



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 10, 2015

(City of Belvidere, City Hall, Council Chambers – 401 Whitney Blvd., Belvidere)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Mayor Jerry Bolin, Village of Machesney Park; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.  
Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford arrived at 2:35pm.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** RMTD.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael P. Dunn, Jr., Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colin Belle, Terrance Hall, RMAP Staff; Dana Northcott, Thomas Bona, Sydney Turner, EDDNI; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Department; Kathy Miller, Boone, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Matt Vitner, Tim Hanson, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Doug Delille, IDOT Program Planning; Dan Kasten, Fehr-Graham.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Christiansen with a quorum present at 2:01 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

None.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 29, 2015 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the October 29, 2015 minutes was made by the City of Belvidere, seconded by Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **RMAP FY2016-FY2019 TIP AMENDMENT – RMAP RESOLUTION 2015-12:**

Mr. Dunn stated that RMAP Resolution 2015-12 was a request from the City of Loves Park, Winnebago County Highway Department and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the amendment of existing projects as well as the addition of new projects.

- City of Loves Park / Project #4-15-1 is Willow Creek Trail Extension at Woodward Rock Cut Campus and at Willow Creek.
- IDOT / Project #1-16-12 is a safety project for US-20 Business (Walnut Street); UP RR West of Madison Street.
- WCHD / Project #2-16-2 is a resurfacing project for Mulford Road from Edson Road to Baxter Road.

A motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2015-12 was made by the City of Loves Park, second motion was made by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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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

**5. SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM-URBAN (STP-U):**

Mr. Dunn stated that he wanted to prepare members for the process that will take place in the spring for selecting a project for FY18. The current STP-U funds for FY16 is \$20,928,827. Mr. Dunn stated that he is looking for direction from Policy members on how to handle the process the project selection process for FY18 funds. A brief discussion took place among members and a few projects were suggested as follows:

- Bell School Road
- Riverside Boulevard
- Irene Road

Members indicated that they would like an Ad-hoc committee formed to discuss the projects further.

Mr. Dunn suggested that the RMAP Policy Committee make a project selection by May-2016.

Chairman Christiansen stated that the RMAP Technical Committee discuss and provide a report to the RMAP Policy Committee review the report in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2016.

**6. BROWNFIELDS COALITION GRANT:**

Mr. Dunn stated that the Brownfields Coalition Grant is a project is a collaborative effort from RMAP/EDDNI.

Ms. Northcott stated that RMAP/EDDNI is looking at a Brownfields Coalition Grant which has not been applied for previously. The application is a joint effort between Stephenson County, Boone County and Winnebago County. Ms. Northcott stated the amount that is being applied for is \$600,000. The grant will have the flexibility to use the funds in the three counties that will have a major regional impact. The grant application is due Friday, December 18, 2015.

**7. GREENWAYS UPDATE:**

Mr. Belle thanked the Greenways Committee for all the collaboration which has been a yearlong process. Mr. Belle stated a Greenways Plan Document has also been crafted which hasn't been done since the early 1990's. The open comment period for the Greenways written plan is currently going and is due by January 7, 2016. Mr. Belle indicated that RMAP would like the Policy Committee to adopt the plan.

**8. CEDS UPDATE:**

Mr. Bona provided handouts of the CEDS presentation he will be referencing for the CEDS update. Mr. Bona provided some background information on CEDS and the current updates. It's been a year-long process and has received great input from both the public and partner agencies. Mr. Bona noted the following:

**MAJOR ISSUES / KEY FINDINGS**

- More ways needed to speak and act as one
- While employers like the workforce, the region must confront long-term concerns
  - Education level
  - Growth / migration
  - Age
- Land use decisions play a critical role in workforce and business attraction
- A strong manufacturing base across the three counties offers opportunities for future growth
- Challenging business environment

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Speak and act with one voice
  - Regional planning commission
  - Collaborative site selection responses
  - Common business and workforce outreach efforts and data collection
  - Jointly advocate for priority infrastructure projects
- In-depth target industry analysis
- Workforce issues

- “Live here/work here” campaign
- Link workforce and business development efforts
- Support local housing diversity, particularly in downtowns
- Business environment
  - Advocate as one group at the state level
  - Tax-value proposition
  - Continue to maintain the County’s urban/rural balance

#### BOONE COUNTY PROJECTS OF NOTE

- Irene Road interchange area
- Commuter rail
- Redevelopment of brownfields such as Leath site
- Education/technical training facility in Belvidere
- Support academies such as Washington Academy
- Improvements to demand-response transit
- Promote agritourism and “green getaway”

#### IMPLEMENTATION

- A subset of 19 tactics to be implemented in 2016 and 2017
  - Will be done in partnership with Boone County, Belvidere, Growth Dimensions, RMAP, other partners
- Subset includes actions such as:
  - The regional plan commission
  - Regional site selection responses
  - A common business and workforce outreach system
  - The in-depth target industry analysis

Mr. Bona stated that a draft plan has been developed and there are four open houses scheduled for the comment period on the draft plan.

