

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES Thursday, September 17, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Tyler Nelson, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Al Salas, City of Loves Park Community Development; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development; Chris Dornbush, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; Mike Weber, RRWRD; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Machesney Park, Village of Cherry Valley, Belvidere/Boone County Planning and Economic Development Department, City of Belvidere, Village of Roscoe, Village of Winnebago, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County, Rockford Park District,

OTHERS PRESENT: Michael P. Dunn, Jr., Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colin Belle, RMAP Staff; John Donovan, FHWA; Doug Delille, IDOT Urban Planning Programming, Thomas Bona, EDDNI; Scott Kullerstrand, IDOT District #2; Lew Moon, Cottonwood Airport; Tony Harrolle, Cottonwood Airport

1. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present Mr. Diipla called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 23rd, 2015 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the July 23 Technical Committee minutes. Motion made to approve by Mr. Dave Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport, seconded by Mr. Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development. Motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

None.

4. AGENCY REPORTS:

4.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Long reported that US-20 over Rock River is on schedule to be all lanes open by end of season, painting will occur next season.

IL-173 to Rock Cut paving west lanes during September, completed by end of season, finish work next season.

IL-2 at Roscoe Rd. workers are laying pavement now and will have all lanes open by end of season.

S. Main St. is on hold because of utility poles in the way, presently working on a resolution to the utility conflict.

North portion of S. Main pavement is done from railroad tracks north this season, the remainder will take place during the next year's construction season.

I-39 Bridge over Kishwaukee should start in October, and no lane closures are scheduled.

IL-251 project Kishwaukee to 9th is complete.

I-39 Baxter to I-88 will continue until end of October, seal up and work next year. Not working on weekends.

Ogle County project IL-72 west of Davis Junction, bridge over railroad, should complete stage 2 by end of October.

Boone County IL-76 complete minus punch list items and flashing beacons. Full completion by end of season.

Bridge cleaning US-20 over Kishwaukee River near Mill is complete.

4.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that Bell School and State is under contract, and that a preconstruction meeting has now taken place. Utility work is now beginning, and the project starts in October.

The Baxter Rd./I-39 project for the well/wellhouse is going to bid.

Bell School/Guilford Intersection Enhancements will be complete by end of September for traffic signal equipment.

Design work continues as before.

Perryville over UP letting may not be ready at January due to bat survey for habitats. Backlog extensive, may cause delays.

4.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Nelson reported that the new roundabout at Airport/Kishwaukee is open. Pushing to get Airport Drive pavement complete by the end of the year, finish up some items next year.

Jefferson St. Bridge is now closed, progress continues, repair work proceeding, and should be completed on or before November 15.

S. Alpine Box culvert shifting to southbound lanes next week, traffic on finished northbound lanes, should be done early November.

S Main 2 way conversion from Cedar to Chestnut is moving along, should wrap up in November.

Streetscape projects downtown are now completed.

Resurfacing in neighborhoods to continue through October.

Harrison Avenue is targeted for a November letting.

4.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Jacobson reported that they opened the south bound lanes at Alpine south of Windsor.

The north bound lanes will be closed until the project is completed which is anticipated for mid-August.

Interstate Boulevard project has been awarded.

City wide resurfacing project has been awarded.

The Willow Creek Path ITEP project was invoiced by DNR for review, which is not a practice that has happened to the City before. Mr. Jacobson wanted to make the other committee members aware this was occurring.

4.05 Village of Machesney Park:

Not present.

4.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Mr. Lindberg reported that the repaved N/S Runway done last year has been shown to have issues and will be closing for 19 days to replace pavement starting next week.

The MRO is progressing well, they are pouring footings this week, steel for the superstructure is on site and being assembled and erected throughout October.

Rock Valley College has started classes at the airport. The arrangement and partnership is working well. There is a waiting list of nearly a year.

Mr. Dunn noted the ribbon cutting yesterday with new students. AAR ready to take its first round of graduates.

Mr. Lindberg also reported on the new service to Newark and Ft. Collins. Numbers for those services are progressing well right now.

4.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

No report.

4.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

No report. Mr. Jacobson introduced Mr. Al Salas to the Technical Committee.

4.09 Village of Cherry Valley:

Not present.

4.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department:

No report.

4.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Mr. Dornbush reported that Winnebago County is upgrading building codes to the ICC 2015 Building Codes upgrade, finishing up review process, hoping to get that through board approval and implementing Jan 1 target date.

4.12 Belvidere/Boone County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Not present.

4.13 Boone County Highway Department:

Mr. Lundin reported that the County Highway Department's work for the season was complete as of 1:30pm the previous day.

