



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 18, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford; Nathan Bruck, Steve Thompson, City of Loves Park; Troy Krup, Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development; Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Adam Tegen, Rich Lundin, Boone County; Jim Johnson, RMTD.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Roscoe;

OTHERS PRESENT: Dana Carroll, RRWRD; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Glenn Shirmer; Chastain & Assoc.; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Steve Ernst, RMAP; Michael Maddox, RMAP; Jon Paul Dipla, RMAP; Mary Swanson, RMAP.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:05 a.m., with a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 21, 2009 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:
Motion by Boone County, seconded by City of Belvidere Public Works, motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported on the status of several road projects throughout the region. Thier stimulus projects are underway and they are under contract for working days.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vanderwerff gave a status report on the County's projects. The projects included Auburn & Springfield intersection, Willowbrook, Bluebonnet signal, S. Bend Bridge and the guardrail program.

2.3 City of Rockford: Mr. Carter reported that the City's construction program is in full swing.

2.4 City of Loves Park: Orth Road in Boone County will be bid and the end of the month.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Updates on Marie Avenue, Greenview Avenue and Evans Avenue were given.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: RMTD is investigating into getting an electric bus to test out.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development: Comprehensive Plan meetings are complete and the plan is being rewritten. Mr. Maddox, RMAP was thanked for his input at their comprehensive plan meetings.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: No report.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development: Not present.

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Mayor Frederic C. Brereton,
City of Belvidere, Chairman

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey,
City of Rockford, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg,
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom Strickland,
Village of Machesney Park

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen,
County of Winnebago

Chairman Bob Walberg,
County of Boone

Deputy Director George F. Ryan,
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2



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2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: Mr. Krup reported that their 2030 plan was approved on May 28th after working on the project for three years. There is an amendment for S. Montague Road to be reclassified from low density to agriculture. All amendments are being worked on with a Wind Farm proposal to also be submitted. Discussion regarding wind farms followed. Mr. Johnson mentioned DeKalb County approving 133 wind turbines for their area. He also mentioned the size of these turbines and the length of the blades. Due to the large size of the blades they are building special roads to deliver them.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Dept: They held a public hearing on the 173 plan and had a good turn out for it. The plan will go before their full Board next month.

2.13 Boone County Highway Dept: Road project updates were given and their stimulus projects are ready for a July letting.

Mr. Ernst mentioned for the next Technical meeting for agencies to bring updates on their ARRA (stimulus) projects.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: They are starting a downtown parking lot enhancement project. Their MFT contracts have been awarded and their stimulus projects are ready for a July letting.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: Westfield Road project is ready for a July letting.

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 mentioned the Fall Conference, October 14-16 and handed out the rescission changes document.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council on Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: They are soliciting project for their TIP and plan to have the final TIP ready in October.

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. Carroll reported on several projects and mentioned Baxter Road west of IL 251, that the hole is about 40 feet deep for that project.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Not present.

3. RMAP FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT REGARDING AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 (ARRA) FUNDS:

Winnebago County has requested an amendment to the TIP for 4 projects. The projects include guardrail, Ralston Road, Willowbrook and some signage work. RMAP staff has reviewed the amendment and recommend approval to take this before the Policy Committee.

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Motion to recommend Resolution 2009-9 approval to Policy, by Winnebago County, seconded by Boone County Highway. Motion carried.

4. HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) PROJECT APPLICATION AND SCORING CRITERIA; RAMP RESOLUTION 2009-10: The Mobility Subcommittee developed the project application format to be used by interested parties to apply for JARC and New Freedom funds. It is vital that projects meet the sustainability criteria. Projects need to be sustainable after the first year. The project application and revised scoring criteria will be amended to the HSTP. Motion to recommend Resolution 2009-10 approval to Policy Committee, by Belvidere/Boone County, seconded by Machesney Park. Motion carried.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

5.1 & 5.2: NICTI Alternative Analysis; Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Receiving guidance from the Federal Railroad Administration for funding.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Special Use permit has been extended for two years and a meeting is planned with the City of Rockford regarding environmental issues.

5.4 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: A public open house was held on June 3. Comments were encouraging and attendees expressed interest in roundabouts. The Consultant is revising the plans and a presentation to the Policy Committee is being planned.

5.5 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Received the draft copy from NIU incorporating Winnebago County site elements. Mr. Ernst displayed a map with dots depicting where connections would be. Not all connections are fiber some are wireless. A meeting is planned with Boone County to identify their sites then the information will be combined on the map. It is planned to have the stimulus application submitted soon. A letter to the Governor stating our projects has been drafted. Mr. Painter asked if a separate project has been mentioned for connecting Rockford to Freeport. NIU has an approved project with the hospitals and clinics that extends fiber and broadband. We would like to expand into the western region. NIU is tracking the broadband applications. Mr. Ernst will e-mail the draft letter and the map to the Technical members.

5.6 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Mr. McIntyre is meeting today with the modelling consultants regarding the new software program. The study is nearing completion at this point. An executive summary is planned to be presented to the Policy Committee in August.

5.7 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 14th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m.

5.8 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): The draft document has been e-mailed to the CEDS committee members. Feedback is due by June 22. A public hearing will be held in the future regarding this strategy.



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5.9 RMAP Website: Mr. Hren has been working on the website and hopes to have it completely ready to launch in mid-June or July.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Secretary LaHood went before Congress and asked to extend SAFTEA-LU for 18 months in order to not break the highway trust fund. Mr. Ernst mentioned a copy of a press release from the White House that proposes injecting \$5-7 billion dollars before August to keep this afloat.

Mr. Dipla mentioned that IDOT has sent a request out for the 5310 consolidated vehicle applications. These applications are due to RMAP by July 10th. RMAP will review the applications for HSTP compliance, then forward them back to IDOT.

Representative Jefferson held a meeting regarding the status of his transportation projects with people in the transportation field.

Mr. Ernst attended the City Finance and Personnel Committee to approve the contract with IDOT for RMAP operations beginning July 1st, 2009.

Mr. Soltau asked if RMAP has a years' worth of funds in the general appropriations in reserve. Mr. Ernst replied that the 1201 funds are still in the bank. He believes there is approximately \$91,000 to carry over but still needs about \$25,000 to keep the office running. The office remodeling is on hold until further notice.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Ernst pointed out the Spring Creek maps. They depict future work as it relates to arterial roads. Mr. Maddox looked at Spring Creek from IL 251 to the tollway to strategize ways regarding access points and status at different points along the roadway. This work looks at access management techniques that could help move traffic. It is possible that a future access plan will be done. General discussion followed with questions regarding possible interchanges at the tollway and the status of the roundabout at Auburn. The Auburn project is in the capital bill and is still planned to move forward. IDOT has signed off on this project.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Winnebago County, seconded by Boone County. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.