



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2026 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 10:01 am.

2) Roll Call

Members Present: Justin Krohn, Boone County Highway Department; Jessica Roberts, Boone County, Planning Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works Department; Patricia Diduch, City of Byron; Shannon Messenger, City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Matt Campbell, Four Rivers Sanitation District; Faith Duncan, IDOT District 2; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development; Mitch Hilden, Village of Machesney Park Public Works Department; Brandon Boggs, Village of Roscoe ; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Erin Marshall, Boone County Transit; Jon Paul Diipla, FHWA, IL Division (zoom); Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Planning and Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway

Members Absent: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County, Community Development; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Chloe Barnes, John Mac, Keagan Carlson, Ellie Sander, Lyzette Gomez, Hallela Wagner, Nammratha Palli, and Ava Divizio of Region 1 Planning Council.

Note: Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District has requested to be removed as a member of the MPO Technical Committee-due to time restrictions.

3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:

a) Main Street Corridor Study-Mr. Verbeke explained that, at the request of City of Rockford, R1 initiated a corridor study along Main Street from Park to Bauer Parkway. The study, conducted by ESI consultant, looked at the corridor parcel-by-parcel, focusing on transit, housing, walkability, etc. ESI then created a feasibility analysis for housing development opportunities. Strategies and a housing toolkit were shared with the City of Rockford. A committee member asked if the toolkit would be made available to other municipalities. Mr. Verbeke indicated that the toolkit was tailored specifically to the study area.

- b) **SW Rockford Parks Traffic Study-**
- c) Regional Water Quality Study-
- d) Regional Housing Coordination Plan

5) Action Items:

- a) Approval of the January 22, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 1/22/2026 meeting minutes. A minor correction was indicated and acknowledged. Ms. Diduch, City of Byron motioned, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- b) Amendment to the FY2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2026-02). Jon Mac explained that 4 new projects are being proposed to be added to the TIP (see meeting packet) Mr. Verbeke called for a motion. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned, seconded by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

6) Staff Reports-

- Village of Roscoe-BUILD Grant application-staff is currently wrapping up work on their work assisting the Village of Roscoe with the BUILD Grant application focusing on Love Rd.
- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant Execution- R1 has received final executed agreement from NHTSA for a bicycle and Pedestrian Safety grant that will allow staff to work with local school systems to assess school zones and surrounding areas. It will look at how primarily elementary students get to and from school. Staff are currently working with Byron, Harlem, North Boone and Belvidere. Other school systems are encouraged to reach out if interested.
- National Speaking Engagements- Michael Dunn and Tim Verbeke will be participating in several national speaking opportunities over the coming weeks. Both will be traveling to Fort Lauderdale to present on the Livable Communities Initiatives, the success of Round 1: Keith Creek Neighborhood and the process of Round 2: The Midtown Neighborhood. In the coming weeks Michael Dunn will travel to Washington D.C. to work on the Transportation Reauthorization and BASICS Act. Tim Verbeke will be traveling to Washington D.C. in March to participate in the AMPO Technical Committee Meeting.
- STBG/CR-Projects are currently open for public comment which closes at the end of February. (So far, the majority of comments received have been positive. Final approvals will be voted on by the Technical and Policy committee in March.

6) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Received approval for the North Boone Bridge project, but still waiting on ROW acquisition for 3 other projects.
- b.) **Boone County Planning Department:** n/a
- c.) **Boone County Conservation District:**
- d.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
- e.) **City of Byron:** Had bid opening for Waste Water Plant project, with lowest bid coming in \$1 million under budget.
- f.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report
- g.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
- h.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a

- i.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:**
- j.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** Comprehensive Plan is currently open for public comment.
- k.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** RAISE Grant-Chestnut Complete waiting on Feds for approval. Public meetings about the right sizing Auburn St. project taking place in near future.
- l.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** No Report
- m.) **IDOT, District 2:** Continue to wait on funding targets.
- n.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report
- o.) **Rockford Park District:** Expressed thanks over the South West Traffic study, and is hoping to pivot funds to be able to conduct an additional study during a highly attended event.
- p.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report
- q.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- r.) **Village of Roscoe:** working with R1 on BUILD Grant
- s.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
- t.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** STBG- Riverside Project, working on acquiring right of way; Looking at an April letting for Roscoe Rd bridge, closed until November. Madigan Creek/319 IPA project having public meeting at the public library on March 9, 2026, the South Perryville meeting will be on March 11, 2026 at the public library. Beginning next week, city will be enforcing posting for patching work being done on roadways.
- u.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** Soil Erosion workshop happening on 2/26/26
- v.) **FHWA, IL Division:** No Report
- w.) **IDOT,** Safe Routes to School award will be announced later this spring. August-ITEP-dates announced for conferences. Meeting Jun 17, 2026 at Dixon High School.
- x.) **Illinois Tollway:**

Other Business:

Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Diduch, City of Byron motioned; seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Dept. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:35 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the MPO Technical Committee on 3/19/2026