4.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:

Not present.

4.15 Village of Roscoe:

Not present.

4.16 Village of Winnebago:

Not present.

4.17 Rock River Water Reclamation District:

No report.

4.18 Forest Preserves of Winnebago County:

Not present.

4.19 Boone County Conservation District:

Mr. Kane reported that they are working with McHenry County DOT on a wetland/stormwater mitigation bridge project east of the county line. They have an IGA performing plan preparation, corps of engineers' permits, and will be performing mitigation at conservation area in the watershed. Getting habitat work accomplished at a good site, done above standards of corps of engineers and getting compensated to do the work. It is a challenging experience, but once gotten into the process, it works very well. Did mitigation on bat roosting trees, removed trees pre-migration of bats to remove conflict. First time in project like this, good way to resolve the process.

4.20 Rockford Park District:

Not present.

4.21 Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:

No report.

4.22 Village of Poplar Grove:

Not present.

4.23 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

4.24 Illinois Tollway:

Not present.

4.25 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

4.26 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Mr. Delille reported that the Fall Planning Conference in St. Charles Oct. 14-16. Sept. 22 is last day for reservations at the conference rate. Sept. 30 is the last day to register for conference. Budget concerns may cause issues, but proceeding forward with the conference.

4.27 Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

4.28 Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

4.29 State Line Area Transportation Study:

Not present.

4.30 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:

Mr. Donovan reported that the continuing resolution expires in a little more than a month. Expect another continuing resolution, as the current funds get through January at the moment so there is no cost to a new one. Prospects for long term reauthorization are currently bleak, not expected in next month.

4.31 Economic Development District of Northern Illinois (EDDNI):

Mr. Bona reported that the CEDS process is moving along, and they have a tactical plan created. Key Infrastructure projects called out: RFD as economic engine for the region; AAR project/Freight capacity; development around airport, need for upgrades to rail in the region, freight; Tollway and I-39, leveraging industrial activity at the interchanges;

mention of RMAP/CMAP/SLATS plans that may overlap boundaries and how to work together. RMAP, Mr. Dunn, and Mr. Jacobson are helping review at this time. Mr. Bona offers to other committee members opportunity to review.

4.32 Stateline Mass Transit District:

Not present.

4.33 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning:

Mr. Diipla introduced the discussion on left turn flashing yellow arrows. Scott Kullerstrand is present from IDOT to answer questions about implementation/review. RMAP Policy approved RMAP staff pursuing research into this project. Staff has examined a number of reports, including an Illinois Center for Transportation study reviewing implementation of flashing yellow arrows in Peoria, which also included discussion of drivers' comprehension as well. MnDOT in June 2015 released a Development of Guidelines regarding these issues, including time of day and traffic flows when signal could be implemented. TRB in 2003 released Report 493, nationwide analysis of what had been done at that time. It is a comprehensive study of various types of controls that can be put into place.

Mr. Diipla asked Mr. Kullerstrand to discuss the challenges and process IDOT is involved with regarding these signals. Mr. Kullerstrand responded that he had checked the progress in IL. Peoria/Springfield have found driver comprehension is natural/intuitive. Response tends to be better than the five ball signal heads. Biggest advantage is the overhead signal in front of the left turn lane is distinct, only for the left turn driver. There is the capability for a protected phase, then flashing in a permissive phase. This approach is used in other states. North Main by Riverside has a possibility for this. The signal has all arrows on a four section head. The top is solid red, second is solid yellow, third is the flashing yellow, and the fourth is solid green. If current signals are to be switched out for these, IDOT will do an isolated signal or several intersections in a row. Newer equipment needs some newer components.

Mr. Diipla asked about the public education component best practices? What could be replicated? Mr. Kullerstrand said that some press, newspaper, and youtube videos were used to describe and demonstrate how the flashing yellow arrow signal head works. Signage at signals "left turn yield on flashing arrow" is not mandatory, but still planned for implementation. This would only be implemented where there are currently five section signal heads. There is still a delay between signals before oncoming green when signal changes.

Mr. Nelson said that a main concern of Traffic Engineer for Rockford is whether this signal implementation is planned to be on the drivers' tests, in drivers' education curriculum, and whether it is done in other countries? Mr. Kullerstrand responded that he is not sure about internationally. It is not appropriate to have the 5 ball signals in left turn lane. IDOT is set up to begin to convert, but it would take years. To retrofit existing 4 light signals, cost is about \$20,000 per intersection. Additional cost would be required to bring lights up to LED if they are older. Probably looking at this option on new signals/corridors. Peoria district fully converted in about 2 years, but were highly aggressive. These are common in Wisconsin and Wyoming. This implementation replaces the green ball in turn lane, safety is better.

