



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, March 18, 2010

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Jonah Katz, Rockford Community Development; Adam Tegen, Boone County Planning; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Patricia Diduch, Machesney Park Planning; Nathan Bruck, Loves Park Planning; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Public Works; Steve Asche, Village of Roscoe; Dana Carroll, Rock River Water Reclamation District.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Belvidere Public Works; Winnebago County Planning; Village of Cherry Valley.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Michael Maddox, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Curtis Jones, IDOT; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration; David Townsend; Winnebago County; Bunny Anderson, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Gary Camling, McClure Engineering; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star; David Almy, Hanson Professional Services.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Due to a motor vehicle accident involving RMAP staff, the recording of the March 2010 Technical Committee was not feasible. A backup tape recorder provided by Loves Park did not provide an audible tape. Basic minutes have been provided from written notes and memory.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 18, 2010 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion and second to approve the minutes was made by Technical Committee members. Motion was approved unanimously.

**2. AGENCY REPORTS:**

Each of the agencies discussed their planning and construction programs. Most of the construction programs will be starting up in the coming months. Many of the members had no report.

**3. RMAP FY 2011 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP) AMENDMENT:** Discussion on the planning work activities for next year's (July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011) UWP was undertaken by the committee. Action will be required at the April meetings. RMAP staff need to have any local planning efforts related to transportation documented in the UWP, so a general call for assistance was made. UWP information should be forwarded to Gary McIntyre.

**4. FEDERAL FUNDING DISCUSSION:** Overview and discussion of SAFETEA-LU rescissions, Recovery Act funds, STP-Urban balances and future project selection was undertaken by the committee.

Mr. Ernst provided some background information on federal funding. The first topic was the unspent funding from the ARRA allocation to the region. A spreadsheet was handed out which detailed the unspent dollars of roughly \$744,000. IDOT District 2 Local Roads has asked that the de-obligated funds be pooled into one (or possibly two) project(s). The re-obligated funds must be approved by FHWA by September 2010.

There was significant discussion regarding the de-obligation process. Candidate projects were offered by the Technical Committee members. The consensus was to meet as a working group and continue the effort. It was suggested that IDOT District 2 Local Roads be included in the discussion.

The second topic of discussion was a second stimulus / jobs bill. Mr. Ernst thanked the members of the committee for providing a written summary of projects that were “shovel ready” to use to frame any future decisions should additional dollars be provided to the urban area.

Lastly, Mr. Ernst provided a summary of a meeting held at CMAP to discuss STP-Urban funds and how they might be distributed in the next federal transportation bill.

## **5. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

**5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** NICTI is working with the FTA Region V office to finalize the Environmental Assessment (EA) document. A NICTI Executive Committee meeting is being scheduled for April or May.

**5.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:** Governor Quinn has announced \$60 million for the Chicago to Dubuque service from the Capital program. The route decision is still pending but the regional rail partners are hoping for a route decision that favors a Belvidere stop.

**5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center:** Work continues on the project. Jim Johnson provided a summary of the schedule.

**5.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:** The original regional application for the BTOP program was not awarded any funding, but did make the final cut. As with all of the ARRA discretionary programs, the amount of applications far exceeded the dollars available. The regional broadband partners are modifying the application to submit for a second BTOP round.

**5.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study:** Work continues. The project is on schedule to be completed by the end of 2010.

**5.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** Mr. Diipala stated that the next meeting is scheduled for April 13, 2010 at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m. The committee is addressing some issues with the selected projects for JARC/New Freedom. Mr. Ernst added that he would like to see the Mobility Subcommittee look at urban circulator projects as part of the new sustainable communities partnership of USDOT, HUD and EPA.

**5.7 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):** The CEDS partners have reached agreement with both Boone and Winnebago County to create the Economic Development District for the region, thus making the region eligible for EDA funding.

**5.8 Housing, Human Services & Workforce Development Subcommittee:** No report.

**5.9 Stormwater/Drainage Subcommittee:** No report.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS:** No report.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:** No report.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** Motion and second to adjourn was made by Technical Committee members. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.