

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 May 18, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: 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; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Joe Vanderwerff Sr., Winnebago County Highway; Adam Tegen, Belvidere – Boone County Planning Department; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Jon McCormick, IDOT-District 2; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere Public Works; David Noel, Village of Roscoe; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: 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 10:05 A.M. with a quorum present.

1. Approval of Minutes of April 20, 2006 RATS Technical Committee Meetings:

Mr. Steve Ernst entertained a motion to approve the Minutes of the April 20, 2006 Technical Committee. Motion was made and seconded and approved unanimously.

2. Agency Reports:

The TIP Status report is available on the RATS website under the meeting calendar. Projects of note are listed below. Mr. Steve Ernst reminded the committee any updates might also be sent via e-mail to RATS.

**2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2 – I-90 and 173 project is on schedule.
Working with City of Rockford on W. State St., hire a Phase 2 consultant is on board.
Working on Land acquisition with the City.**

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department – Perryville is wrapping up with all the asphalt down. Central Avenue Bridge was let in late April and will begin soon. Ralston and Bluebonnett intersection is due to start in approximately one month. Planning continues on Bell School Road project, from Newburg to Spring Brook.

2.3 City of Rockford Public Works – Harrison Avenue is on schedule for June letting. West State Street crossover engineering is complete. Auburn is due to open one lane in each directions completion date is still in September. S. Main and Clifton is on schedule for June letting. Springfield concrete being poured.

2.4 City of Loves Park – No report.

2.5 Machesney Park –Overlay project has been laid over.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District – Completed land acquisition for Paratransit storage facility. Construction anticipated in 2007.

2.9 City of Loves Park Community Development – No Report.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department –Updating the 2020 plan is ongoing.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning – No Report.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department – No Report.

2.14 City of Belvidere Public Works – Changes to South Appleton Road project south of US 20, expect a 2006 letting.

2.15 Village of Roscoe – No Report.

2.16 Village of Winnebago – Elida Street project from South Street to US 20 is complete.

2.17 Illinois Tollway Authority – South Beloit Plaza One opening lanes in each direction for the Memorial Day weekend to ease traffic congestion. Work is on schedule for completion later this fall. Travel information and construction updates are available on their web site.

2.18 Rockford Area Economic Development Council – Working with Illinois unemployment site to keep individuals employed

3. RATS FY-2007 Unified Work Program (UWP):

Mr. Gary McIntyre indicated this document is still out for public review on the RATS website. A resolution for the adoption of the UWP, along with the annual certification that RATS is meeting all the requirements will be on the next agenda. City of Rockford council must also pass a resolution assuring that local funds are met.

Mr. Ernst reiterated that IDOT reported a couple of items that could effect the UWP. The hope is the UWP will be able to move forward as planned, but some changes may need to be made. The UWP will be voted on next month in both Technical and Policy Committee meetings.

4. RATS FY-2007 to FY-2009 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP):

Mr. Gary McIntyre reminded the Committee that projects were still needed. RATS has received phase 1 projects for the City of Rockford, with the remaining projects due on Monday, April 24th. IDOT and Boone County have submitted their projects, and Ms. Hayes Morrison will be meeting with RMTD for that agency's projects.

The timetable was discussed next, with a draft scheduled for the June Technical Committee and adoption by the Policy Committee in July. Mr. Ernst indicated a draft of agency projects is acceptable for the June draft.

5. Progress Reports On:

5.1 Winnebago County Smart Growth

Continuing to work with the Village of Winnebago and Rockton.

5.2 Springfield Corridor Planning Study

The final draft should arrive soon.

5.3 NICTI Alternative Analysis

A press conference was held on April 18th where the NICTI logo was revealed. IDOT Division of Public and Environmental Transportation has agreed to fund the match of \$600,000 for the alternatives analysis. The RFQ deadline is April 28, 2006, with a selection to be made in July.

5.4 RMTD East Side Transfer Center

RMTD needs to meet with the City of Rockford to discuss zoning issues.

5.5 IL-173 Corridor Planning Study

A few minor modifications will be made before providing a copy of the study to the Technical Committee, including a scaled map.

5.6 RATS Bicycle/Pedestrian Study

Of the four teams to submit qualifications, TY Lin was selected. Mr. McIntyre stated TY Lin's familiarity with the RATS area, along with the expertise of John LaPlante, the senior member of the TY Lin team, were major factors in their selection. TY Lin was the consultant that assisted RATS with the LRTP. The contract still needs to be signed, however Mr. McIntyre believed the project should be complete late spring of 2007. Mr. McIntyre also mentioned there were certain funds that needed to be spent before July 2007. Mr. Steve Ernst pointed out all agencies will be requested to provide data to TY Lin which would be similar to the data collection already in progress as a result of a request by the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority.

6. Communications

Hanson Professional Services created a summary of the new SAFETEA-LU regulations. Mr. Steve Ernst commended their work and offered to lend his copy to anyone interested. The summary would be provided on the RATS website early next week. Mr. Shawn Goetz mentioned he may be able to provide additional copies.

Gary McIntyre attended the I-39 Corridor Study public meeting hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. Eleven interchanges between Madison and the State line will be under some type of construction designed to expand the corridor. The preferred alternative is to widen to the inside for the majority of the projects. Construction was scheduled for 2013. WisDOT is requesting a recommendation from the City of Rockford Council supporting the plan. Documentation from this public meeting will be posted on the RATS website.

7. Other Business

Mr. McIntyre explained the IL-173 corridor plan needs to be updated. A resolution for approval of the draft update will be brought to the Technical Committee in May. Mr. McIntyre will look into the possibility of posting more information on the RATS website.

Mr. Joe Vanderwerff invited the RATS Technical Committee to meet at Winnebago County Highway Transportation's new facilities located at 424 Springfield Avenue. Mr. Ernst believed a May or June meeting would be possible.

Mr. Steve Ernst mentioned the WinGIS technical meeting this afternoon has been moved to the WinGIS offices due to construction in the administration building.

Ms. Sherri Vanderwege invited the RATS Technical Committee to the open house for Baxter & Woodman's new offices on Thursday, April 27th, from 3-6 P.M. The office is still located in 555 North Court Street but has moved upstairs.

Mr. Steve Ernst explained that many member agencies of RATS are participating on efforts of safety and security efforts in Illinois, specifically terrorism. Mr. Ernst thought it would be beneficial to document all the efforts of the various agencies to include with the reports RATS provides to FHWA. Mr. Rich Lundin discussed some of the safety and security efforts by Transportation Committee. The document he presented will be posted on the RATS website.

At 10:58 A.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.