RATS

Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
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ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 19, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Thompson – Loves Park Community Development, Rich Lundin - Boone County Highway; Denny Hendricks, Rockford Mass Transit District; Mark Painter – Village of Winnebago; David Townsend, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Jonah Katz, Rockford Community Development; Adam Tegen, Belvidere-Boone County Regional Planning; Dan Long, Illinois Department of Transportation; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere; Jim Johnson, Paula Hughes, Rockford Mass Transit; Troy Krup, Winnebago County Planning

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Roscoe; Village of Cherry Valley; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Machesney Park.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Jon Paul Diipla, RATS staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Janet Mueller, Rockford Area Economic Development Council; Curtis Jones, IDOT District 2; John Donovan, FHWA; Brad Holmberg, Baxter & Woodman.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:00 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 22, 2008 MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Ernst asked that the minutes be approved with the word "not" be added to section 2.7. Motion for approval by the Boone County Highway; seconded by Boone County Planning. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: I-39-Kishwaukee bridge is ahead of schedule. IL 251/Harrison/Buckbee issues still need some resolution. Montague/US 20 deck patch complete. IL 173 over Beaver Creek, beams are set and deck is being formed; 2 to 3 weeks for deck pour.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Perryville project to Swanson road is complete with a roundabout. Several projects are going to be let in July and proposals are coming in very high.

2.3 City of Rockford: Arterial, residential and maintenance contract projects are underway. Independence Bridge is moving through the bridge funding process with IDOT. A second phase of arterial and residential reconstruction will be let in mid-July. The local street projects listed every week in the Register Star has proven to be a positive and accurate assessment of the upcoming work areas throughout the city.

2.4 City of Loves Park: Windsor Road and 251 sanitary work is due to be complete by June 20, 2008.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Not present.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: Paratransit Storage is complete. Still have issues with the restrooms. They have begun to track the number of bicyclists using the bus system.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department: Not present.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development: Kishwaukee Street site plans are complete and copies are available for review. This item is going before the Planning and Development Committee on June 30, 2008. The open house is scheduled for July 15.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: No report

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: IL 173 is complete, no further reporting needed on this project. Still working with Poplar Grove and Caledonia for approval of land use plans. Once this is complete a meeting with all three villages will be held.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department: Bids have been opened for County and Township projects and all came in high due to petroleum products going up in price.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: McKinley Road project was awarded and work is to begin in about a week.

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: No report.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: The Fall planning conference will be held in Moline, Oct. 2 & 3.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council on Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: A public open house was held on June 18 for the Commuter Rail Study, with good attendance. A July meeting will be held to discuss commuter rail fares.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division: Not present.

2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council: Forty-eight businessmen from the Chinese delegation are meeting at NIU today.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District: Not present.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Not present.

3. RATS CERTIFICATION (SAFETEA-LU) COMPLIANCE AND OPEN HOUSE UPDATE: Open houses were held in May with sixteen people attending. The federally required 45 day public participation portion will end on July 2, 2008. Searching documents dealing with congestion management to aid in the transitioning process from congestion management to metro transportation planning. Also, a report document is being prepared region-wide for the pavement management program. Technical Committee members are urged to go to their policy members for their input on this for the final document. Mr. Ernst will follow up as Technical Committee members submit their needs to

him. Members need to submit their TIP data to Mr. McIntyre. The fall planning session will be held in Rock Island and green issues will probably be the hot topic. Also, a tour of the arsenal is planned at this meeting.

4. SECTION 5310 GRANT APPLICATIONS (CONSOLIDATED VEHICLE PROCUREMENT PROGRAM): All applications were due to the MPO on June 4, 2008. Three organizations submitted applications, RMTD, Lifescape Community Services, and Booker Washington Center. RATS is reviewing these applications to determine HSTP compliance. These applications need to be at IDOT-DPIT by July 7, 2008. The Mobility Subcommittee has no objections to these applications. Per IDOT, the compliance review and forms can be completed administratively. The Policy Committee does not need to endorse this.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Nothing new to report.

5.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Nothing new to report.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Proposals from the architect were late. Contacts with potential partners has been made and they are addressing drainage issues. Also, the RMTD golf playday is Aug. 1, contact Lisa Brown if you would like to attend.

5.4 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: This is underway. A stakeholder meeting has been held and traffic counts are being conducted by the consultants.

5.5 RATS Regional Freight Study: Nothing new to report.

5.6 RATS Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting will be July 8th at the YWCA in Rockford.

5.7 RATS/RMAP and Regional Planning: Received authorization on resolution from Belvidere, Rockford, and Boone County. Winnebago County Planning laid it over, going to their executive committee next week. Have not met with Loves Park or Machesney Park yet.

6. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Ernst advised that a consulting firm has called a meeting in Galena for June 20 to discuss the progress report from the Tri-State Alliance meeting. John Chadwick of WREX-TV filmed the Alliance Summit and the final DVD will be available once it is complete.

7. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Boone Co. Highway, seconded by Belvidere Public Works. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.