- Thursday, December 10, 2015 from 4:00-6:00p at Winnebago County Courthouse
- Tuesday, December 15, 2015 from 5:00-7:00p at McHenry County Administration building
- Wednesday, December 16, 2015 room 4:30-6:30p at Boone County building
- Wednesday, January 6, 2016 from 5:00-7:00p at the Regional Design Center, Rockford

Mr. Bona stated that any and all public comments are encouraged.

#### 9. PROGRESS REPORTS:

##### ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATION

Mr. Dunn stated that RMAP received a request from IDOT regarding TIP #2-14-7, Cunningham Road Bridge over the south branch of the Kent Creek. IDOT needs RMAP to perform an Administrative Modification to its 2016-2019 TIP for this project. The Administrative Modification is to include the status as Advanced Construction projects.

##### RMAP NEW EMPLOYEE

Mr. Dunn introduced Mr. Terrance Hall who is the newest employee to RMAP. Mr. Hall is doing handling double duty as he is working on projects for both RMAP and EDDNI.

##### RMAP HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Mr. Dunn invited all members to RMAP’s Holiday Potluck which is scheduled on Tuesday, December 15, 2015 at Noon.

## **ILLINOIS TOLLWAY**

Mr. Dunn stated that he met with the new Illinois Tollway Executive Director, Greg Bedalov and he is scheduled to visit the region on Monday, January 11, 2016. Details of the event will be forthcoming.

## **2016 RMAP/EDDNI STAFF WORK PLAN**

Mr. Dunn stated that over the last few weeks RMAP/EDDNI staff members have been working diligently in coordinating their 2016 staff work plan. Staff member have been providing input and suggestions on how the RMAP/EDDNI staff can collaborate on projects to provide a more collective and wider area of services.

## **REGIONAL KEY SITES WEBSITE WORKPLAN**

Mr. Dunn stated that the Regional Key Sites Website is being formed with a goal to provide a website that serves as a one-stop shop for site selectors looking at major shovel-ready sites in Winnebago County. Partners included are Winnebago County government, RMAP, EDDNI, WinGIS, RAAR and RAEDC.

## **FIXING AMERICA'S SURFACE TRANSPORTATION (FAST) ACT**

Mr. Dunn provided a brief summary of FAST ACT; is a five-year legislation to improve the Nation's surface transportation infrastructure, including our roads, bridges, transit systems, and rail transportation network. The bill reforms and strengthens transportation programs, refocuses on national priorities, provides long-term certainty and more flexibility for states and local governments, streamlines project approval processes, and maintains a strong commitment to safety.

## **REMI**

Mr. Dunn stated that he, Gary McIntyre and Colin Belle attended the REMI Conference that was held in Chicago on December 8, 2015. Mr. Dunn provided a brief summary of the REMI conference:

- Applications of TranSight
  - Long-Range Planning
  - Project Prioritization
  - Transportation Finance
  - Economic Impact Analysis
  - Grant Applications
  - TIP and STIP Planning
  - Regional Transportation Plans
- Users
  - State Departments of Transportation
  - Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Regional Councils
  - Academic Institutions
  - Consulting Firms
- Dimensions of Regional Growth & Change
- Growth Matrix
- Regions
  - How REMI defines model regions
- Methodologies
  - Input-Output (IO) Tabulation
  - Computable General Equilibrium (CGE)
  - Econometrics
  - New Economic Geography (NEG)

A brief discussion took place among members on how REMI will serve the region once it's up and running. Mr. Dunn stated that as REMI progresses the Policy Board will be kept apprised.

**10. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**RMTD/VANGALDER**

Chairman Christiansen stated that he met with RMTD recently and RMTD is jointly working with VanGalder to provide bus service to downtown Chicago on an hourly basis.

**GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD PROJECT**

Chairman Christiansen stated that he'd like to see another presentation from Great Lakes Basin and Mr. Patton around the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of next year to see the progress they've made.

**LOVES PARK / RIVERSIDE BRIDGE**

Mayor Lindberg stated that the Riverside Bridge (Pinch Bridge) is scheduled to be on the April-2016 letting. By next summer the bridge will be torn down and reconstructed and will approximately be closed for three (3) months.

**SOUTH MAIN STREET PROJECT**

Mayor Morrissey stated that IDOT held a public meeting on December 9, 2015 to discuss the IL-2 (South Main Street) construction work. Mayor Morrissey thanked IDOT and IDOT District #2 Deputy Director Paul Loete for their participating in providing comments and answers during the open house.

**II. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, Village of Machesney Park made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the City of Belvidere. Approved unanimously (7-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 P.M.