



## MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2024 10:00 am

Region 1 Planning Council  
127 N. Wyman St., Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Turner at 10:00 am.

#### 2. Roll Call

- 3. Members Present:** Boone County Conservation District; City of Belvidere - Public Works Department; City of Loves Park - Community Development Department; City of Loves Park – Public Works Department; City of Rockford - Community Development Department; City of Rockford – Public Works Department; Illinois Department of Transportation – District 2; Rockford Mass Transit District; Village of Machesney Park - Community Development Department; Winnebago County - Community and Economic Development Department; Winnebago County – Highway Department; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District

Four Rivers Sanitary District arrived at 10:02 am. Boone County Highway Department arrived at 10:07 am.

**Members Absent:** Boone County – Planning Department; Chicago-Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere – Planning Department; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park – Public Works Department; Village of Roscoe; Village of Winnebago

**Others Present:** Todd Schmidt, FHWA Illinois Division; Doug DeLille, Illinois Department of Transportation – Office of Urban Planning and Programming; Henry Guerriero, Illinois Tollway; Tim Hinkens and Colin Belle, City of Rockford; Amanda Colver, Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Jon Paul Diipla, Makenzee Wilcox, Melisa Ribikawskis, Nathan Larsen, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

#### 4. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a. MPO Programming Recommendations

Ms. Turner lead a discussion on recommendations for the programming of MPO-attributable transportation funding. These recommendations are aimed at streamlining programming process, establishing set guidelines, and addressing a growing concern of a lapsing or recession of unobligated funds. Recommendations included (1) Conducting a single annual call for projects for all programming; (2) Establish standard project evaluation process; (3) Establish funding caps for MPO-attributable federal funds; (4) Set aside a percentage of all MPO-attributable funding for the implementation of the Livable Communities Initiative; (5) Formalize the prioritization of shovel-ready projects; and (6) Institute a project monitoring system. Ms. Turner noted that a STBG Ad Hoc committee would be convened to discuss a number of the recommendations presented.

A discussion was held on the role of the Alternative Transportation Selection Committee and Community Advisory Forum under Recommendation #1. Under Recommendation #2, a comment was made about the

eligibility of bridge projects under STBG. Questions were asked about the current unobligated funds balance of STBG. Comments were made on the length of time that it takes PDRs to be approved by the state. Discussion also was held on the programming of future funds in the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

**b. Online Engagement Platform**

Ms. Turner presented the new online engagement platform, called Engage R1. Last Fall, Region 1 Planning Council went out for the procurement of an online engagement platform. The goal of the platform was to improve transparency and communication regarding planning activities. The MPO will create project pages for all active projects. The pages will have an overview of the project, a timeline/process, and when applicable an engagement activity, such as a survey. The website was launched in December.

Ms. Turner demonstrated how to navigate the Engage R1 website and project pages.

**6. Action Items**

**a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of October 19, 2023**

Ms. Turner entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the October 19, 2023 MPO Technical Committee.

Motion Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park-Community Development, and seconded Mr. Carter, City of Rockford-Public Work Department, by to approve the October 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**b. Amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2024-01)**

Ms. Ribikawskis reported that the MPO had received several amendment requests for the addition of two new projects and a new project phase into the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. These projects included:

- 1-23-14: IL-2, 0.2 mi S of Clifton Avenue to Pond Street in Rockford (Update in breakout costs)
- 1-24-5: Bridge Deck Sealing, Districtwide (New project)
- 1-24-7: IL-76 Bridge Painting, Beaver Creek 2.5 mi south of IL-173 (New project)
- 13-24-1: Townhall Road Extension, from Townhall Road/State Street and IL-76/Caledonia Road (New project)

Motion by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford-Public Work Department, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County - Highway Department with the proposed change. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**c. Amendment to the Federally-Required Performance Management Targets (Resolution 2024-02)**

Mr. Diipla presented the annual safety targets (PM1) for the federally-required performance management and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP). The MPO is proposing to adopt the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) targets for the five safety performance measure. Two percent (2%) annual reduction criteria for the number of fatalities, rate of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and number of non-motorized fatalities. Ordinary least squares regression reduction for the number of serious injuries, rate of serious injuries per 100 million VMT, and non-motorized serious injuries. Rockford Mass Transit District has adopted the targets established in their Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP).

Motion by Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department, seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County - Highway Department. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**d. Adoption of the Complete Streets Policy for the Rockford Region (Resolution 2024-03)**

Ms. Ribikawskis presented the Complete Streets Policy for the Rockford Region. The Policy will be used for the programming of MPO-attributable federal funding. It was developed based on best practices with input from an ad hoc advisory committee.

Motion by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford-Public Work Department, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County, Highway Department with the proposed change.

