



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 22, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vik, Dave Townsend, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; 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; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park; Jonah Katz, City of Rockford, Community Development; Marge Bevers, Chicago/Rockford International Airport;

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Roscoe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Soltau, SLATS; Thomas Bona, Rockford Register Star; Ralph Hoekstra, Blackhawk Bicycle and Ski Club; Curtis Jones, IDOT; Steve Ernst, RMAP; Michael Maddox, RMAP; Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP; Mary Swanson, RMAP; Michael Hren, RMAP.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Ernst at 10:04 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes by Village of Winnebago, seconded by City of Loves Park. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS: (In reverse order today)

2.28: Stateline Mass Transit District: Not Present.

2.27: Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.26: Rock River Water Reclamation District: Not present.

2.25: Rockford Area Economic Development Council: Not present.

2.24: Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: A public hearing will be held today from 3 pm to 6 pm at the Roadview River Center regarding their TIP and UWP. There will be a SLATS meeting on Monday, October 26 at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Soltau mentioned Wisconsin maybe considering a two year TIP in the future.

2.22: Boone County Council on Aging: Not present.

2.21: Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: Mr. Jones reported that the Fall Conference was a success and that it will be held in Chicago at the same place next year.

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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,
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2.19: IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.

2.18: Illinois State Toll Highway Authority: Not present.

2.17: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: Not present.

2.16: Village of Winnebago: The Westfield Road project is complete and came in under bid.

2.15: Village of Roscoe: Not present.

2.14: City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: Their ARRA project started last week.

2.13: Boone County Highway Department: Their ARRA project started on October 1st, 2009. 2/3 of the binder is down. Hunter Road is 80% complete.

2.12: Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: No report.

2.11: Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department: Not present.

2.10: City of Rockford, Community Development Department: There will be a "Complete Count" committee meeting next week. The award for the Kishwaukee Corridor Study will be highlighted at a ceremony before the Rockford City Council. The date for this is forthcoming.

2.09: Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.08: City of Loves Park, Community Development: Their first "Complete Counts" meeting will be held October 29th, at 3:00 p.m. at Machesney Park Village Hall.

2.07: Rockford Mass Transit District: Their new 25 foot vehicles have arrived. These new vehicles have new emission requirements.

2.06: Chicago/Rockford International Airport: The 2009 Airfest Show was a success with record crowds attending. The International Terminal expansion is on target for its completion scheduled for next month. The Foreign Trade Zone application is ready for submittal.

2.05: Village of Machesney Park: No report.

2.04: City of Loves Park, Public Works Department: The contractor on their ARRA project destroyed some AT&T fiber delaying the project for about 6 days. Residents were not happy with the phone interruption during this time. Other projects updates were reported.

2.03: City of Rockford, Public Works Department: The Kishwaukee Bridge project is scheduled to open by December 1st with IDOT's portion to open approximately two weeks prior. Received authorization from City Council for the ARRA projects. A memorandum of understanding is being prepared for the Springcreek and I-90 interchange. The City's emergency road repair fund project will be Sandy Hollow to be repaired in 2010. The City's and County's HSIP requests were denied by IDOT. A meeting will be held at the IDOT, District 2 office on Friday for the South Main project—Cedar Street to Belt Line Road. The City's 5 year CIP plan is before the City Council. It is anticipated it will be approved the first week of November.

2.02: Winnebago County Highway Department: Mr. Vlk gave a brief overview of the status of the County's projects.

2.01: Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long gave a status report of the State's projects.

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3. FEDERAL FUNDING DISCUSSION: Mr. Ernst spoke on the rescissions affecting various funding sources. The surface transportation program funding was reduced and the reduction should have been reflected on the October 1 allocations. He also noted that the dedicated planning funds should not be affected for next year. Mr. Nunes will be contacting Mr. Ernst regarding any updates the final impact could cause. Mr. Hren, RMAP staff planner, is tracking the ARRA numbers and bid number on the agency's website under "dashboards." It was suggested that Mr. Hren contact Kevin Donner, at IDOT for information regarding the ARRA numbers. Mr. Donner has also been tracking ARRA information and could possibly supply it to Mr. Hren. IDOT, District 2 is also putting together a program for use of any ARRA surplus funds. Determination on IDOT's program and project selection should be available by March 2010. Mr. Ernst will schedule a meeting with Mr. Nelson at IDOT in the near future.

