



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Regional Design Center

**ATTENDEES:** Chairman Steve Haight; Paula Hughes- RMTD; Michael Hren, Anna Ma- RMAP; Janna Bailey- Wesley Willows; Mike Williams- RRTC

**OTHERS PRESENT:** None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Haight called the meeting to order at 11:38 a.m.
2. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees introduced themselves.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Because of low attendance, no voting items were presented to the committee per the directive of Chairman Haight. The meeting continued using the draft agenda.
4. **APPROVAL OF 05/10/16 MOBILITY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:** Because of low attendance, no voting items were presented to the committee per the directive of Chairman Haight. This item was deferred to the next meeting.
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** No comments from the public were made.
6. **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:** Ms. Hughes stated that RMTD has used 5307 funds to keep the bus route to Belvidere going, but federal funds are limited. The City of Belvidere was able to contribute some, but there were no additional funds reallocated for the route. Chairman Haight stated that it is important to stay invested in the maintenance of this route to Belvidere for a variety of reasons. Ms. Hughes noted that the Township was interested in the project, but had not yet committed any funding. Hopefully in the next year or so, other funds can be redistributed and allocated to this project. Overall, the goal is to not lose the current project completely. The new Belvidere Route 24 stops at City Hall and returns to the East Side Transfer Center. Service was reduced from hourly to four trips a day to take effect Monday. Four Bell School routes have been replaced with the four shortened Belvidere routes. Chairman Haight confirmed that the Bell School route was from JARC funding. Ms. Hughes noted that the Bell School route gained more ridership once the Meijer development completed.

Ms. Hughes added that an informational flyer was handed out to drivers and workers at the transfer center. Additionally, it was placed on the bus. Many residents from Belvidere have been calling RMTD regarding the route change. With the amount of calls received from residents regarding the new route, it is apparent

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that the word is getting out there more. Some have been receptive of the changes and other callers have not been receptive. Chairman Haight commended the RMTD for maintaining some bus service to Belvidere. Ms. Hughes agreed that it is functional and therefore a good thing.

Mr. Williams inquired about whether the new route times were determined by ridership. Ms. Hughes affirmed that data was collected from fare boxes on all the buses. Passengers and drivers were asked as well. BCCA and City Hall are still accessible. The Subcommittee discussed meetings that took place to determine alternatives, as well as transportation options for call centers, and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers.

**7. RMAP HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE:** Mr. Hren introduced demographic data represented in the map handouts that presented census data at the tract level for racial population, Hispanic and Latino populations, poverty, disability and aging populations. Describes main analysis from maps. Members asked general questions regarding the maps. Members discussed the Wesley Willows subdivision. Mr. Williams asked if various target groups be identified, that there is an assumption that there is demand for transportation? Mr. Hren emphasized that this is census data, not survey data.

Mr. Williams inferred from the maps, that the downtown hub is pedestrian accessible. Chairman Haight agreed that there is a high level of bus service in the downtown hub, two buses for every block. Ms. Hughes stated that service is every hour or every half hour. Mr. Williams suggested that survey information is needed and is the next step in the process. Mr. Hren noted that Transit Rider and Transit Provider surveys were developed and comments are needed from committee members. Finalized survey will be prepared and presented to the Mobility Committee at the next meeting. RMAP will provide an online version of the survey as well. The Subcommittee will be asked to provide input, ideas and revisions of the survey. Ms. Hughes suggested to wait to distribute surveys once school starts because it will have a high impact on demographics. The Subcommittee agreed that this was a good plan.

Mr. Hren: Suggested to cancel August meeting and revisit in September. Chairman Haight agreed. Mr. Hren stated that he will send out text updates/changes to committee for revisions and edits. Goal is to have a draft of the HSTP by January. Moving forward open houses will be planned. Opens the floor for further questions.

**8. PROGRESS REPORTS:** All progress reports were covered by earlier agenda items.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS:** Ms. Hughes noted that RMTD had received state funds to update downtown center. Waiting to receive concurrence to put out a bid for an architect for construction in the spring. Desire to widen the footprint out into the driveway. Based on survey results, residents requested better public restrooms in the transfer center. Additionally, renovated breakroom and staff restrooms as well as more updated electronics. Need to improve aesthetically. Used state and federal funds to make these construction changes. Mr. Hren inquired if these changes were reflected in the TIP. Ms. Hughes confirmed that these changes were included in the amendment. Grant work was submitted.

Ms. Hughes asked the committee if they had received Mike Healey's 5310 notice which is due August 31. The Subcommittee discussed vehicles and documentation thereof. Mr. Williams commented on the bus ride app. Ms. Hughes stated that the bus app is working well. Route Shout is downloadable. Riders are able to text

the shelters to see when the next bus is arriving. It was a big step. Moving forward, the texting feature will be attached to signs as well. Most common question of RMTD is when the next bus is arriving. Having the app helps address those questions.

Mr. Williams stated that RRTC had applied for \$150,000 grant to a foundation for marketing and transportation infrastructure alternatives as well as environmental issues. 501c3's are the only eligible applicants. Applied for a Shell grant, but did not receive funding. Ms. Hughes noted a Federal Health Care grant to get funds to do a route to the Mercy hospital was sent out. The Subcommittee discussed the plans for transportation surrounding that facility as well as other medical facilities and the medical field in general.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:** Chairman Haight adjourned the meeting at 12:23 a.m.