Mr. Vlk asked if the 4 head configuration is standardizing. As region should we adopt a system with the same configuration? Mr. Kullerstrand said that Springfield suggests yes. Mr. Vlk said that there is no MUTCD directed verbiage on the sign. Suggests that region should adopt uniform signage. Mr. Kullerstrand said that "Left turn yield on [graphic of flashing arrow]" is a common sign that appears to be easily understood by motorists. He will get a copy of it to RMAP staff, RMAP will distribute it.

Mr. Diipla asked about studies done to prioritize the locations locally. Mr. Kullerstrand said he was unsure of criteria at this time. The goal is to phase out five section signal heads, mostly at newer intersections. Mr. Vlk asked what thought has been given to off-peak hours. Would these signals go to a permitted left turn movement? Mr. Kullerstrand replied that if properly designed with enough actuation, the traffic at such intersections should not be too much issue. If the speed limit of those roads is 45 or greater, or if crossing through opposing lanes, or with dual lefts, IDOT would lean toward protected only left turns. Mr. Long noted that one of the documents Mr. Diipla referenced earlier discussed these issues. Mr. Diipla noted that he would make those documents available to the committee. The discussion regarding flashing yellow arrows concluded.

Mr. Diipla noted that RMAP will be undergoing its joint Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration Certification Review on October 28 and 29. He noted that this is the standard four year MPO TMA (200,000 population plus) certification process from USDOT to ensure compliance with current transportation law, and that all MPO documents are in compliance with federal regulations, circulars and guidance. October 28th will be a review session, and the 29th will finish any review required and provide an overview of the analysis to the RMAP Policy Committee, which will be held at 3:00 PM at the Regional Center for Planning and Design, 315 N. Main St., Rockford, IL. The agenda, when finalized, will be forwarded to Technical Committee members, who are welcomed to attend. Mr. Long added that IDOT would be holding a public meeting regarding their Multi-Year Program after the conclusion of the Policy Committee meeting as well.

Mr. Hren reported the following Administrative Modifications:

- IDOT Project #1-15-2; US 20 Business 0.3 and 0.4 miles east of Meridian Rd. culvert work.
- BCHD Project #13-15-2; Traffic Sign Upgrade Program for Boone County.

Both of the above projects are now in Advanced Construction status.

Mr. Hren stated that RMAP staff was working on the completion of the Federal List of Obligated Projects document and that it would be finalized by the end of the month and made available via the RMAP website.

Mr. Belle discussed the printing for Greenways map; a selection for the company has been made. The Greenways written document will be printed in house, and done in phases. Mr. Belle asked committee to consider how many physical copies will be needed for their agencies. Rough drafts will be sent out of document next week. GIS layers will be available on WINGIS as well when complete. A link to rough draft will be on website, and comments are welcomed.

Mr. Dunn noted that he is working on RPC initiatives and welcomes questions from the committee and its members.

5. RMAP FY 2016-FY 2019 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

Mr. Diipla stated that this is the final draft of the fiscal year 2016-2019 TIP. It was posted on the RMAP website for review on August 13 and went through a review period until September 11. An open house was held on August 21st as well seeking input. Some updates have been made to the ISTHA projects and transit funding allocations since the original draft, as well as the inclusion of the public comments and sign-in sheets from the public meeting. Mr. Long asked about the public meeting's attendance. Mr. Diipla stated that it was after a well-attended meeting with Representative Cabello held at the Design Center, many eyes were on the document, and that staff feels the event went well. Mr. Dunn explained the difference between this document and the Better Roads document. There was no further question or comment on the matter.

Mr. Diipla entertained a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2015-10. A motion was made by Mr. Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; it was seconded by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

6. RMAP TITLE VI & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EJ) CONSIDERATIONS AND LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY (LEP) PLAN:

Mr. Diipla stated that these updated plans bring RMAP documentation into compliance with FTA circulars. Updates to these documents are being made to ensure federal dollars are equitably distributed among minority populations and low-income populations. The documents go through procedures to ensure the process is open to all regardless of socio-economic or other considerations. Some new maps are contained within the document. State and Federal transportation funds appear to be equitably distributed. Roughly 55% of dollars in minority areas, 64% in or near block groups with 15% population in poverty. No public comment or corrections have been made to the documents during the public comment period. There was no further question or comment on the matter by the Technical Committee.

Mr. Diipla entertained a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2015-11. A motion was made by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development; it was seconded by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway Department. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS:

No further reports.

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway Department and seconded by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Meeting adjourned at 11:07 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.