



**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, October 23, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, Illinois Department of Transportation; Dave Townsend Winnebago County Highway Department; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford, Community Development; Adam Tegen, Director of Boone County Planning; Mark Painter; Village of Winnebago; Craig Lawler, Belvidere, Public Works; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Chad Hunter, Village of Machesney Park; Jim Johnson, Rockford Mass Transit; Troy Krup, Winnebago County Planning and Zoning.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Roscoe; Village of Cherry Valley

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, RMAP Executive Director; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP staff; Michael Maddox, RMAP staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Glenn Schirmer, Chastain & Assoc.; Brad Holmberg, Baxter & Woodman; Lou Haussmann, Baxter & Woodman; David Almy, Hanson Professional Services; Dana Carroll, Rock River Water Reclamation District.

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

1. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 MEETING MINUTES:** Some minor changes to the minutes was addressed and noted. Changes will be made on minutes. (changes made 10/23/08) Motion for approval by Village of Winnebago; seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried.

2. **AGENCY REPORTS**

2.1 **Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:** I-39-Kishwaukee bridge, there is a problem with the de-icing component. IL 251, Harrison-Buckbee there is a retaining wall problem. Montague Road over US 20 is complete. US 20 over Prairie and Simpson to be open by November. IL 173 at Belvidere Rd. paving to be complete by November. Alpine Road is complete. IL 173 over Beaver Creek is complete. US 20 over Kishwaukee Bridge in Cherry Valley is complete. IL 251 ramps to be open in a week with median work to be completed in Spring.

Mr. Ernst introduced the new RMAP planner, Mike Maddox.

2.2 **Winnebago County Highway:** Riverside at I-90 project is ongoing with bridge beam placement in the next week. Riverside patching is wrapping up as well as the asphalt pavement program. Brookview Bridge work has begun. Beltline Bridges dependent on ICC funding. Bell School at Newburg project will be in the January 2009 letting.

- 2.3 City of Rockford:** The 2009-2013 Capital Improvements Program passed in City Council. Mr. Zuroske will give a presentation at the November meeting.
- 2.4 City of Loves Park:** No report.
- 2.5 Village of Machesney Park:** Working on overlay projects. Old Harlem Road project with storm sewer is ongoing with 50% of the storm sewer in place.
- 2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** Not present.
- 2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District:** Bids for new vehicles in the fleet have been received. Hope to award ten new buses first then, depending on funding, award up to four more. East Side Transfer Center contract awarded for architect.
- 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:** No report.
- 2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development:** Mr. Krup to give a report under agenda item #3.
- 2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department:** Progress on IL 173 is going slow. Unable to meet with the three communities.
- 2.13 Boone County Highway Department:** No report.
- 2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:** McKinley Ave. reconstruction is approximately 75% complete. Columbia Road project is approximately 80% 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 but Ms. Anderson sent three handouts for members to read. Mr. Ernst passed out a summary sheet regarding the Congestion-Relief Program, Phase Two; a press release from the Governor on Tomorrow's Transportation Today-a Progressive Improvement Plan and a map showing major interchange improvements and car pool /express lanes. Ms. Anderson will be at the Policy Meeting.
- 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:** An open house is schedule for Oct. 29 regarding their TIP and UWP. Working with Winnebago County to identify area projects. Their offices will be relocating in the Alliant Building which offers much more space for them.
- 2.24 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:** Not present.
- 2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:** Not present.
- 2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District:** The District will be upsizing the trunk sewer along Spring Creek in the next two weeks causing lane closures in the area of Alpine and Spring Creek.
- 2.27 Growth Dimensions:** Not present.
- 2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District:** Not present.

- 3. WINNEBAGO COUNTY 2030 LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Mr. Krup started his overview of the County's 2030 plan by distributing information. He explained the process began in mid July of 2006 and since then, the work has focused on identifying goals, objectives and policies to create the long range plan. The County held public hearings and open houses regarding the plan. One of the main concerns addressed at the public hearings involved the conservation districts. The language portion of the plan will be changed to reflect these concerns.

The scope of the plan also covers agriculture, residential land use, economic development, growth, natural resources, public utilities and facilities, transportation, telecommunications and technology.

It was questioned whether the South Beloit By-Pass project was still planned. The County may abandon this project, however it is still reflected in South Beloit's plan. A major residential construction project is planned where the by-pass is planned to go through. Right of way property may have been purchased already by the State and this will help for future construction. However, residents in the area do not want to see anymore new construction. FHWA won't allow money to be allocated for this project. An alternate route has been proposed for this project.

Discussion moved towards the industrial portion of the plan and Meridian Road. Concerns expressed were that Meridian Road would become the western Perryville Road. The County of Winnebago may widen and resurface this road with some intersection improvements in the next year or two. This road and its future improvements was a focus at the Tri-State Alliance meeting.

Mr. Ernst encouraged members to forward their comments to the County by November 6th.

- 4. FIRST QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT:** A copy of the first quarter financial report was distributed by Mr. Ernst. The personnel section was zeroed out due incomplete numbers not available from the City's payroll department. RMAP is behind in the budget as the two new planners are not reflected in the budget. The new office equipment has not been purchased yet and those purchases will be reflected in the next quarter. No exact move date available as we are still waiting for IT to install the computers.

Mr. Ernst stated our new address will be 313 North Main Street and our new phone number will be 815-964-RMAP (7627).

