



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**ROCKFORD METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 17, 2009**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT; Wayne Vlk, Dave Townsend, Winnebago County; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Jeremy Carter, 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; Troy Krup, Planning and Zoning, Winnebago County; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Village of Roscoe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bob Soltau, SLATS; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Assoc.; 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. Diipla at 10:06 a.m., with a quorum present.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 20, 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 on the status of several road projects throughout the region.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway: Mr. Vlk gave a status report on the County's projects. The Bell School Road project will begin daytime closures beginning next week. A press release regarding these closures will be sent out. Projects are ready for a September letting.

2.3 City of Rockford: Mr. Zuroske reported that the City's construction program is progressing very well. The neighborhood program is 95% complete. The city has received a three part permit for the Riverwalk project. Stimulus projects have been submitted to IDOT.

Mr. Vlk asked if Elm Street near the Metro Center will be resurfaced anytime soon. There are no plans for that but it could be in the 2011 program.

2.4 City of Loves Park: The Orth Road project is under construction, however, some of the landowners have submitted complaints to the Department of Agriculture. The Riverside project paving should be complete no later than mid-October. Mr. Jacobson also mentioned that he spoke with Tony Baratta regarding emergency road funds.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: No report given

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present.

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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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Deputy Director George F. Ryan,
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- 2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District:** RMTD is assisting the Stateline Mass Transit on the tri-annual reivev.
- 2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development:** No report.
- 2.9 Village of Cherry Valley:** No report.
- 2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development:** A design meeting will be held in mid-October for the redevelopment of the North Madison corridor. The Kishwaukee Corridor study received an American Planning Association award and will be recognized at the APA Upper Midwest Conference. A planning grant has been applied for the South Main Corridor. RMAP helped with this grant application.
- 2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development:** No report.
- 2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Dept:** Their Board adopted the 173 plan and it is available on CD's.
- 2.13 Boone County Highway Dept:** Mr. Lundin gave an update of road projects. There will be a preconstruction meeting next Monday regarding their stimulus projects. Several projects are complete.

- 2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:** Their arterial and residential projects are complete. A preconstruction meeting will be held tomorrow regarding their stimulus projects.

- 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:** 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 reported there will be a policy committee meeting on Sept. 21 for the draft TIP and the UWP and a meeting is set for Oct. 26. A public open house will be held on Oct. 22, regarding these documents.
- 2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division:** Not present.
- 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. Jacobson reported that a press conference was held on Wed., Sept. 16th by the Village of Machesney Park for the safe routes to school grant money. The grant money will be used by Ralston Elementary and Windsor Elementary schools for the safe route program.

Mr. Ernst took the Chair and item 1, approval of the minutes was in order: Motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2009 made by City of Loves Park, seconded by City of Rockford. Motion carried.



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3. TIGER GRANT APPLICATION: Mr. Ernst stated there will be a press conference today at the Rockford Airport, 2:00 p.m., in the Terminal Building, regarding the TIGER application that RMAP has submitted, requesting \$71.4 million. Grant funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to projects that have a significant impact on the nation, a metropolitan area, or a region which meets the requirements of the application. RMAP submitted a freight and passenger rail project on behalf of its partner agencies in Winnebago and Boone counties. The application had to be at maximum 25 pages long (for the text portion of the application) and ours was 80 pages with appendices. He also mentioned some of these funds would be used for track upgrades in and around the Airport for freight movement. Upgrades for passenger rail could take a two year cycle to complete where freight upgrading could take up to four years to complete. Our main competition for these grant funds is from Chicago called "CREATE". To solve the rail problems in the area in Chicago would be a huge undertaking. The review team will be through the Federal Railroad Administration. We have our area elected officials support for our application. Award of the funds will be made by February 17, 2010. All the TIGER application information is available on the RMAP website.

4. RMAP FY 2010 – FY 2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP)

Resolution 2009-12: Mr. Maddox handed out the final draft of the TIP. He asked members to review it and give any changes to him by next week. Winnebago County and the City of Rockford are currently developing their comprehensive list of projects and upon approval by their respective Boards/Councils it will be amended into the TIP. Any amendments will come back before the Technical and Policy committees. Mr. Vik expressed his concerns for the County's TIP, they have the Hononegah Road project that is listed in both SLATS and the RMAP TIP for fiscal year 2010. The project runs east of IL 2 to Checkerberry, west of 251, is split between the MPOs. McCurry Road is the break point between the two MPO's, although there is a shared area. RMAP's area is Checkerberry west to McCurry, then from McCurry west to Dorr Road is a shared area and from Dorr Road to the project end is SLATS. The County had this project listed for FY 2010 using rural funds. The County does not have any rural funds left to use for this project. SLATS indicated that their portion of the project would be a priority for urban funds. They are asking RMAP for urban funds as well as they feel leaving a gap in the project at Checkerberry would not be a good idea. The project is currently under design and could be ready for a July letting. Mr. Ernst stated the cost estimate is approximately \$2.4 million and the RMAP portion could be about \$800,000 and the shared section could be \$400,000, costing RMAP a possible \$1.2 million. Mr. Soltau expects his draft TIP to be approved on Monday. He believes this project will be funded as it is one of their priority projects and that they may have monies from past years that could be allocated for this project and program this out for several years using STP funds. Mr. Ernst stated this would affect the Harrison Ph 2 project in Rockford. Mr. Zuroske pointed out that the Harrison project is ready to begin in the next two months. Mr. Ernst stated there is a need to look at STP cash flow dollars and how these dollars could be used on Harrison, Hononegah or any other projects that may be considered by the Committee. Mr. Zuroske doubts the City Council of Rockford would be in favor of programming money for the Hononegah project. Mr. Ernst suggested that if SLATS had a balance of STP funds to pay for the entire project, an agreement could be drawn up between the MPO's to pay them back. There was a brief discussion regarding using the savings from the

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low bids from stimulus projects. Mr. Ernst discussed having the stimulus review team reconvene to look at these savings and possible uses for them.

Motion for Resolution 2009-12 to go before the Policy Committee with any changes made prior to the Policy Committee meeting. Motion by City of Rockford, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion unanimously carried.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

5.1 NICTI Alternative Analysis: The Northwest Illinois Blackhawk Express surpassed its goal of 10,000 signatures. They have over 11,000.

5.2: Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: RMAP is reviewing the new "New Start" guidance since there have been changes made to the guidance.

5.3 RMTD East Side Transfer Center: The Bell School Road project's excavating contractor has some excess materials and RMTD will be using some of this excess for grading.

5.4 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: The final grant application has been submitted for Winnebago, Boone and McHenry counties.

5.5 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No new report.

5.6 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 13th at the YWCA at 10:00 a.m.

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

5.8 RMAP Website: The website is up and running. ARRA projects have been posted on the website. Anyone wishing to add information can contact Michael Hren of RMAP. Mr. Ernst's blog has information posted through July. Updates will be added in the near future.

6. COMMUNICATIONS: The Federal List of Obligated Projects (FLOP) document has a completion due date of September 30, 2009.

7. OTHER BUSINESS: The Illinois Coalition of Bicyclists will be hosting an Introduction to Bicycle Planning seminar at the RMAP offices on December 4th from 9:30 to noon. (Note: since this meeting the date has been changed to Jan. 12, 2010.)

Mr. Zuroske asked about the State's HSIP status. Mr. Jones had no report but will check on this when he gets back to Springfield. Award of HSIP projects usually takes a long time to do.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn by City of Belvidere, seconded by Boone County Planning. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

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