

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 March 23, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chad Atkinson, Village of Machesney Park Planning; Steve Ernst, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Aaron Rucker, City of Rockford Community Development Program; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Dave Townsend, Winnebago County Highway; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Adam Tegen, Belvidere – Boone County Planning Department; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development;

MEMBERS MISSING: Greater Rockford Airport Authority, IDOT-District 2, City of Belvidere Public Works Department, Winnebago County Planning and Development, City of Loves Park Public Works, Village of Roscoe Economic Development.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sharon Durbin, IDOT Springfield; Charlie Smith, Hanson Engineers; Arianne Clarke, City of Rockford; Sherri Van der Wege, Baxter & Woodman; Jannyce Fadden, Rockford Area Economic Development Council; Jeff Niman, Coach USA; Gary McIntyre and Hayes Morrison, City of Rockford and RATS staff.

Meeting was called to order by Mr. Steve Ernst of City of Rockford Public Works Department at 10:03 am with a quorum present.

1. Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2006 RATS Technical Committee Meetings

Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the January 19, 2006 Technical Committee. Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Agency Reports: Although the TIP Status report has not been updated for this meeting, projects of note are indicated below.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department – Many projects are carried over from 2005. Upcoming projects include: Central Avenue Bridge north of Auburn. The letting is in April with construction to start in June. Rockton Road from Route 2 to Route 51, Harrison Avenue from Mulford to Perryville, and Door Road from Hononegah to Prairie Hill will also be worked on this summer. Perryville and State intersection are awaiting budget approval by the State. Mr. Dave Townsend will be taking over budgetary and programming tasks for Winnebago County Highway Department RATS-related projects.

2.3 City of Rockford Public Works – With the failure of the road referendum, Public Works is reworking the Capital Improvement Plan, so all upcoming projects are on hold. Federal projects will likely continue, such as Harrison Avenue, Kishwaukee Street, and West State Crossover.

2.4 City of Loves Park – No report.

2.5 Machesney Park – No report.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District – Continuing to work with IDOT in Chicago for the paratransit storage facility. Working on funding for bringing routes to the new Lowe's distribution center and the Chrysler plant and Cherryvale mall.

2.8 City of Loves Park Community Development - Updating the 2020 plan, including zoning changes, annexations, and an implementation matrix.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning – North neighborhood plan has been approved, continuing to work on the northern area and working on the I-173 Corridor transportation and land use plan for a cohesive vision with Caledonia, Capron and Poplar Grove.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department - no report

2.16 Village of Winnebago - Ellida Street from South Street to US 20 is complete except for landscaping and punch list items.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning - The Illinois Tomorrow grants have been selected, no update on when they'll be announced. No update on the enhancement grant selections.

2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council - Carter Burgess completed a cluster study targeting industries to discover the best opportunities in the region to attract new business. One of these discoveries was the large cluster of aerospace research and development and machinery industries currently in the area. This region is also ideal for distribution and call centers. Lower on the list of ideal industry types include food processing, chemicals and plastics. The region is competitive but lacking in unique advantages for these areas. Three items were noted as lacking in the study; the need for a current labor force analysis, the fact that this region doesn't have 100-acre parcels that are "shovel ready," and there are no spec buildings in Winnebago Co. Winnebago County is working with Carter Burgess for some follow-up studies, such as marketing research.

Northern Illinois University completed an in-depth study funded by Winnebago County on the food processing industry. Both studies are available on the RAEDC website.

3. RATS Environmental Justice and Title VI Report

The Environmental Justice & Title VI draft was distributed at the January 19th Technical Meeting. Resolution 2006-3 to approve this report is available for review on the City of Rockford website at www.cityofrockford.net. Two minor corrections that need to be made are titles on maps 1 and 1B. A bus route could also be added to these maps. Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to approve resolution 2006-3 with the slight map change. Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

4. RATS FY-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Winnebago County Highway Department and IDOT have both made some adjustments to projects on the TIP which are included as an addendum to resolution 2006-4. Mr. Gary McIntyre distributed copies of the addendum to those present. One change was made to the addendum; the last project on the page, Belvidere Road by Winnebago County Highway Department, should read Fiscal Year 2007, not 2006. Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to approve the resolution and addendum with the change of fiscal year and a typo correction. Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

5. RATS FY-2006 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment

Resolution 2006-5 amends the FY-2006 to FY-2008 TIP to include several additions and changes from RMTD. Ms. Paula Hughes mentioned that all the additions were listed as matching under IDOT;

however, if IDOT does not provide the funds, local funds will be used. The resolution and charts are available on the City of Rockford website at www.cityofrockford.net. Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to approve resolution 2006-5. Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

6. RATS FY-2007 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Mr. Gary McIntyre distributed a draft of the FY-2007 UWP and pointed out budgeting points of interest. The annual self-certification document will be adopted into the UWP during the May meeting. If the Illinois Tomorrow grants are selected they will need to be amended into the UWP. The UWP draft will be on the website on Friday, March 24, 2006 and be available for comments for the next two months. This will be presented to Policy Committee next week, and Ms. Sharon Durbin will be able to return with it to IDOT at that time.

