



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, May 26, 2016

(Boone County, Administration Bldg., Board Room – 1212 Logan Avenue, Belvidere)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Mayor Jerry Bolin, Village of Machesney Park; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mr. Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.

Pastor Herbert Johnson, RMTD arrived at 1:27p.

Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County arrived at 1:34p.

Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford arrived at 1:39p.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** All present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael P. Dunn, Jr., Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colin Belle, Michael Hren, Terrance Hall, Sydney Turner, RMAP Staff; John Donovan, FHWA; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Doug DeLille, IDOT Program & Planning; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Rich Lundin, Boone County; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Joanne Rouse, Boone County; Rick Porter, Attorney.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Chamberlain with a quorum present at 1:24 PM.

**2. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 28, 2016 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the April 28, 2016 minutes was made by the Boone County, seconded by Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**4. RMAP FY 2017 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP) – RMAP RESOLUTION 2016-6:**

FY2017 is the planning work activities for next year’s (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) Unified Work Program (UWP). The RMAP Technical Committee unanimously endorsed this resolution at their May 19, 2016 meeting. A motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2016-6 was made by the City of Loves Park, second motion was made by the Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

**5. RMAP FY 2016-2019 TIP AMENDMENT FOR FTA 5310 – RESOLUTION 2016-7:**

Mr. Dunn stated that programing of the regionally allocated FY-2015 FTA 5310 funding was easier to decide this year then it was last year. The Mobility Subcommittee unanimously recommended that the distribution of the FY-2015 FTA 5310 funding for RMTD and Boone County will all go towards para-transit vehicles.

A motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2016-7 was made by the Village of Machesney Park, second motion was made by the City of Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

## 6. RMAP 2015 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CERTIFICATION REVIEW :

Mr. Donovan, FHWA stated that the United States Department Transportation through the Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration jointly work to review the planning process of the MPO in the region with a populations over 150,000 or greater which is required by law. FHWA/FTA provides a formalized process every four (4) years which allows all agencies through go through the MPO's planning process with a fine tooth comb. RMAP Federal Certification was held in October-2015 and at that time FHWA/FTA provided a quick presentation at the time of some of the details that was reviewed and discussed at that time. Since that time the FHWA/FTA has reviewed the planning process of RMAP with more detail and has crafted the final report which has been distributed to RMAP's Chairman and RMAP staff.

Mr. Donovan stated that in this review the FHWA/FTA had a number of accommodations for the MPO, a few technical items that were touched on but overall nothing drastic. Mr. Donovan stated that there is a few recommendations edging towards policy issues as a regional organization and the FHWA/FTA would like to make sure that the MPO role stays well defined. Mr. Donovan reiterated their support for the local discussions being held regarding policy issues and works towards a regional format.

Mr. Donovan stated that the federal funds transportation planning process has been held up and the FHWA/FTA have entered into a unique arrangement to get those funds administered in FY16 and is anticipated to enter into the same arrangement for FY17.

Mr. Donovan touched on Performance Measures and how the transportation systems continue to stay underfunded at this point and the FHWA/FTA encourage the MPO to set the standard and demonstrate what performance based programs should look like.

Mr. Dunn stated that RMAP thoroughly looked at the report and that the FHWA/FTA gave RMAP a chance to make comments on the report before it was published and is very much appreciated for that cooperation. Mr. Dunn stated that he views all of the recommendations that the FHWA/FTA has provided RMAP as positive recommendations and that RMAP would fold into their upcoming strategic planning as RMAP moves forward to a regional planning council.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION ON COMMENTS FOR SURFACE TRASPORATION BOARD:

Mayor Chamberlain entertained any comments regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Mr. Dunn provided a brief summary of the discussions that has taken place regarding the GLBRR project and referred to the GLBRR letter of support that Chairman Christiansen requested RMAP draft. RMAP is ready to submit or remain silent on the issue; the due dates is June 15, 2016.

Chairman Walberg provided a few comments regarding the phases of the GLBRR project. Boone County Board has submitted a letter stating their concerns and the opposition of the GLBRR project in Boone County. Chairman Walberg stated that if the RMAP Policy Committee is submitting a letter he would like the correspondence to support Boone County Boards letter and opposition.

Mayor Morrissey asked if the RMAP staff has reviewed the plan and outlined any alternative routes?

Mr. Dunn stated that the staff has not provided any comments as it does not have enough information to make an informed decision. If RMAP was to endorse any route they would suggest the 2015 route which was favorable for a lot of people.

Chairman Christiansen stated that he's not sure if there is enough information for the RMAP Policy Committee to weigh in on what route should be taken and gave credit to Mr. Steve Ernst who was instrumental in getting the GLBRR in this region.

Mayor Chamberlain stated that he supports the City of Belvidere and Boone County in their rejection of the route and believes if it avoided Boone County the concept deserves discussion. Mayor Chamberlain asked the other Policy members to individually provide comments of what they would like to see in the letter to the Surface Transportation Board.

There was a brief discussion on the content of the letter amongst members.

Chairman Christiansen motioned the matter to be tabled, Mayor Bolin seconded, motion approved.

## 8. PROGRESS REPORTS:

STP-U AD-HOC COMMITTEE

Mr. Dunn stated that an STP-U Ad-Hoc Committee meeting was held on May 16, 2016 and discussed a modernized approach of choosing future projects. Members agreed to meet in mid-June and each organization will submit a project and the RMAP staff will look at those projects and the dollar amounts for each project and how the funds available could be distributed to benefit all members.

#### **RPC BRANDING**

Mr. Dunn stated they he is currently looking at what our branding would look like as the RPC moves forward. Mr. Dunn stated that he's also talked to a possible attorney who could assist the RPC in the issues that could potentially arise as the organization moves to an RPC.

#### **EVENTS**

##### **Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan Open Houses**

- Wednesday, June 1, 2016 from 3:00p-6:00p at the Regional Design Center
- Wednesday, June 8, 2016 from 3:00p-6:00p at Belvidere City Hall
- Thursday, June 9, 2016 from 2:00p-5:00p at Loves Park City Hall

##### **ESRI GIS PROGRAM TRAINING**

- Friday, June 17, 2016 from 8:30a-2:00p at the Regional Design Center

#### **RMAP EMPLOYEE UPDATE**

Mr. Dunn thanked Terrance Hall for his valuable work with RMAP who is now moving on with the City of Rockford.

RMAP/EDDNI welcomes Ms. Marlana Dokken, Regional Grants Program Manager who is scheduled to start Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

RMAP/EDDNI also anticipates the hiring of Ms. Anna Ma as a Metropolitan Planner who will start sometime in mid-June.

#### **WINNEBAGO PLANNING WORK**

Chairman Christiansen asked if RMAP could possibly take on some more planning work for Winnebago County since they have been very shorthanded for quite some time in this department. Mr. Dunn stated that RMAP/EDDNI would be happy to assist Winnebago County or any of the other members in this capacity.

#### **9. OTHER BUSINESS:**

None

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, Winnebago County made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Approved unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 P.M.