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Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, November 19, 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford Community Development Planner; Craig Lawler, City of Belvidere; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Adam Tegen, Rich Lundin, Boone County; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Chad Hunter, Village of Machesney Park; Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park; Steve Thompson, City of Loves Park, Community Development; Steve Asche, Village of Roscoe; Patricia Diduch, Village of Machesney Park, Planning and Zoning.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Cherry Valley; Winnebago County Planning and Econ. Development Dept.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Soltau, SLATS; Glenn Schirmer, Chastain & Assoc.; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Steve Ernst, RMAP; Michael Maddox, RMAP; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP; Mary Swanson, RMAP; Michael Hren, RMAP; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star; Wayne Dust, City of Rockford Community Development; Jessica Roberts, City of Rockford Planner; Linda Slabaugh, Concerned Citizen.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Diipla at 10:07 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 22, 2009 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Approval will be delayed until Mr. Ernst arrives to chair the meeting.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported that the State program of projects is concluding for the year. However, some projects still have minor items to finish up prior to the end of this construction season.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vlk also reported that the County's projects for this year are coming to an end. There was a ribbon cutting ceremony, Wednesday, Nov. 18 for the Riverside project. He also mentioned there is new legislation regarding weight limits for county roads. The limit is 80,000 lbs.and the County will be posting these new limits. Very few roads in their area will remain at the 73,280 limitation. They will post their roads right up to where they meet boundaries for other counties. Limitations will affect counties, townships and cities.

Executive Director Steve Ernst arrived at 10:14 a.m.

Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere, Chairman
Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford, Vice-Chairman
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Mayor Tom Strickland, Village of Machesney Park
Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, County of Winnebago
Chairman Bob Walberg, County of Boone
Deputy Director George F. Ryan, Illinois Department of Transportation, Region 2

2.3 City of Rockford: Mr. Zuroske reported the majority of their projects are complete. The CIP program is still under the consideration of the Rockford City Council. There will be an open house for the West State Street Cooridor project on December 2, at Crusader Clinic from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

2.4 City of Loves Park: Their two resurfacing projects are complete and Orth Road is 99.9% complete.
2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Mr. Hunter introduced their new planner, Patricia Diduch.
2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: The FIS International terminal is underway. The cargo discussions are continuing. The Branson flights are underway and will continue for a little longer. The AFS reorganizatin application has gone to the Foreign Trade Zone Board. Cellusuede is looking to activate in mid-January.
2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: RMTD is working on securing funds so they can start a new route study. They need a little over $70,000. They have purchased new buses and they are in use. The East Side Transfer Center is transitioning into the construction document phase presently.
2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development: No report.
2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.
2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development: The Kishwaukee Corridor study received an American Planning Association award and Mr. Katz was presented the award at the last Rockford City Council meeting.
2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development: Not present.
2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Dept: No report.
2.13 Boone County Highway Dept: Stimulus projects are under budget; ERP projects are underway and the new salt facility is in the third level of construction.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: Their road projects are complete.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Residential resurfacing project is complete; and their stimulus project is also complete.
2.16 Village of Winnebago: Westfield Road project is complete and waiting on approval of the final numbers for this project.
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: No report.
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 they are trying to finish the Beloit by-pass study. The WisDOt representatives are not available for the December 3rd meeting so the meeting will be in January regarding the study. The savings from the ARRA project will hopefully be used for a South Beloit project. RMTD worked with SMTD in securing 2 additional buses from the stimulus package.
2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Not present.

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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 took the Chair and item 1, approval of the minutes was in order: Motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2009, with two minor corrections regarding RMTD, made by Village of Winnebago, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried.

3. RMAP FY 2010 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT:
Resolution 2009-13: An amendment to the TIP is needed due to changes in Winnebago County's Capital Improvement Program and the Illinois Department of Transportation has two project changes. Also, the City of Rockford's CIP is in the process of being completed. A resolution with be required to amend Rockford's projects into the TIP once the City Council approves the document. As for now, a Resolution containing WCHD and IDOT projects has been prepared to bring before the December 3rd Policy Committee meeting.

Motion to approve the amendment and bring it before the Policy Committee by Winnebago County Highway, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried.

4. FEDERAL FUNDING DISCUSSION: Mr. Ernst gave an update regarding the SAFTEA-LU rescissions, Recovery Act funds, STP-Urban balances and future project selection. The initial estimates for STP rescissions for urban balances is approximately $870,000. Our FY2010 allocations could be reduced by this amount, resulting in a much lower allocation. The overall rescission for this region and IDOT is $1.7 million. This rescission will be split between our region and IDOT. He also mentioned meeting Secretary LaHood at the press conference held at the Airport on November 13th. They discussed future programs for use of the discretionary dollars.

Mr. Ernst also urged the Technical Committee members to start considering projects for the reauthorization funding and to have a priority list in place for these dollars, if they become available. RMAP staff will formulate a plan for this group to look and react to by the end of December. The group will consist of a committee of the whole for these considerations. Mr. Jones, IDOT Metro Manager, will inform our needs to the staff at IDOT in Springfield.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:
5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Waiting for written comments from the Federal Rail Agency regarding the environmental portion of the analysis document.

5.2: Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Mr. Ernst was invited to a meeting in Normal, IL with all cities and MPO's involved with the expansion of Amtrak. The presentation by Mr. George Weber will be posted on the RMAP website. Also, the Midwest High Speed Rail Association

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received a grant to look at high speed rail for northern Illinois. A report on the potential number of riders should be released very soon.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: No new report.

5.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: The final grant application has been submitted and the Governor has recommended using BTOP funds. A status update on the Broadband and TIGER applicaton should be available by the end of January, 2010.

5.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No new report.

5.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 8th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m. RMTD has received two new buses through New Freedom funds.

5.7 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS): Presently, we are waiting for the Chicago office for a status report on the submittal.

5.8 RMAP Website: No new report.

5.9 Jane Addams Memorial Tollway: The ribbon cutting was held on November 18th and the signals are installed at Riverside but have not been turned on.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Ernst mentioned he received a letter regarding TIP sheets for projects for the year 2010. The project submittal deadline is January 8, 2010. Mr. Zuroske stated that he has forms that can be used instead of the outdated form provided by IDOT and members can e-mail him for copies of these forms. Also, any questions regarding the TIP sheets, members can contact Mr. Kevin Donner at IDOT.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: There are several updates to areas in the LRTP document. These updates will be included into the new document. Updates include pedestrian and bike paths, census information will be inserted once it becomes available and new maps. RMAP staff has been working on ideas for new chapters to the document that could include housing, workforce development, and congestion management, to name a few.

A note on the Federal level, they have shown an interest in the use of street cars for our region, which is something this committee can begin to think about.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Boone County Planning, seconded by City of Belvidere. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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