Discussion was held on the alignment of the region's policy with the State of Illinois' Complete Streets Policy.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 7. Staff Reports

### a. SPR Applications

Mr. Larsen reported that the MPO is working on a joint application for an asset condition report for the paths and trails in the region. Partners on the application included Winnebago County Highway Department, Rockford Park District, Belvidere Park District, and the Boone County Conservation District. Staff have been looking at best practice and have reached out to agencies in Iowa and Massachusetts regarding similar efforts. Research will continue over the next month.

Ms. Wilcox reported that the MPO is also working on an application to complete a Resiliency Improvement Plan for the region. This would be a continuation of Transportation Resiliency Study completed by the MPO last year. This is a voluntary plan under the PROTECT grant that would reduce the local match requirements of the grant.

### b. Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Mr. Rucker reported on the data collection and analysis that staff have completed as a part of the SS4A projects. Data analysis has included the creation data tables and trees, GIS spatial analysis, and development of data visualizations. The analysis has taken a look at the contributing factors and safety emphasis areas. Staff has also been working on a request for proposals (RFP) for video analytics. The video analytics will assist in developing mitigation strategies at high crash intersections or intersections with other safety concerns.

Mr. Diipala noted that the RFP would be released in early- to mid-February. A traffic safety workshop will be held February 1 from 3:00-4:30pm at the RMTD East Side Transit Center. The workshop is to gather information from stakeholders and the public on their safety concerns. Additionally, members of the public can get involved through the Engage R1 website mentioned earlier.

### c. TMA Certification Review

Ms. Turner reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) will be undergoing their 4-year certification review on January 25-26.

## 8. Agency Reports

### a. Boone County, Highway Department

Mr. Krohn reported on their successful application for Safe Streets for All grant program. The award will fund a demonstration project for the installation of radar speed limit signs, as a means of addressing speeding issues. He also reported that the Boone County Public Transportation is in the process of rebranding.

### b. Boone County Conservation District

No report.

### c. City of Belvidere, Public Works Department

No report.

### d. City of Loves Park, Community Development

No report.

### e. City of Loves Park, Public Works Department

No report.

### f. City of Rockford, Community Development

No report.

### g. City of Rockford, Public Works Department

Mr. Carter provided an update on the Parkview Avenue project, which was funded by the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Last Fall, the City of Rockford applied to the League of American Bicyclists for a Bicycle Friendly Award and are waiting to hear back on the award level.

### h. Four Rivers Sanitary District

No report.

**i. IDOT, District 2**

No report.

**j. Rockford Mass Transit District**

Ms. Hughes reported that they are awarding their demand-response software this month, which is being funded by the Section 5310 funding program. Additionally, they are expecting 14 new demand-response vehicles and 4 more 45' hybrid buses.

**k. Village of Machesney Park, Community Development**

No report.

**l. Winnebago County, Community & Economic Dev.**

No report.

**m. Winnebago County, Highway Department**

Mr. Molina reported that the department is coordinating with the utilities and finalizing right-of-way for the Bell School Road project, from Guilford Road to Argus Drive. The Latham Road project, from Owen Center to IL-2, and Elevator Road, from Willowbrook Road to the Boone County line, will be going out for bids soon, hopefully in February. The Baxter Road project will be going out for bids in February. For the Riverside Boulevard project, STBG-funded, the County is hoping to finaliz the project development review (PDR) within the next month. The County is also going out to preparing a grant application for Perryville Road, from State Street to Morsay Dr.

**n. Winnebago County, Soil & Water Conservation District**

Mr. Anthony reported that the District will be hosting a workshop in March.

**o. FHWA, Illinois Division**

Mr. Schmidt announced the MUTDC was approved last month. IDOT has two years to adopt the MUTCD.

**p. IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning and Programming**

Mr. DeLille reported the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) has been released or will be released shortly. He also announced that the State is working on the adoption of the performance target for the GHG Emissions performance measure management requirements. MPOs will have 180 days following the State's adoption to approve theirs.

**q. Illinois Tollway**

Mr. Guerriero reported on the projects that will be occurring in 2024, including reconstruction of the Genoa Road interchange ramps and minor bridge repairs at Rockton Road and Belvidere Road. He also informed the Committee that the Riverside Boulevard toll stations will be converted to fully electronic and the Tollway is having conversations about removing the barriers. The US 20/I-90 bridge reconstruction has been pushed back to FY 2025/2026. Mainline reconstruction is scheduled for 2028.

**9. Other Business**

Ms. Turner informed the Committee that discussion surrounding the award of the FY 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant will be held at the next MPO Technical and Policy Committee meetings.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Baer, Four Rivers Sanitary District, and seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development Department, to adjourn at 11:29 am. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Sydney Turner.

Minutes approved by action of the Board: \_\_\_\_\_

*Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.*

*Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact R1 Planning at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.*