



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP Mobility Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 9, 2016  
RMTD East Side Transfer Center**

**ATTENDEES:** Chairman Steve Haight; Mayor Chamberlain – City of Belvidere; Justyn Miller – Boone County; Paula Hughes, Lisa Brown - RMTD; Janna Bailey, Wesley Willows; Mike Williams – Rock River Training Corp.; Sydney Turner - EDDNI/RMAP, Michael Dunn, Michael Hren, Jon Paul Diipla, Terrance Hall, Colin Belle - RMAP.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

**1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Haight called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2. INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves.

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Chairman Haight entertains a motion to approve the agenda. First Motion moved by Ms. Brown, RMTD; seconded by Mayor Chamberlain. Motion carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE 1/12/16 MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Chairman Haight entertained a motion to approve the January 12, 2016 minutes.

Motion was made by Ms. Lisa Brown, RMTD; second motion was made by Ms. Janna Bailey, Wesley Willows. Motion carried.

**5. FAST ACT OVERVIEW:**

M. Hren provided overview of most relevant highlights of the Fixing America’s Transportation Act signed into the law in December 2015. The FAST Act will provide \$305 billion for highway, transit, and railway programs:

- Section 5307 allows 20 percent of allocation to be used for paratransit; 0.5 percent of funds can now be used on workforce development
- Section 5310 provides enhanced mobility for seniors
- Section 5339 continues funding for buses and bus stations

Jon Paul Diipla explained that the FAST Act provides federal guidelines but no local level guidelines on implementation have been circulated yet. As a result of question from L. Brown, M. Dunn clarified that the FAST Act is partly funded through Highway Trust Fund which is currently 50 percent funded. As a result of question from M. Williams, M. Hren pointed out that while funds are not new, the ability to dedicate 0.5 percent of Section 5307 funds to workforce development is new.

**6. SECTION 5310 APPLICATIONS:**

M. Hren stated that Section 5310 applications will be available sometime in February; RMAP will be on the lookout for release of application. Any agencies interested in applying should be prepared to do so. Paula Hughes mentioned that decision on where funds will be awarded will be tough regardless of how much time we have to prepare application; only enough funding for 4 vehicles compared to last year’s allocation of 14.

our future, our goals, our map

313 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101

direct 779.348.RMAP fax 815.967.6913 web rmapil.org

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen  
Winnebago County, RMAP Chair

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg  
City of Loves Park

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford

Gary L. Marzorati, Board Chair  
Rockford Mass Transit District

Mayor Mike Chamberlain  
City of Belvidere, RMAP Vice-Chair

Mayor Jerry Bolin  
Village of Machesney Park

Chairman Bob Walberg  
Boone County

Deputy Director Paul Loete  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Region 2

M. Dunn asked the group for feedback on application process; did the way we coordinated applications locally work last year? Is there an alternative process the group would like to see? Paula Hughes commented that current process is good but as a group we need to develop plan to single out priorities. M. Williams agreed that he would also like to see more proactive plan developed as last year's application was rushed. M. Dunn suggested considering an alternative approach to the current; consider creating a multi-year program to identify and prioritize needs far in advance of application timeline. Chairman Haight concurred that we should try to avoid trappings of last year and should consider multi-year program approach. M. Hren stated that discussion about a multi-year program will be added as an agenda item for next month's meeting.

#### **HSTP UPDATE:**

M. Hren stated that an update of Human Services Transportation Plan will occur in 2016; Committee needs to provide recommendations on priorities; the goal is to having significant progress on the completion of the plan in the next 6 months. Update will include:

- inventory of transit assets
- transit system priorities
- demographic data

Jon Paul Diipla suggested that we consider adding multi-year approach of 5310 application as a recommendation or priority in 2016 update of HSTP.

#### **7. COMMUNICATIONS:**

##### **UPDATE ON RMTD SERVICE TO BELVIDERE**

L. Brown relayed to the group that ridership looks great but is leveling off; could be a product of diminishing returns at this point but looking for new ways to create demand. Developing targeted approach within the county (particularly Poplar Grove, Caledonia, and parts of unincorporated Boone county) to educate on how residents can take advantage of service.

Mayor Chamberlain shared that there have been discussions about taking the old St. Joseph Hospital and converting it to RVC campus. Asked if students receive rider discounts because influx of students get drive ridership up. L. Brown replied that currently students under 20 years old get discount. Mayor Chamberlain suggested exploring the idea of extending discounts to all students to increase ridership and promote continuing education/life-long learning. M. Dunn echoed the notion of considering growing student population in service model as new downtown campus will be 3x bigger than Stewart Square; will need to look at future demand and not historical demand.

M. Williams- would like to support idea of expanding service; also for workforce – last year Rock River Training went to employers in Belvidere industrial park to implore employers to use paratransit bus for employees that live in Rockford and work in Belvidere. If there was fixed route to employment centers in Belvidere it would be supported. Transportation is a big problem with Lowes. Bottom line: riders would take advantage if there was regular service. Paula Hughes reminded the group that getting local match (35 percent) is the key to tapping more state funds and extending service. M. Williams would like to partner and sit down and strategize how to make this happen possibly with use of workforce development funds.

## **RMAP UPDATE**

Mr. Diipla is currently working on 2017 UWP; in process of reviewing available funds. Will provide final draft to be recommended by technical committee and approved by policy committee in Q2.

Colin Belle gave update on 2016 Bicycle Pedestrian Plan: Just wrapped up Bikeshare feasibility Study and Greenways plan; base data for Bikeshare Feasibility will be used for BikePed Plan; Mr. Diipla added that BikePed plan will look at existing facilities, gaps in non-motorized network, and overall system efficiency. Would like to see as many connections between alternative transportation modes and transit.

Michael Hren will be new staff liaison for Mobility Committee.

Chairman Haight thanked Jon Paul for supporting Mobility Committee as staff liaison for last several years.

## **BIKE SAFETY MONTH**

L. Brown reminded that group that Bike Safety Month is in May; we should coordinate on an awareness event.

### **8. PROGRESS REPORTS:**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Haight entertained a motion to adjourn the February 9, 2016 meeting. Motion by Ms. Lisa Brown, RMTD and second motion was made by M. Williams, Rock River Training Corp. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.