4. FEDERAL LIST OF OBLIGATED PROJECTS (FLOP): During the wait for the file to load up on the computer, Mr. Ernst went to:

6. & 7: COMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER BUSINESS: The Regional Stimulus for the Broadband Application was submitted. The file is 115 mega-bytes and Mr. Ernst can supply copies for anyone interested in getting one. Rockford was the lead agency for this application and the requested grant amount is for \$75.9 million and encompasses Winnebago, Boone and McHenry counties.

Mr. Ernst handed out a copy of a letter from the Governor to the US Department of Commerce regarding BTOP applications for urban funds. The Governor's office shortlisted the projects and he committed \$5 million in matching funds for our area. He also handed out copies of a one-page summary from the GAO regarding options to enhance transportation planning capacity and federal oversight for MPO's and a draft paper from the Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council supporting a new transportation bill that will address both rural and urban planning throughout the State.

Mr. Ernst spoke of our regional broadband application that NIU was the lead for our area. He is familiar with the Highland, Illinois project but is not aware of any other application. Our region had one project submitted that would cover education, health care, transportation and government needs. The "middle mile" project would provide direct service to buildings.

4. Presentation of FLOP: Mr. Hren provided a presentation regarding Federally Obligated Projects that has been loaded onto RMAP's website under the Federal Projects Section. He thanked Mr. Jones of IDOT for his informational files regarding federal funds for Boone and Winnebago Counties. He walked through the file for members to see what information is available for viewing. Mr. Ernst mentioned that no action is necessary on this today and it is available on CD. The next FLOP should include information on the Recovery Act.



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5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: The environmental document has been submitted to the FTA and are awaiting their comments. It is hope to complete this part of the process by the end of this year.

5.2: Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: An open house was held at NIU-Rockford, by IDOT Division of Railroads. Mr. Ernst had the opportunity to speak with rail representative from the IDOT office and the MPO from Iowa. He secured documentation from each individual which will be helpful to our rail cause in the future. IDOT's environmental documents for high speed rail is available for viewing at hsrillinois.com.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: RMTD has secured some excess materials to be used for fill on projects needing grading. Design is moving along and hope to bid this sometime this winter.

5.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Previously discussed.

5.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No new report.

5.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 10th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m. with discussion on affordable transportation. New meeting dates were handed out for Mobility Subcommittee, Technical Committee and Policy Committee for calendar year 2010.

5.7 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): No update available.

5.8 New Subcommittees: Mr. Ernst reported on the creation of a Water Resource Committee. The City of Rockford water resource master management plan meeting would kick this off once the data is available. WinAqua and Boone County Storm Water Management committee will be notified once data is available and they will be invited to attend meetings.

The other subcommittee is the Housing, Human Services and Work Force Development Committee which Mayor Morrissey asked to be created. Mr. Ernst is scheduling meetings with the Winnebago County Housing Authority, the Rockford Housing Authority, the Workforce Investment Board and the City of Rockford Human Services Department to get a sense of how to kick this committee off. The goal will be to have one plan for the elected officials that would cover transportation, housing and workforce development.

6. BACK TO COMMUNICATIONS: Mr. Maddox reported the new date for the Illinois Coalition of Bicyclists Introduction to Bicycle Planning seminar at the RMAP offices will be January 12, 2010 from 9:30 to noon.

Mr. Dipla mentioned that the LRTP is being updated and agencies should forward their information to him if they have updates or changes. Mr. Ernst stated that staff is looking to add new

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chapters to the LRTP possibly to include broadband, green issues, pasenger rail, bike and pedestrian paths, paratransit and the CEDS document

7. BACK TO OTHER BUSINESS: Mr. Ernst reported that the budget synopsis is close to completion and the budget is on track with no over expenditures. Agencies will be invoiced for payment very soon.

Mr. Zuroske mentioned the City has been approached by the Green Communities Coalition regarding adopting a sustainability policy. He met with them and suggested that RMAP be involved with this and maybe a RMAP staff member could be delegated to sit on this committee. The City has an energy efficiency conservation block grant and is reveiwing a portion of it to deal with green house gas emissions. Mr.Ernst stated there is no guidance yet for a document regarding green house gas emissions and that this could also be a topic for a new chapter in the LRTP. Mr. Zuroske said that the City of Aurora has a good document on emissions and they could be a valuable source of information regarding this.

Mr. Vlk mentioned Winnebago County has a new highway map available showing new boundaries. This map will be available on their website but can also be purchased for \$4.00 per map.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by Boone County, seconded by Village of Winnebago . Meeting adjourned at 11:44 a.m.