

# RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study**  
**Metropolitan Planning Organization**  
City of Rockford, Public Works Department  
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104  
(815) 967-7062

## **POLICY COMMITTEE**

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford  
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park  
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere  
Board Chairman Catherine H. Ward, Boone County  
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park  
Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County  
Deputy Director George F. Ryan, Illinois Department of  
Transportation, Region 2

## ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, March 20, 2008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Nathan Bruck – Loves Park Community Development, Rich Lundin - Boone County Highway; Paula Hughes – Rockford Mass Transit District; Mark Painter – Village of Winnebago;; Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Dan Long, IDOT District 2; David Townsend, Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Village of Roscoe; Village of Machesney Park; Village of Cherry Valley; Rock River Water Reclamation District; Growth Dimensions; Boone County Council on Aging; City of Belvidere.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre, RATS staff; Jon Paul Dipla, RATS staff; Brad Holmberg, Baxter & Woodman; John Wagner, IL Tollway Authority; Pete Stukas, IL Tollway Authority; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois State Tollway Authority; Curtis Jones, Transit and Metro Planning Manager, IDOT; Janyce Fadden, Rockford Area Economic Development Council;

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:16 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 20, 2007 MEETING:** Motion by Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway, to accept the minutes, seconded by Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Motion carried.  
**APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 17, 2008 MEETING:** Motion by Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago to accept the minutes, seconded by David Townsend, Winnebago County Highway. Motion carried.  
**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 21, 2008 MEETING:** Motion by Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport, to accept the minutes, seconded by Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago. Motion carried.
2. **AGENCY REPORTS**
  - 2.1 **Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:** Dan Long gave an update on the district's projects for the coming construction season, including IL 39 bridge over the Kishwaukee river; US 20 deck repairs over Montague to begin in May, IL 173 at Argyle Rd. repairs also beginning in May and the start of repairs at IL 173 at Beaver Creek.
  - 2.2 **Winnebago County Highway:** Mr. Townsend reported that the E. Riverside repairs are starting this week, and there are several projects ready for a June bid letting.

- 2.3 **City of Rockford:** Mr. Ernst reported for the absent Pat Zuroske that many roads will be under construction this season and he would e-mail the road project list to IDOT.
  - 2.4 **City of Loves Park:** They are in the process of re-writing their comprehensive plan.
  - 2.5 **Village of Machesney Park:** Not present.
  - 2.6 **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** Ms. Bevers announced that there will be a new carrier service going to the Denver and Detroit areas.
  - 2.7 **Rockford Mass Transit District:** Ms. Hughes reported that the SMTD Rockton/Roscoe bus service has begun and the service has been good. The Senior free ride program is going great but the passes are only good for the Rockford area and the paratransit system is not a free ride option.
  - 2.8 **City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:** No report.
  - 2.9 **Village of Cherry Valley:** Not present.
  - 2.10 **City of Rockford, Community Development:** Mr. Katz reported there will be a transportation planning meeting scheduled in the coming weeks.
  - 2.11 **Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development:** 2030 Land Use Plan maps are now on the web site and additional open houses will be held in the future.
  - 2.12 **Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department:** Not present.
  - 2.13 **Boone County Highway Department:** Work progresses on the Irene Road project.
  - 2.14 **City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:** Not present.
  - 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 reported on the three different highways under construction and updated information on them is available on their web site. A presentation of the I-90/I39/US 51 interchange will be made later in the meeting.
  - 2.19 **IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:** No report.
  - 2.20 **IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:** Mr. Jones stated the share point site is available to the public and includes a list of their programs on it.
  - 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 their next meeting is April 14 and that they are working on an cooperative transportation planning agreement with RMTD and SLATS.
  - 2.24 **Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:** Not present.
  - 2.25 **Rockford Area Economic Development Council:** Ms. Fadden discussed the Rockforward program and that a leadership council, a 62 member group, will be available to assist RATS with program planning and other issues coming before RATS. There will be a global trade seminar held on May 13 & 14<sup>th</sup> with discussions on how to export products, foreign trade zones, and international financing. The "Get global/Get left Behind" seminar information is available on the RAEDC web site. There are 100 seats available for this seminar and it will be held at the Northern Illinois University Campus.
  - 2.26 **Rock River Water Reclamation District:** Not present.
  - 2.27 **Growth Dimensions:** Not present
  - 2.28 **Stateline Mass Transit District:** Not present.
3. **I-90/I-39/US 51 INTERCHANGE:** Project managers from the Tollway gave a presentation on this project. The I-90 improvements from Newburg to Rockton Road will maintain 2 lanes open in each direction with the traffic shift starting around May 1. The present shoulders will be used as one of the open lanes but there will be emergency turn-outs during construction. The Cherry Valley interchange will have 2 lanes in each direction open. The ramps from I-39 to I-90 will be impacted by the

construction and will be closed for a period of time. Three local contractors will be constructing the projects, Rockford Blacktop, Rock Road and Civil Constructors.

4. **RATS FY 2009 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** Mr. McIntyre discussed the draft document and the amendments to the TIP. He also touched on the proposed changes to RATS that could begin in July of this year.
5. **STATUS LETTER PERTAINING TO THE RMTD TITLE VI DOCUMENT:** Mr. Diipla prepared a status letter regarding the Title VI document (Members received copies of the letter). A motion for staff concurrence with this letter was made by RMTD, seconded by Rockford Community Development. Motion carried.
6. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**
  - 6.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Mr. Ernst reported that ridership numbers are forming and they are looking at changing the model planning. One run of the model takes 30 hours. The operations report will be made available to the review committee. An executive meeting will be held in April.
  - 6.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: This item is priority on the agenda for the Illinois legislature and members are urged to contact our legislators for service to our area.
  - 6.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: The architect will be selected and the environmental work is held up, preventing the grant.
  - 6.4 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park): No report.
  - 6.5 Boone County IL 173 Corridor Study: The final draft is almost complete.
  - 6.6 RATS and Regional Planning – Distribution of draft Certification Report: Covered earlier in meeting.
  - 6.7 RATS Regional Freight Study: The proposal opening is March 26, 2008.
  - 6.8 RATS Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting will be April 8 and the YWCA.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS:

The call for projects for the Illinois Green Streets is due May 5<sup>th</sup> in Springfield.

The Riverwalk and Perryville Path is available on IDOT's web site.

It was announced that two schools received grants, one in Machesney Park received a \$5000 grant and one school in Rockford received a \$10,000 grant.

EPA announced the new ozone compliance numbers and Rockford is in compliance. More information on this is available on the EPA's web site.

Tri-State Alliance Summit information was handed out. This half day summit will be held in Freeport on April 21<sup>st</sup>. Questions concerning this Summit can be addressed to Ms. Fadden or Einar Forsman of the Chamber of Commerce.

Future Technical Committee meetings will be held in April, May and June.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by Mr. Lundin, Boone Co. Highway, seconded by Mr. Painter, Village of Winnebago. Motion carried.