Mr. Steve Ernst discussed some correspondence he received from IDOT. FHWA has chosen roughly 12 points they were going to be looking at in the LRTP, three or four of which would be targeted. The items targeted were unexpected and not addressed in the LRTP. FHWA has informed RATS the LRTP would not be approved until the plan is in SAFETEA-LU compliance. The four areas they are looking at are:

- Consultation: Mr. Ernst was confused on this point as he believed that is what the technical committee meetings are for. FHWA will compare RATS TIP with State tribal and local land use, natural resources, environmental conservation and historical preservation agencies plans to provide coordination between plans, maps, inventories, and planning documents. Mr. Ernst believed this meant FHWA wants RATS to coordinate the documents being published by these various agencies.
- Environmental mitigation: FHWA wants RATS to map all the environmentally sensitive areas in GIS by next July. There is no money in the UWP to even begin this program. Mr. Ernst is hoping the Greenway Plan, which was published in the LRTP, will satisfy this requirement. Boone county is on a different coordinate system than WinGIS, so combining those maps will be extremely difficult.
- Participation plan: RATS is far along with the participation plan, formerly called Public Involvement Plan (PIP) but now called Public Participation Plan (PPP). This name update is the major change.

These items could adjust the UWP greatly in order to bring the LRTP in compliance. RATS may need to look at other funding sources if this becomes a great issue.

7. Progress Reports On:

7.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth

Phase two of this study will use the Village of Winnebago and Rockton as beta sites.

7.2 Springfield Corridor Planning Study

The final amended report is being distributed and approval should be in two months.

7.3 NICTI Alternative Analysis

The RFQ was released on March 13th and is available on the City of Rockford website. If any consultants would like to be officially added to the list they may contact Chris Black in the Purchasing Department at Rockford City Hall. A pre-submittal meeting will be held on March 30th in the Boone County Center at 10:00am. On April 28th the bid will be opened at Rockford City Hall. A series of open houses will occur on the dates and times listed below. The news release is on the City of Rockford website. Information from the feasibility study will be available, along with staff to answer questions, and possibly a timeline for the study. Mr. Steve Ernst would like to thank Jim Johnson and Paula Hughes of RMTD and Gary McIntyre and Hayes Morrison of RATS staff for going above and beyond on the RFQ document.

Date	Time	Location	Address
May 3, 2006	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Rockford City Hall, Council Chambers	425 East State Street, Rockford
May 3, 2006	3:15 pm to 6:15 pm	Roscoe Village Hall, Council Chambers	10595 Main Street, Roscoe
May 4, 2006	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	Loves Park City Hall, Cafeteria	100 Heart Boulevard, Loves Park
May 4, 2006	3:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Belvidere Community Building, Banquet Room	111 West 1 st Street, Belvidere

7.4 RMTD East Side Transfer Center

RMTD received a response from City of Rockford regarding the zoning request for the transfer center. There was a zoning concern about changing from a C-2 to a C-3 zone which RMTD is attempting to work out.

7.5 IL-173 Corridor Planning Study

In response to a request to move the points of access on I-173 from I-90 to Belvidere (thereby eliminating one of the three access points), a meeting was held last week between Machesney Park, Loves Park, Winnebago County Highway and one of the developers.

Two months ago, there was discussion in Technical Committee regarding the right-in-right-out access point east of Burden Road. IDOT asked for access plan to be reaffirmed, however there was an error in their resolution where Burden Road was replaced by Forest Hills Road. In response, Mr. Gary McIntyre sent a letter to Ross Monk outlining what had happened. IDOT has again requested the plan be reaffirmed to reflect this change. This item will be on next month's agenda.

7.6 RATS Bicycle/Pedestrian Study

Mr. Gary McIntyre brought a box of proposals and requested volunteers to be on the selection and/or steering committee. RMTD has already joined, Cherry Valley is undecided, Loves Park and Boone County have joined. The initial meeting will be next week, and interviews are tentatively scheduled for April 3rd through April 7th.

8. Communications

Mr. Steve Ernst mentioned the Illinois Tollway Authority will be discussing the final two alternatives for the Magic Waters Tollway interchange at the Policy Committee meeting held on March 29th.

Mr. Ernst also discussed the Illinois Tollway Authority master plan for all highway corridors. Greg Stukel is this region's project manager. Rocco Zucchero is now managing the master planner effort. Any projects or enhancement opportunities: drainage, maintenance, historic agreements, etc. that may affect the Tollway need to be submitted to Rocco for the year 2006.

IDOT's 5-year program is now available on CD, contact Steve Ernst for a copy.

Mr. Gary McIntyre indicated all TIP Projects need to be in for the July meeting, as there probably won't be an August meeting.

11. Other Business

No other business.

At 11:24 P.M., with no further business to conduct, Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.