



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

NOTICE OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING for ROCKFORD URBAN AND METROPOLITAN AREA

Notice is hereby given that the Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP), the federally-designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Rockford Urban and Metropolitan area, is seeking public comment on the transportation planning process and the development of the following documents. RMAP coordinates publicly funded transportation planning and improvements among the various jurisdictions in Winnebago, Boone and Ogle Counties. All documents are available for viewing electronically at <http://www.rmapil.org> or at the RMAP offices located at 313 N. Main Street, Rockford, Illinois.

- 1. RMAP FY2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):** This document will identify and prioritize all major transportation and public transit improvements scheduled for implementation in the RMAP Metropolitan Area in the next four fiscal years (actual dates - July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2020). The TIP lists, categorizes, and sets priorities for transportation improvements and assures they are financially feasible, as well as coordinated with each other and with other governmental improvements and private developments. The document is under development and will be made available for comment when a draft is prepared. Public comments will be accepted anytime. Pending recommendation by the Technical Committee at their July 21, 2016 meeting, the final TIP will be on the Policy Committee agenda for possible approval at their July 28, 2016. When a draft is prepared, the document can either be viewed electronically at <http://www.rmapil.org> or at the RMAP offices located at 313 N Main St.
- 2. TRANSPORTATION 2040 TOMORROW: A LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN FOR THE ROCKFORD REGION (LRTP).** The LRTP discusses, plans, and assigns priority for all major transportation systems improvements for the Metropolitan Area over the next 20 to 30 years. On July 30th, 2015 RMAP Policy Committee adopted the current LRTP. Federal transportation regulations mandate an update of this document be done once every 5 years. Accordingly, RMAP staff are now maintaining and revising the content of the document to reflect the current status of transportation planning in the area along with revising future goals and expectations that might be out of date since the last year's full update was adopted. One of the most important changes to the current LRTP is the incorporation of further MAP-21 guidelines and related information. As the FAST-Act was signed into law on December 4th, 2015, amendments to the LRTP pertaining to subsequent regulations from the FAST Act will be incorporated accordingly into the LRTP.
- 3. RMAP COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP):** The HSTP is a locally developed plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, older adults, and people with low incomes. The purpose of the Human Services Transportation Plan is to assess the needs and concerns of public transit users in the Metropolitan Planning Area and to develop strategies that will address and remedy these concerns. The overall goal of the plan is to increase the efficiency of services provided to public transit dependent populations (individuals with disabilities, persons with low income and elderly individuals). The Human Services Transportation Plan is also a prerequisite, as stipulated by MAP-21 to receiving any Federal Transit Administration funding under the 5310 (Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities), which also includes the former section 5317 (New Freedom) program; as well as the former 5316 (Job Access and Reverse Commute) program, which is now a part of sections 5307 (urban) or 5311 (rural) funding programs. During Fiscal Year 2017, RMAP staff will engage the Mobility Subcommittee in an update to the HSTP, taking into account developments since the plan's release and updating priorities of the future of transit needs for the region.
- 4. RMAP UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):** The UWP specifies the transportation planning work and budget over the RMAP fiscal year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017). RMAP staff is currently in the process of crafting the 2017 UWP, and a draft thereof will be available on the RMAP website, <http://www.rmapil.org/documents/federally-required/> as well as at the

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Region 2

RMAP offices. A draft of the UWP is scheduled to be available by March 17th, 2016. The UWP is scheduled to be adopted at the May 26, 2016 Policy Committee meeting.

5. RMAP PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN (PPP): The RMAP PPP defines the process that seeks public participation, gives public notice, and holds for review any documentation or actions taken in the RMAP transportation planning process. In accordance with this plan, RMAP is notifying the general public that the PPP will be updated within this fiscal year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) to comply with federal regulation and to updated this document based upon public comments received. The current iteration of the PPP can be viewed at http://www.rmapil.org/assets/documents/final_ppp.pdf and at the RMAP office.

6. RMAP TITLE VI AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ): Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 requires that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjects to discrimination under any program or activity for which RMAP receives federal financial assistance. Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898 further assures that RMAP will make efforts to prevent discrimination through the impacts of RMAP programs and policies on low-income populations. In accordance with federal regulations RMAP is notifying the general public that the Title VI Plan may be updated in FY 2017 (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) to comply with new federal guidelines. The most recent Title VI and EJ document was adopted on 9/24/2015 and can be found on the RMAP website at http://www.rmapil.org/assets/documents/rmap_titlevi_program_final_sept_2015.pdf or at the RMAP offices.

7. RMAP BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN STUDY: RMAP staff will complete updates to the region's bicycle and pedestrian study in FY2017 which will be in the form of data collection, GIS data creation, and research on new best practices and findings. The main purpose of this Study is to identify and catalog a region-wide system of bicycle and pedestrian facilities (bike lanes / bike routes), and to connect with existing and planned shared-use path facilities, existing and planned public transportation services, promote active transportation and provide model development regulations and ordinances to encourage bicycle and pedestrian friendly growth in the RMAP area. The first plan was completed and adopted in 2008 and can be found on the RMAP website at http://www.rmapil.org/assets/documents/bike_ped_plan.pdf.

Public comments are welcomed on all the above work at all RMAP meetings or by contacting RMAP by telephoning, e-mailing or writing. Comments will be accepted at any time. RMAP Technical Committee meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month and the Policy Committee meetings on the following Thursday. The exact meeting dates, times, and locations are finalized and announced at least a week in advance. Persons seeking more information on these meetings, the above mentioned studies or any other information related to RMAP should view the material on the web site at <http://www.rmapil.org> or contact RMAP Staff:

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Date of notice: March 16, 2016