



**Rockford Metropolitan Agency
for Planning**

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POLICY COMMITTEE

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Transportation, Region 2*

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 20, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, Illinois Department of Transportation; Dave Townsend Winnebago County Highway Department; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford, Community Development; Adam Tegen, Belvidere/Boone County Planning; Mark Painter; Village of Winnebago; Craig Lawler, Belvidere, Public Works; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Jim Johnson, Rockford Mass Transit; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford, Traffic Engineer.

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RMAP Executive Director; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP staff; Michael Maddox, RMAP staff; Michael Hren, RMAP staff; Gary McIntyre, RMAP staff; Brad Holmberg, Baxter & Woodman; David Almy, Hanson Professional Service; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division; Ralph Hoekstra, Blackhawk Bike Club.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:08 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:** This item delayed due to the minutes were not available for review at this time. Staff will bring copies to meeting later.
2. **AGENCY REPORTS**
 - 2.1 **Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:** US 251 at Harrison storm sewer work under way should be complete by end of December. IL 173 at Belvidere/Argyle Rd. signals are on and mulch and seeding will be complete in Spring. Bypass 20 at IL 251, the ramps are open but other work is suspended until Spring. US 20 in Belvidere complete. IL 76 at Walnut Grove Road will be striped at the widened part.
 - 2.2 **Winnebago County Highway:** Riverside patching should be complete in a couple of weeks. The Harrison project, Mulford to Perryville is suspended until Spring.
 - 2.3 **City of Rockford:** Majority of this year's work is complete. The Kishwaukee Bridge project has been let and awarded. This project will begin next Spring. This project will close Kishwaukee for 6-8 months from Lewis to Buckbee. Harrison Bridge project by Flynn School has been suspended for this year. The alley patching program will continue as long as the asphalt plants stay open. The Porter Road watermain project will be constructed in 2009.

Mr. Taylor asked for the dates for the Kishwaukee closure. The project should start in mid-April and it is anticipated it will continue through September. IDOT has a pre-construction meeting scheduled in the next two weeks. The limits are Lewis Street to Buckbee and McDermaid entrance will be open. Detours will be posted during this construction project.

2.4 City of Loves Park: A construction progress meeting is being held regarding the Riverside project. The plan is for the new south part of the bridge over the Tollway to be completed and carry the traffic over the winter. County Hwy 5 will be open to the "Y" within the next month. Paulsen should be open to Harlem barring any problems. Orth Road could be closed for the winter between Argyle and Paulsen depending on the intersection of County 5 and Orth.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Not present

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: The main thing they are working on is financing. The State hasn't paid their share to several agencies for the first two quarters. RMTD's Executive Director went to Springfield to lobby for the money, however, they are looking at getting some lines of credit. The lack of State funding could jeopardize the bus operations. If the funding does not take place, the fixed routes could be affected first and the paratransit system would be downgraded to shorter timeframes and utilized for medical. Some areas of the State have received some funding but several areas affecting the northern area of Illinois have not received any money.

Mr. Jacobson asked if it is Federal funding or State funding? It is the State's funding that RMTD is waiting for. Mr. McIntyre stated that there isn't much Federal funding ever available for RMTD.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department: Completed the annual joint review board meeting for the N. Second Street TIF.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development: No report.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: The Steering Committee is taking all of the comments/recommendations from the public meetings and presenting them to the Zoning Committee. After this the information will be presented to the full County Board for approval of the 2030 Plan. The County is trying to incorporate a balanced growth into the document which would try and meet all of the responding groups' goals and wishes.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: Poplar Grove signed a resolution adopting the IL 173 plan and they have met with the other two city's boards and are waiting to hear back from them.

Mr. Jacobson stated that they are very close to adopting a boundary agreement with Caledonia. Also, after having discussions with Timberlane, they have a draft agreement, legal description and map in place ready to move forward for Boone County.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department: Most of the 2008 projects are complete. Irene Road structure is 99% complete. There is a January letting date for the Federal structure on Orth Road.

- 2.14 **City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:** Several of the road projects have been suspended for the winter. South Appleton Road right of way is at 40% complete. The engineering for the Columbia Avenue reconstruction project is approximately 85% complete.
- 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:** Not present.
- 2.20 **IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:** Not present.
- 2.21 **Ogle County Highway Department:** Not present.
- 2.22 **Boone County Council on Aging:** Not present.
- 2.23 **State Line Area Transportation Study:** Not present.
- 2.24 **Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:** Mr. Donovan reported the State is hosting a safety summit in Springfield December 11th and invited members to attend. There have been some questions and concerns since the election regarding what will happen at the State office level. They are keeping a close eye on where funding issues need addressing in the State. There are rumored targets of economic activity that may trigger various types of economic stimulus packages. Discussion followed on how and where these stimulus packages maybe distributed. Focus may not just be limited to highway construction but other transit areas. Funds should come to the local agencies and not the State as the State may not release the funds.
- 2.25 **Rockford Area Economic Development Council:** Not present.
- 2.26 **Rock River Water Reclamation District:** Not present.
- 2.27 **Growth Dimensions:** Not present.
- 2.28 **Stateline Mass Transit District:** Not present.

