



NOTICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING for ROCKFORD URBAN AND METROPOLITAN AREA

Notice is hereby given that the Region 1 Planning Council (R1PC), the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan Area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process and the development of the following documents. The MPO coordinates publicly funded transportation planning and transportation improvements among the various jurisdictions in Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. All documents are available for viewing electronically at <http://www.rmapil.org> or at the MPO offices located at 313 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois.

1. **MPO FY 2019 – FY 2022 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a federally required and fiscally-constrained document that is used to track all surface transportation projects that use federal transportation funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) and state transportation funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the next four fiscal years (July 1, 2018-June 30, 2022). Key elements of the TIP include an itemized account of federal, state and local dollars used towards project development and project phases of all regionally significant highway and transit projects in the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The current TIP ([FY 2018 – FY 2021](#)) was adopted by the Policy Committee in September 2017 (RMAP Resolution 2017-8). The FY 2019-2022 Transportation Improvement Program is currently under development and a public comment period will occur when the draft is available. The draft document will be posted to the RMAP website. Future updates to the TIP occur on an annual basis. As an extension to the TIP, the Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects is also released. The current listing can be found on the [MPO website](#).

2. **TRANSPORTATION FOR TOMORROW (2040): A LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE ROCKFORD REGION (LRTP).** The Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a federally required document, as designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation Final Rule for Metropolitan Planning (Part 450.324 section b), that guides recommendations for local government entities to manage and support an integrated transportation infrastructure within the context of the MPA. The overall goal of the LRTP is to promote a safe and efficient transportation system for the movement of people and goods in the MPA through a continuing, comprehensive and cooperative (3-C) planning process. The intent is to provide a balanced multi-modal transportation system that minimizes costs and impacts to the tax payer, society and environment. Primary elements of the LRTP pertain to the transportation network of the region which addresses all modes of transportation and stresses the integration and connectivity of these components over the next 20 to 30 years. The current LRTP was adopted by the Policy Committee in July 2015 (RMAP Resolution 2015-8). New regulations for the LRTP including the FAST Act (signed December 4th, 2015) and the Final Rule for Metropolitan Transportation Planning (issued May 27, 2016) will be further incorporated into the LRTP update. Future updates to the LRTP occur on an update cycle of five years. The next update to the LRTP is scheduled for 2020. The current LRTP can be found on the [MPO website](#).

3. **MPO COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP):** The Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services and Transportation Plan (HSTP) is a federally required document that is used to identify the current needs of transit-dependent populations including: persons with disabilities, seniors, and individuals with low-income. The HSTP aims to maintain and enhance existing service levels, improve coordination and communication of service delivery, and improve educational outreach of transit providers and services to the community. Key elements of the plan include FTA funding allocation recommendations for the use of Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC), Enhanced Mobility for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program, and New Freedom eligible

projects within the MPA. The current MPO HSTP was adopted by the Policy Committee in July 2017 (RMAP Resolution 2017-6). Future updates to the HSTP occur on an update cycle of five years. The current HSTP can be found on the [MPO website](#).

4. **MPO UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** The Unified Work Program is a federally required document that tracks federal, state, and local transportation funds the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) receives for transportation planning. The UWP details the work activities that the MPO undertakes during its fiscal year (July 1st 2018 – June 30th 2019). These funds provide financial operational assistance for the MPO work tasks and ensures that the organization leads a cooperative, continuing, and comprehensive approach to the transportation planning process within the MPA. The draft of the FY 2019 UWP is available on the MPO website and the public review and comment period is March 26th, 2018 until April 17th, 2018. The UWP is scheduled to be adopted at the May 3, 2018 MPO Policy Committee meeting. Future updates to the UWP occur on an annual basis. The draft MPO FY 2019 UWP can be found on the [MPO website](#).

5. **MPO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP):** The Public Participation Plan (PPP) is a federally required document detailing the policies and procedures to give the public adequate opportunity to participate in and provide feedback on all MPO related transportation plans before their adoption. The purpose of the document is to create a platform for the general public to participate in the transportation planning process and development of MPO transportation planning initiatives. Key elements of the PPP include strategies to engage, inform, promote and improve the public participation process for all who live, work and visit the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA). The current PPP was adopted by the Policy Committee in July 2008 (RMAP Resolution 2008-10). The update to the PPP is currently under development and a public comment period for the draft was from January 2nd, 2018 through February 16th, 2018. It is anticipated that the PPP update will be adopted by the MPO Policy Committee at their May 3, 2018 meeting. Future updates to the PPP are on an update cycle of five years. The draft update to the PPP can be found on the [MPO website](#).

