



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 22, 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 10:00 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; 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; Dan Egelkes, Rockford Mass Transit District; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development; Mitch Hilden, Village of Machesney Park Public Works Department; Brandon Boggs, Village of Roscoe ; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago county Soil & Water Conservation District; Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Planning and Programming; Jon Paul Dipla, FHWA, IL Division.

Members Absent: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Public Works Dept; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago; Boone County Transit; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Illinois Toll Way; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

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

3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:

a) Preliminary Scoring of Attributable Funds (STBG, TAP, CRP)- Mr. Verbeke explained that R1 staff scored submissions based on previously approved policies. Funding has been made available for almost all projects. For STBG 4 projects (which scored over 75, and based on percentage of overall scores. The team took averages and assigned percentages to qualifying projects. Member asked if future allocation will increase effective amounts, Verbeke said potentially, but that would require another call for projects. Member asked if underfunded amounts will effect future request's scoring, Verbeke indicated that was a possibility. Mr. Verbeke went on to explain that all TAP requests would be fully funded, based on estimated projections and potentially lapsing funds would be used. Carbon Reduction projects are fully funded in the rear requested. Members posed questions to which Mr. Verbeke indicated he would follow-up about parameters individually. Mr. Verbeke closed by explaining that the projects would go before the Policy committee the following week.

b) Traffic Signal Coordination and Timing Study-Eric Tison announced that the Traffic Signal Coordination and Timing is entering its 3rd and final phase of the project entering into a contract with ITERIS consulting to provide assessment and recommendations for the Perryville Road corridor from Harrison Avenue to Swanson Road and will include 35 intersections within a 1/3 mile of Perryville. He then indicated that each jurisdiction would stay informed in process, which will start within the next 4 weeks. The final draft is expected to be delivered around Memorial Day. Mr. Tison and Mr. Verbeke explained that the choice of location came about due to robust internal discussion about extending the work already completed and the cross-over of several jurisdictional boundaries, allowing for a variety of partners.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the October 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 10/30/2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development motioned, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b) Adoption of the Federally -Required performance Management Targets (Resolution 2026-01) Mr. Brandon Rucker explained a focus on Safety Standard PM1 and the Safety Action Plan, which looks at fatality rates, serious injury and non-motorized vehicle rates. Information included is IDOT 5 year rolling averages, showing a steady decline. New targets are included in the packet. Rounding worked out the same between 26 & 27. Targets are dropping slightly with an annual reduction of 2 %. RMTD adopted targets updated at their last board meeting. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion. Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford, motioned, seconded by Mr. Egelkes, RMTD, vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

6) Staff Reports-

- Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant- Ms. Chloe Barnes announced that R1 has been awarded a Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Grant. The \$500K award will support educational safety programs targeting elementary students. R1 will acquire the services of a consultant to analyze school zone safety, and measure commute routes to and from schools. Work will include parent surveys and public engagement strategies. Work is expected to kick-off in February 2026 and go through October 2027. Services will also include virtual training for crossing guards.
- Passenger Rail Design- Mr. Verbeke gave an update that R1 has been working on behalf of the Winnebago County Rail Authority on a FRA grant to support design and engineering for the Rockford and Belvidere passenger rail stations. R1 staff is also assisting the village of Roscoe and Winnebago County with a BUILD Grant for the Love RD (North of McCurry), funding up to \$17 million available.
- Reconnecting Communities (SW Railyard)-Mr. Tison updated members that AECOM is working to reach scenario planning stage, existing conditions report for 34 acre area. They are assessing challenges within the site, how development can occur, which will lead to a public engagement presentation. Timing is uncertain, but looking to be done before the end of summer.
- 2026 Update timeline: April: project approval and TIP software training; June: Approving TIP, FTAS, EV Readiness; July: Traffic Signal Management-Perryville project conclusion; September: Livable Communities Initiative; October-Safe Streets for All final approvals.
- Other: R1 staff are engaging in more speaking engagements at the national level, and most recently have spoken with congressmen about the reauthorization of STBG funds. Mr. Dunn and Chairman Chiarelli traveling

to DC next week. Mr. Verbeke has been added to the AMPO Technical Committee and will be speaking at the February Safe Road summit, speaking on LCI. In April, Ms. Barnes and Mr. Verbeke will be traveling to Kentucky to speak on the Bicycle & Pedestrian Safety grant.

- **New Staff:** Mr. Verbeke then introduced new staff and interns to members.

6) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Letting on 2/9 on Storm sewer/drainage south of State St. off of Shaw Rd. SS4A Plan adopted at December meeting. Radar signs installed.
- b.) **Boone County Planning Department:** n/a
- c.) **Boone County Conservation District:**
- d.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
- e.) **City of Byron:** received approval for Comprehensive Plan
- 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:** No Report
- k.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** RAISE Grant-Chestnut Complete waiting on Feds for approval.
- l.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** No Report
- m.) **IDOT, District 2:** Multi-year cycle beginning, waiting on targets.
- n.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** BCCA closing for weather on 1/23/26
- o.) **Rockford Park District:** No Report
- 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-County Board approval tonight for Riverside Project, working on acquiring right of way in the area of I-39; TAP Perryville to Bell School-surveying and moving into Engineering; STBG-Central to Auburn to Riverside-Resurfacing; STBG- State St. to Harrison Ave. in Phase 1, waiting on IDOT. Harrison-resurfacing; Owen Center Rd.-Riverside to Latham- Phase 2 approval; Forest Hills- HSIP Engineering; Roscoe Rd.- Bid going out in April, closed for 5 months; 319 Grant- Madigan Creek-surveying underway, with a public hearing scheduled for next week.
- u.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** Soil Erosion workshop happening on 2/26/26
- v.) **FHWA, IL Division:** No Report
- w.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** STBG/Bridge/etc-targets coming; ITEP apps available in August (years alternate); Last round of Safe Streets for All and no SPR call this year-funding will be used internally. Mr. Krohn asked if there would be an increase in STBG, Mr. Delille indicated those should be included this year and reference a reallocation of Tifio Loan funds).
- x.) **Illinois Tollway:**

Other Business:

Mr. Molina asked for an update on the State of the Trails project. Mr. Verbeke explained that it has been extended for another year, facilities have been mapped and R1 is now working with Iowa State to assess, and will extend the

survey over 2 years to see what's changed. Final report will be ready in early Fall of 2026. Current maps and data are currently available online at r1planning.org.

Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Ms. Diduch, City of Byron motioned; seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Dept. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:51 am

Meeting minutes prepared by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the MPO Technical Committee on 2/19/2026