MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 10:00 am
Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N. Wyman St. Suite 100, Rockford, Illinois 61101

1) Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by Tim Verbeke at 10:00 am.

2) Roll Call
Members Present: Justin Krohn, Boone County Highway Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Shannon Messenger, City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Chris Baer, Four Rivers Sanitary District; Doug Delille, IDOT District 2; Paula Hughes, Rockford Mass Transit District; Brandon Boggs, Village of Roscoe; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County, Community Development; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Members Absent: Boone County, Planning Department; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; Rockford Park District; City of Machesney Park, Community Developments; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago.

Other Present: Collin Belle, City of Rockford Community Development; Tim Hinkens, City of Rockford Public Works; Jon Paul Diipla, FHWA, Brandon Rucker, Clara Romeo, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Vanessa Mauries and Chloe Barnes of Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment
No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:
a) National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) Reauthorization Letter to Congress- Tim Verbeke described the memo developed and introduced by NARC to be sent to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, advocating policy priorities to help draft and develop the next surface transportation legislation.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the May 1, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 5/1/2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department, motioned, seconded by Mr. Messinger, City of Loves Park Public Works Department. With no discussion, motion passed by unanimous vote.

b) Amendment to the FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program (Resolution 2025-12)
Mr. Verbeke explained that there was a $200k surplus of funds from UWP FY25 budget that can be carried over and used up until 12/31/2025. Projects that can be carried over include the Housing Corridor Study, the Water Quality Study and the upcoming Southwest Rockford Traffic study, focusing on the area around Levings Park. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to approve the amendment, motion provided by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department and seconded by Mr. Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.

c) Adoption of the 2050+ Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Rockford Region (Resolution 2025-13)
Mr. Verbeke explained that this document is a federally required document, that is updated every 3 years to address long-range transportation needs in the region. This document has been reviewed and discussed in previous meetings, so Mr. Verbeke didn't go into deep detail. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to adopt. Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development motioned, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.

d) Adoption of 2025 Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for the Rockford Region (Resolution 2025-14) Mr. Rucker explained that the Human Services Transportation Plan is also a federally required document that addresses the unique transportation needs of seniors and individuals with disabilities. The plan describes current transportation available, location data and service changes since the last published document, and described goals and strategies for the region. The plan went out for public comment from May 5-June 2, where one comment suggested keeping in mind the aging population and its impact on transit. With no questions, Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to adopt. Ms. Hughes, Rockford Mass Transit District, motioned, seconded by Mr. Messinger, City of Loves Park. Mr. Verbeke then called for a vote. Motion **passed** unanimously voice vote.

e) Adoption of the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Plan (Resolution 2025-15) Mr. Larsen explained that the Transportation Improvement Plan is also a federally required document that coordinates regional infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects, and is updated yearly to map out the next 3 years of projects and funding. This year's TIP has 146 projects listed, costing approximately $844 million, up about $100 million from the previous year. 2/3 of the projects listed fall into the preservation category. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to adopt. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development. Motion **passed** with unanimous voice vote.

f) Adoption of the Title VI Considerations for the Rockford Metropolitan Planning Organization (Resolution 2025-16) Mr. Larsen explained that this document has been developed to comply with federal requirements, and that it was last updated in 2020. The document sets policy and procedures to ensure that those groups listed in the Civil Rights Act of 1964 are represented and that processes are in place to ensure equitable and fair access to the services of the organization. The document was updated based on current legislation and provides more statistical coordination which helps inform projects related to certain populations. With no questions, Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to adopt. Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works Department motioned, seconded by Mr. Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development. Mr. Verbeke called for a vote, motion **passed** with unanimous voice vote.

Staff Reports-

Mr. Verbeke announced the opening of applications for the Safe Routes to School program on August 1, 2025. He also indicated that the NOFO for Safe Streets for all would also be going out at the end of the summer, early fall. He then talked about attending the NARC conference in Seattle, two weeks ago, and that staff came away from it with a positive experience.

6) Agency Reports

a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Resurfacing project is ¾ of the way complete and is on schedule to be complete at the end of June. The Canadian Pacific Rail bridge replacement is also scheduled for next year.

b.) **Boone County Conservation District:** BCCD received $2.7 million ITEP award to replace 5 bridges, with 7 additional bridges needing replacement. Once complete all structures between Rt. 76 and the McHenry/Boone County line will be less than 10 years old.

c.) **Boone County Transit:** Architect Design has gone to the board for approval.

d.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report

e.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a

f.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a

g.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:** FH project, Watermain by the middle school is wrapping up and road resurfacing will be wrapping up soon.

h.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** No Report

i.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** Whitman St. project is underway and progressing, as well as the 11th Street project. The Ironman Triathlon is this weekend which will result in road closures and detours.

j.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District** Sewer project has been awarded and work will begin near the Alpine/Harrison intersection, which will result in improved service impacts to Cherry Valley and parts east. The Mainline project will be wrapping up in August, and service repairs are scheduled to begin for City of Rockford and Machesney Park by the end of the month.

k.) **IDOT, District 2**: No Report

l.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report

m.) **Rockford Park District:** No Report

n.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report

o.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report

p.) **Village of Roscoe:** 2025 Residential Resurface project has had it's bid opening.

q.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report

r.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Kishwaukee project and Linden Rd/S. Mulford project are complete. SS4A application will be submitted for the Ralston Rd./Rt 251 area. HSIP project is underway with Forest Hills/Pleasant Valley the area of focus. The Riverside Project is continuing to pursue Right-of Way Acquisition, and the Owen Center Rd. project has begun the Right-of-Way Acquisition process.

s.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a

t.) **FHWA, IL Division**: No Report

u.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** No changes to report.

v.) **IL Tollway:** Bridge repair projects on I-90 will take place this summer effecting Rockton/Belvidere Rd. Spring Creek/Harlem/Rote Rd. Tentative schedule has been released with repairs taking between 4-6 weeks.

7) Other Business

Mr. Molina asked for an update on the State of the Trails project. Mr. Larsen explained that phase 1 data collection has been completed, and the data is being process with the help of Iowa State University staff who have experience with this kind of project. Images have also been uploaded to Google Street View of the completed routes. Phase two

will begin, moving to those paths east of the river, including the Perryville Path and its arteries, as well as the Willow Creek Path.

Mr. Krohn asked if there was a scoring criterion update for eligible project funding. Mr. Verbeke explained that the Policy committee has approved the transition to a 2-year funding cycle, and that the criteria will be discussed in the coming months.

8) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned; seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Dept. A unanimous vote to adjourn at 10:28 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____