6. **MPO TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:** The Title VI & Environmental Justice Plan is a federally required document used to ensure that the transportation planning process is provided in a nondiscriminatory manner in the Rockford MPA. Title VI is a Federal statute and provides that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance. In addition, it ensures that persons with limited English proficiency are provided reasonable access to transportation programs and facilities. Key elements of the Plan include an outline of equitable transportation policies and procedures to accommodate underserved populations. The current plan was adopted by the Policy Committee in September 2015 (RMAP Resolution 2015-11). Future updates to plan occur on an update cycle every three years. The MPO intends to update this document in FY 2019. The current Plan can be found on the [MPO website](#).

7. **MPO BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PLAN:** The Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan focuses on the active transportation network for the Rockford Metropolitan Area. The purpose of the document is to provide a data-driven analysis of safe and efficient transportation methods to serve the unique needs of pedestrians, cyclists and vulnerable populations including children and the elderly. Key elements of the Plan include design standards for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, a summary of the existing pedestrian and bicycle network and recommendations for project and program implementation. The current Plan was adopted by the Policy Committee in September 2017 (RMAP Resolution 2017-9). Future updates to the Plan occur on an update schedule of every five years. The current Plan can be found on the [MPO website](#).

8. **MPO BOONE AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES GREENWAYS PLAN:** The Greenways Plan is a regional effort led by the MPO to create a regional vision for coordinated greenway and trail preservation development. The development of the Plan provides a platform for governmental jurisdictions, nonprofit organizations, and residents of Boone and Winnebago Counties to discuss environmental stewardship strategies for natural and cultural resources and develop growth management objectives for the greenways network. The current Plan was adopted by the Policy Committee in July 2015 (RMAP Resolution 2015-8). with an update to the Greenways map on March 24th 2016. Future updates to the plan and associated maps occur every five years. Updates to the Plan will reflect recent changes in the green infrastructure network including trails, shared-use paths, bicycle lanes, sidewalks etc. The current plan can be found on the [MPO website](#).

9. **MPO TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS PLAN (M&O):** The M&O Plan is a federally required document that is used by government jurisdictions and local transportation agencies to ensure that the transportation network can accommodate future growth. Management and operations strategies improve the performance

of existing transportation facilities, identify methods to relieve vehicular congestion and maximize the safety and mobility of people and goods. The purpose of the M&O is to evaluate the existing conditions of the transportation system, analyze network operations efficiency, and develop a framework to integrate the congestion management process into the MPA. The current Management and Operations Plan was adopted by the Policy Committee in 2008 (RMAP Resolution 2008-12). Updates to the Management and Operations Plan occur on an update cycle of five years. The current plan can be found on the [MPO website](#).

10. MPO SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT (STBG) PROGRAM: The U.S. Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration provide flexible funding for state and local jurisdictions to address transportation needs as apportioned by FAST Act through the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG). The MPO Policy Committee has authority to select projects to utilize these funds. The recent resolution and project selection criteria for the STBG Program was adopted by the Policy Committee in May 2017 (RMAP Resolution 2017-5) and supersedes the previous resolution for the STP-U Program as adopted by the Policy Committee in January 1994 (RATS Resolution 1994-2). Additionally, the MPO receives a STBG set-aside which provides funding for transportation alternatives program (TAP) eligible projects. The current STBG resolution can be found on the [MPO website](#).

Public comments are welcomed on all the above MPO planning documents. Comments can also be provided at the MPO Technical and Policy Committee meetings or by contacting the MPO by telephone or email. Public comments regarding MPO planning documents will be accepted at any time. MPO Technical Committee meetings are scheduled on the third Thursday of each month. MPO Policy Committee meetings are scheduled prior to the RIPC Board meetings in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. A meeting announcement is sent to our mailing distribution list via email with dates, times, and locations a week in advance and the committees meeting calendar is available on the MPO website. The RIPC also provides a monthly newsletter that will provide notice of committee meeting cancellations. Meeting cancellations and changes in date/time of meetings are also posted to the MPO website. Persons seeking more information on these meetings, planning documents as mentioned above or any other information related to the MPO are encouraged to view the material at <http://www.rmapil.org>.

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