

RATS

Rockford Area Transportation Study

Metropolitan Planning Organization

City of Rockford, Public Works Department
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POLICY COMMITTEE

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ROCKFORD AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, May 22, 2008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nathan Bruck – Loves Park Community Development, Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Public Works Director; Rich Lundin - Boone County Highway; Denny Hendricks, Rockford Mass Transit District; Mark Painter – Village of Winnebago; David Townsend, Wayne Vlk, Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Jonah Katz, Rockford Community Development; Adam Tegen, Belvidere-Boone County Regional Planning.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Roscoe; Village of Cherry Valley; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Machesney Park; City of Belvidere.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RATS Study Director; Gary McIntyre, RATS staff; Jon Paul Dipla, RATS staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Janet Mueller, Rockford Area Economic Development Council; Ralph Hoekstra, Blackhawk Bike Club; Curtis Jones, IDOT District 2; Mike Weber, Rock River Water Reclamation District;

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:25 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:** Mr. Ernst asked that the minutes be approved pending minor technical corrections to be made by staff. Motion for approval by the Winnebago County; seconded by Boone County. Motion carried.
2. **AGENCY REPORTS**
 - 2.1 **Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:** Not present
 - 2.2 **Winnebago County Highway:** Perryville project to Swanson road is continuing with a completion date near the end of June. Bell School signals have been awarded and the equipment is coming in August. The Belt Line bridge projects is pushed back due to ICC issues. Tipple Road and Wheeler Bridge projects will be let in June.
 - 2.3 **City of Rockford:** Mr. Zuroske reported the Harrison lighting should be complete in mid-June. The traffic on the bridges on Harrison has been moved over and the estimated completion date is in November. Residential resurfacing has begun and arterial resurfacing bid opening is June 2. As part of the major water rehabilitation program, six water main projects will be done this year. The maintenance contracts have all been let and will be complete in the Fall.
 - 2.4 **City of Loves Park:** Proposals are due today for the Howard Creek project and the funding source for it is TIF.

- 2.5 **Village of Machesney Park:** Not present.
 - 2.6 **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** Not present
 - 2.7 **Rockford Mass Transit District:** Issues with a second bathroom for the Paratransit Building have not been resolved. The exterior is painted and landscaped. With the volume of rain recently, a drainage issue developed and is being addressed.
 - 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:** Kishwaukee Street site plans are being reviewed and an open house will be scheduled in the future. Information on this open house will be coming.
 - 2.11 **Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development:** Not present.
 - 2.12 **Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department:** No report.
 - 2.13 **Boone County Highway Department:** No report
 - 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:** Not present.
 - 2.19 **IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:** No report.
 - 2.20 **IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:** The Fall planning conference will be held in Moline.
 - 2.21 **Ogle County Highway Department:** Not present.
 - 2.22 **Boone County Council on Aging:** Not present.
 - 2.23 **State Line Area Transportation Study:** There will be a public hearing on the findings of the Commuter Transportation Study on June 18, 5:30 – 7:00 p.m., at Blackhawk Technical College.
 - 2.24 **Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:** Not present.
 - 2.25 **Rockford Area Economic Development Council:** The “Go Global or Get Left Behind” workshop was a big success.
 - 2.26 **Rock River Water Reclamation District:** Mr. Weber reported there will be a letting for the 1st phase of the second phase of the southeast trunk. Work to begin in June. Mr. Olson’s last day will be June 27th. No final plans available on his retirement party. Mr. Dana Carroll will start July 14.
 - 2.27 **Growth Dimensions:** Not present.
 - 2.28 **Stateline Mass Transit District:** Not present.
3. **RATS FY 2009 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** Mr. McIntyre discussed the UWP and the four changes identified on page 40. He discussed charts 8 through 12 and what this will mean with regards to the proposed change in the RATS organization. He also stated that not enough money was allocated for the freight study and he needs \$40,000 more. Members need to look at this additional funding and options for it in the next year’s UWP. He also needs hours and costs from members for July-Dec. 2007 and January –June 20, 2008.

