.09 Stormwater / Drainage Subcommittee: No report.

4.10 State Route IL-173 (IL-251 to I-90): See Agency Report 2.01.

4.11 South Main Street / IL-2 (SM2): See Agency Report 2.01.

4.12 Greater RMAP Environmental-Education Network (GREEN): No report.

4.13 IEPA CCDD Regulation: No report.

4.14 HUD Sustainability Grant: See Agency Report 2.29.

5. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

6. OTHER BUSINESS:

BRIDGE BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Mr. Ernst brought up for discussion the architectural aesthetic concrete treatment for future construction projects that would highlight the region and was brought up at June's Policy meeting. RMAP was approached by Mr. Joe Vanderwerff, Board Member Isidrio Barrios and Board Member Jim Webster from Winnebago County regarding this beautification project. The Policy Committee is very much in favor of us coming up with a standard or a set of standards that we can use as a regional approval of design guidelines that will lead us to implementation of this type. Working with the Civic Design Committee group, they have been working on similar standards and they have provided their Retaining Wall Design Guidelines. IDOT has made a request to the region in narrowing their option on their design for the aesthetic concrete treatment.

Mr. Ernst asked members for their input.

Mr. Zuroske stated that the City of Rockford has been doing this kind of concrete treatments for years. We would be supportive of the project but we would not like to be limited to the design that is used. Mr. Zuroske stated he would like to see some consistency on the final regional design.

Winnebago County Board Member Jim Webster stated that they are not so much worried on what design is picked out but they would like to see one design used for the region. Mr. Webster feels that this is a quality of life idea.

Mr. Long stated that it would be much easier to move forward if a final decision is made on one (1) regional design.

Mr. Ernst suggested that maybe Winnebago County's Weldon Road Bridge project could be a pilot for this project. Mr. Ernst stated that he doesn't think there will be a consensus today on a design but he would like to keep the project moving forward. Mr. Ernst indicated that we might post on RMAP's website to get public comment on the design or project.

SPRING CREEK BRIDGE

Mr. Zuroske stated that there is a pre-construction meeting with the ICC today. There is an extensive set of railroad crossing projects happening throughout the region. This are just rail safety upgrades and crossing upgrades. One of those is the Spring Creek Road crossing which will close that bridge for two (2) weeks. Mr. Zuroske will not know the schedule till later today. You will not be able to get East/West on the Spring Creek Road Bridge.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Ms. Mroz, Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department and seconded by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP. Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.