Mr. Ernst introduced Jeremy Carter the City's new traffic engineer and Michael Hren, the new RMAP planner. He also mentioned that RMAP has moved into its new office at 313 North Main Street, and the new phone number is 964-RMAP (7627). An open house will be planned after the first of the year.

1. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 23, 2008 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:** RMAP staff distributed copies of the minutes for members to review. Upon review, a motion to approve the minutes was made by Winnebago County, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried.

3. **RMAP RESOLUTION 2008-11: RMAP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (M&O) PLAN:** Copies of the resolution were not available at the meeting but will be e-mailed. The plan was presented to the Policy members by a powerpoint presentation. Mr. Ernst briefed the Technical committee on the goals and objectives of the plan. He stated that he will ask for approval of the plan by the Policy committee at the December meeting. At this time, the plan will not come back before the Technical Committee unless there are changes. Mr. Townsend stated the County Engineer wants to delay this item of one month. Mr. Ernst stated it cannot be delayed because it could jeopardize our TIP. He said if the Technical committee wants another meeting prior to the policy meeting, one would be scheduled. But with the Policy committee on board, he wants to proceed for the approval. If the Policy Committee lays it over, then there could be problems.

Mr. Ernst is looking for a recommendation today from the Technical Committee to move Resolution 2008-11 to the Policy Committee for approval. Motion by City of Rockford, seconded by City of Loves Park.

Ayes: 9

Nayes: 2 (Winn. County Hwy; Winn. Co. Planning & Econ Dev.)

Motion carried.

4. **RMAP FY 2009 – FY 2012 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** Copies of the draft TIP were distributed to members. This draft does not include the highway tables. The plan has been completely reformatted to make it more user friendly for citizens to understand it. Members will have until January to review the document. Information is still needed from the Village of Winnebago and Cherry Valley. Mr. McIntyre will be sending out the information to the agencies and the agencies are urged to review the information. No action needed on the TIP today by the Committee. The Federal Highway Administration will work with local agencies for funding of their project lists through the economic stimulus process.

Mr. Diipla stated a public comment period will take place from November 26 through January 2, 2009.

5. **PROGRESS REPORTS:**

- 5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: No report.

- 5.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: no report.

- 5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: They did get the federal funds through the State to pay the architect but now they need State concurrence before they can award the contract and they are waiting for the State's okay then they can start the work.

- 5.4 RMAP FY 2009-FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program: Covered

- 5.5 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: Working on the land use portion of the study.

- 5.6 RMAP Regional Freight Study: The consultant has met with all of the railroad companies. He has met with the majority of industries in town that ship by rail, air or truck. Should have a report sometime in the next two months or so. Some industries have abandoned using rail in favor of using trucks for various reasons. Our consultant is working with the Rockford Airport Authority staff to go over the foreign trade zone. Mr. Ernst would like to bring Mr. Hutchins in for a presentation regarding the study.

- 5.7 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is December 9, at the YWCA, E. State Street, at 10 am. Members need to review the HSTP. A comment form will be e-mailed and amendments need approval in January. There will be a public comment period from November 26 through January 2, 2009. Any additional information can be forwarded to Mr. Diipla.

- 5.8 RMAP and Regional Planning: No report.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS:** The WINGIS 2009 calendar is available. The RMAP calendar is not available yet. Mr. Ernst handed out safety related brochures he received from USDOT on signalized and non-signalized intersections.

7. **OTHER BUSINESS:** RMAP's intent is to hold future Technical Committee meetings at the new offices. Arrangements will be made for members to park in the deck for free. Mr. Lundin commented that Mayor Brereton, Craig and he went to Lisa Madigan's office to talk about road salt and their

investigation has progressed thus far. Background information was given regarding salt deliveries in the Midwest area. Deliveries were difficult last year due to the heavy snow season and the flooding.

The DOT brochures were returned and will be scanned and sent out. Mr. McIntyre stated he needs additional information from January 2008 to June 30, 2008 for hours. Information can be e-mailed to him.

The Institute of Transportation Engineers is hosting their lunch today, at noon, at Cliffbreakers.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by City of Loves Park, seconded by Belvidere Public Works. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 am.