Chart 7 was discussed and members wanted to see a local match table created and inserted into it showing the split of local match dollars.

A motion for the suggested changes to Chart 7 to include a local match split out table was made by County of Winnebago, seconded by Village of Winnebago. Motion carried.

A motion to send the approved UWP to the Policy Committee was voted on and carried.

4. **REVISED MPO COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (RATS migrating to RMAP):** Mr. Ernst handed out the latest version of the Cooperative agreement, noting a change to Article 18 regarding the local match. The local split will be based on population from the latest Census. Resolution 2008-7 has no real changes to it but it does change the name of the agency and creates the director's position. Since no new members are going to be added this time, little changes to the resolution were needed. Article 3, Section 4 in the Cooperative Agreement changes the Lead Agency to the Fiscal Agent. Page 10 of the Cooperative Agreement, item 2, clause "A" use of STP funds was deleted and Clause "B" was changed to Clause "A".

Motion to recommend the Cooperative Agreement and Resolution 2008-7 to the Policy Committee made by City of Loves Park, seconded by County of Winnebago. Motion carried.

Mr. Vanderwerff left the meeting at 11:10 but a quorum was still present.

5. **RATS CERTIFICATION (SAFETEA-LU) COMPLIANCE UPDATE:** There are three documents available for public review, RATS Public Participation Plan; LRTP Amendment-Transit Revenue and Expenditure Forecast; and LRTP Amendment – Environmental Mitigation. Three open houses have been held with the last one being held today, May 22, 2008. Public Participation for comments will end July 2, 2008. These three items make up three-quarters of the Federal requirements for RATS certification. RATS Staff will be asking for the Technical Committee to recommend the Policy Committee to take action at their July 24, meeting.

Mr. McIntyre pointed out that the Environmental Mitigation is a new provision in the SAFETEA-LU compliance. He expressed a need to hold semi-annual meetings on environmental mitigation issues and to engage other agencies in this process. This is a new requirement by the Federal agency as of last year. He urged everyone to read and comment on this document as the RATS staff will be asking the action at the July 17 meeting for recommendation to the Policy Committee at their July 24th meeting.

He also stated that modifications to the highway network are needed. Several changes have been made and he will have the list available at the July meeting. Some proposed road work has changed and some have been taken out.

6. **NICTI RATIFICATION OF THE LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE (LPA):** Mr. Ernst handed out a copy of RATS Resolution 2008-8, which codifies the work of the Executive Committee of NICTI accomplished at their last meeting.

The Executive Committee would like the RATS Policy Committee to take action at their May 29th meeting. MOTION to move RATS Resolution 2008-8 to RATS Policy Committee made by Boone County; seconded by Winnebago County. Motion Carried with stipulation that a map be attached to the Resolution when it goes before the Policy Committee.

7. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**

7.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Reported on earlier.

- 7.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: No report. Federal Courthouse groundbreaking will be held on May 28th, 2008.
- 7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: Proposals from the architect are due at the end of May and they are looking at tenants.
- 7.4 IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park): No report.
- 7.5 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: The County Board has awarded a contract for ground studies to begin.

- 7.6 Boone County IL 173 Corridor Study: County Board approved additional money for the study.
- 7.7 RATS Regional Freight Study: A consultant has been selected but the contract is not signed yet by Council.
- 7.8 RATS Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting will be June 10th at the YWCA in Rockford. Applications for 5310 funds need to be in by June 4th to the HSTP office. Sub-Committee to review applications.
8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** Maps concerning the Federal Aid Funding System need to be changed and updated. Several projects and been built and others are planned for construction. New changes need to be forwarded to Mr. McIntyre.

The "Traveling IL Works" lunch is going to be held at Giovanni's on Friday, May 23. Members can sign up to attend through the Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by Rich Lundin, Boone Co. Highway, seconded by Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway. Motion carried.