Mr. Zuroske asked if there were any plans to move these meetings to the new space. RMAP is looking to move the meetings to the new space once it is remodeled. There is a room big enough and it would be easier not to have to move the large maps needed at some of the meetings.

RMAP will be holding an open house for members to attend once the move is complete.

- 5. RMAP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS (M & O) PLAN:** Mr. Ernst distributed copies of the draft M & O plan. This plan focuses on transportation system management and operations and the congestion management process. The forward contains six key components highlighting transportation decisions and investments made by member agencies in recent years. A major concern by the MPO is the statement made by the USDOT that it "retains concern over the applicability of the congestion management-related documents to the larger, planning process, specifically project selection." Mr. Ernst stated he was under the assumption that member agencies

were addressing the congestion portion and were doing a good job. The language in the Foreward is intended to reflect this issue. The goal of the M&O plan is to change that opinion of the USDOT.

The Introduction portion of the plan includes, background information, planning for operations, RMAP management and operations goals, measurement of performance of the regional transportation system, the MPO's approach to management and operations, and the creation of performance measures. The introduction portion of the document is a valid synopsis of how our MPO operates day to day business. The appendices in the plan reflect the work already complete, this portion will be available at a later date. The long range goals reflect what is stated in the plan and the long range plan is based around these goals.

The plan identifies objectives to meet the M&O goals for the Rockford MPO region. Some of these long range goals include collecting field data to verify the level of service objective from the 2035 LRTP; all traffic signals on the SRA system will be coordinated with a fiber optic interconnect system; locate, design and plan a regional management center for future construction; complete an Alternate Route Guide for the US 20 bypass from Winnebago Road to the interchange at I-90/30; design and compile a user satisfaction survey to measure regional attitudes about congestion; and develop a web-based ridersharing database for commuters travelling to Metra stops at Elgin Big Timber and Harvard.

Mr. Zuroske questioned if there was any economic impact in the plan. Mr. Ernst stated that the FHWA is not interested in economics, only that the congestion management concerns are addressed.

Mr. Townsend mentioned that when he and Mr. Vanderwerff looked over the plan prior to the meeting, there were no recognition of the wishes of the political policy makers. How can their wishes be implemented into the plan and what would be the possible impact to it. The criteria only addresses projects using federal dollars to ensure member agencies look at congestion management when they select projects. He stated the Highway Department's primary focus will be on safety and their number one goal and that safety goes hand in hand with congestion management. Mr. Ernst commented that in the coming year, safety could be integrated into the M&O plan.

Mr. Zuroske asked Mr. Townsend to further explain his comment on the wishes of the political policy makers. Mr. Townsend explained that most of the agencies in the MPO are governed by elected officials and there is a need to evaluate those requested projects by the elected officials. Mr. Zuroske agreed that there is a protocol working with elected officials and could be applicable in this process. Mr. Townsend stated that the real question here is how do we implement and take into consideration the political requests.

Mr. Ernst commented that at one time you could use STP dollars for whatever projects you wanted, but now that has all changed.

6. **2010 CENSUS PARTICIPATION STATISTICAL PROGRAM (PSAP):** Ginny Gregory was the lead person for census tracking but is stepping down from this task. She has asked RMAP to take the lead role for tracking. Mr. Ernst stated RMAP will become the designated organization to run the census. Mr. Diipla is working on aligning maps with census tracts. It will be interesting to see what transportation data is discovered through the census information. There will be internal meetings held regarding this in the future.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS:

7.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: No report.

7.2 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Received the Statewide Transportation Improvements Program (STIP) book in the mail. Mr. Ernst expressed concern that information for the Winnebago/Boone area was missing. It was noted on the last page that \$60 million for AMTRAK Intercity passenger rail service routes has been earmarked for the year 2011.

7.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: No tenants for the space yet.

7.4 RMAP FY 2009-FY 2012 Transportation Improvement Program: Working with RMTD for projects. Need TIP approval at Nov.-Dec. meeting. Also, need projects list turned in as soon as possible.

7.5 Northeast Urban Planning Area (NUPA) Study in Boone County: No update, having some consultant issues with regard to data collection.

7.6 RMAP Regional Freight Study: The study is progressing slowly. The consultant has met with the four railroads and some rail/freight companies. He will start meeting with trucking companies next. It is hoped that an interim report will be available by Jan. 1.

7.7 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is November 12, at the YWCA, E. State Street, at 10 am. Reviewing the needs and gaps portion of the HSTP. A comment form will be e-mailed and amendments need approval in January. There will be a public comment period in November and the call for projects will be in November or December. Any additional information can be forwarded to Mr. Diipla.

Mr. Ernst stated that Winnebago County is looking into a rural transit investment geared toward getting people to work from the rural areas. Mr. Townsend reported that he hasn't received feedback from Ms. Mroz yet and she is supposedly working with Ms. Hughes from RMTD but doesn't know of any progress on this yet.

Mr. Diipla stated that the Subcommittee is growing and new agencies are attending the meetings now.

7.8 RMAP and Regional Planning: No report.

8. **OTHER BUSINESS:** At the Fall Planning Conference Executive Director's meeting, a renewed interest was expressed concerning the Capital Investment Act. A state-wide technical committee has been formed with two members from CMAP on it. No one from our MPO is on this committee.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** Motion to adjourn by City of Rockford, seconded by Belvidere/BooneCounty. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.