



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, October 29, 2015
(Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main Street, Rockford)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Mayor Jerry Bolin, Village of Machesney Park; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mr. Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford; Pastor Herbert Johnson, Jr., RMTD; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael P. Dunn, Jr., Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colin Belle, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Sydney Turner, Thomas Bona, EDDNI; John Donovan, Jon Paul Kohler, FHWA; Reggie Arkell, FTA; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Doug DeLille, IDOT Program & Planning; Rick McVinnie, RMTD; Kevin Marchek, Veronica Sarver, Mike Healy, Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Bill Hoyt, Chastain & Associates, Frank Patton, Steve Ernst, Issac Guerrero, Rockford Register Star .

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Christiansen with a quorum present at 3:02 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**
None

3. **APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2015 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**
Motion to approve the September 24, 2015 minutes was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by the City of Belvidere. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

4. **RMAP 2015 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING CERTIFICATION REVIEW:**
Mr. Dunn, Jr. introduced the FHWA and FTA review team; Mr. John Donovan, Mr. Jon Paul Kohler, FHWA; Mr. Reggie Arkell, FTA.

Mr. Donovan stated that FHWA and FTA are required by federal law to conduct these reviews every four years. Mr. Donovan provided a brief summary of the questionnaire and their preliminary report regarding the questionnaire that’s been discussed the last few days.

Mr. Donovan, FHWA provided some preliminary accommodations and recommendations are as follows:

ACCOMMODATIONS

- Vital Signs initiative.
- RMAP Mobility Subcommittee and the work they’ve done with getting social agencies engaged in the process.

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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

- LRTP / a substantial amount of effort and time has been put into updating the document. A tremendous amount of public participation was held along with innovative ideas for better public participation.
- REMI / FHWA & FTA commended Mr. Gary McIntyre, RMAP Metropolitan Manager for leading the REMI project and also commended IDOT for supporting the REMI project which could be sued in the future as best practices.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- State reimbursement of federal funds to the MPO / FHWA and FTA indicated they will have a response for this planning cycle.
- If RMAP moves to an RPC, the federal agencies will not endorse one model over another as that is a local decision but FHWA/FTA does support the move to an RPC. RMAP is encouraged to move forward with an RPC model but FHWA/FTA will want to see agreements that outline specific entities such as this body of RMAP as the Federal MPO and will be responsible for making all transportation decisions.
- The federal government will be releasing their rule on performance measurements and there are four important topics to keep in mind:
 - Continue to work closely with the State.
 - Continue to work closely with the transit providers.
 - Find out what's going to work in this region in the context of the statewide initiatives that are going on.
 - Close cooperation among the planning partners.

Mr. Arkell, FTA provided some preliminary accommodations and recommendations as follows:

- Vital Signs initiative was a tremendous effort.
- RMAP should start looking at scenario planning in the future in the next update of the LRTP.
- Re-evaluate its procedure for selecting and rating major capital investment projects in the metropolitan transportation plan. The methodology should be more transparently demonstrate inclusion of the congestion management process as part of the decision.
- Environmental Justice (EJ) it is recommended that RMAP improve its EJ benefits and burden analysis on the impacts of land transportation projects to minorities and low income population.
- Bicycle & Pedestrian: encouraging RMAP to expand its collection of data on non-motorized travel to improve decision making.
- TIP, Public Participation plan and interagency agreements that RMTD & RMAP coordinate to ensure that there are statements in these three planning documents indicating that the TIP is being used to satisfy the section 5307 program projects requirement for public notice and participating. Basically adding a sentence to these documents and is a simple fix.
- Commuter Rail and LRTP / recommending that they be a little more transparent as to the fiscal constraints for these projects.
- Obligated Projects / recommends that at least have a simplified chart of those obligated projects to ensure that it shows the year the projects were awarded with grants and any funding leftover in the TIP for any obligated monies.

Mr. Donovan stated that there are no corrective actions and are very pleased in the direction that RMAP is moving towards.

5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

Mr. Dunn reported that RMAP was informed by IDOT this morning that there is a tentative agreement to pass planning funds from FHWA to RMAP's fiscal agent the City of Rockford; which is a three way contract with IDOT.

Mr. Dunn reported that the RMAP/EDDNI integration has taken steps forward. EDDNI staff are non on RMAP's payroll which started on Monday, October 26, 2015.

6. OTHER BUSINESS

GREAT LAKES BASIN RAILROAD PROJECT

Mr. Frank Patton, Managing Partner at Great Lakes Basin and Steve Ernst provided a brief overview regarding the Great Lakes Basin Railroad and the project that their looking at to build. Mr. Patton stated that they are not asking for any federal or state funding and that this project is privately funded.

IDOT MYP AND STATEWIDE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN OPEN HOUSE

Ms. Tobin announced that IDOT is holding open house tonight from 4:00-6:00p: review of IDOT Multi-Year Program (MYP) and the Illinois Statewide Public Transportation Plan. The open house is held in the Regional Design Center, Rockford.

7. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, Village of Machesney Park made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the City of Loves Park. Approved unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 3:59 P.M.