



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 1, 2025

Carson Hall, Cherry Valley Fire Protection District Station 2
4919 Blackhawk Rd. Rockford, IL 61109

1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tim Verbeke at 11:32 am

2) Roll Call

Members Present: Justin Krohn, Boone County Highway Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park, Community Development; Shannon Messenger, City of Loves Park Public Works; Collin Belle, City of Rockford Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Chris Baer, Four Rivers Sanitary District; IDOT District 2; Dan Engelkes, Rockford Mass Transit District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development; Brandon Boggs, Village of Roscoe; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

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

Other Present: Doug DeLille, IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming; Brandon Rucker, Clara Romeo, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Chloe Barnes and Clara Romeo of Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:

- a) **State of the Trails Update Report-** Nathan Larsen gave a brief description of the State of the Trails project. He explained that it came from an idea brought by the Rockford Park district to the MPO concerning the deteriorating conditions of the shared use paths and trails within the MPO service area. IDOT SPR funding was obtained to develop this program that will assess the conditions, provide improvement strategies and map the shared use paths and trails in the area. Mr. Larsen described the equipment, methodology for collecting data, and time frame of the project. Mr. Krohn asked if the conditions would be assessed the same as the road way system. Mr. Larsen explained that the team is using a criterion that had been used in similar assessments by other MPO's, and using

sensors in the I-phone recording changes on X, Y, and Z axis'. Mr. Larsen then explained that this inventory would begin along the Rock Riverfront Trail and that the kickoff would be on May 7, 2025.

- b) **Parking Occupancy Study Update-** Ms. Lauren Kleve explained that R1 will be kicking off an occupancy study to support a technical report focused on parking availability in a defined area of downtown Rockford, as a response from the public about a concern for lack of parking in downtown Rockford, specifically during special events. This study will compare the availability of public parking during routine work day hours and compare them to parking needs during special events, including Rockford City Market, sporting events, and weekend entertainment events. Ms. Kleve also explained a request to extend the Parking Reimagined grant by 6 months has been submitted, to allow for additional data collection and study. Mr. Molina asked if on street parking spaces were included in the inventory, Ms. Kleve said yes they are included.

5) Action Items:

- a) Approval of the April 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 4/17/2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Boggs, Village of Roscoe, motioned, seconded by Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development. With no discussion, motion passed by unanimous vote.

- b) Amendment to the FY 2025-2-28 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2025-10)

Mr. Larsen described that the proposed amendments predominantly cover a change in the funding splits for listed projects, where they would be solely funded by the State. See meeting packet for list of projects. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion, provided by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department and seconded by Mr. Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.

- c) Adoption of the FY 2026 Unified Work Program (Resolution 2025-11)

Mr. Verbeke briefly explained that the FY 2026 UWP would be condensing the plan down to 5 work elements, following the example of other MPO's within Illinois. He also briefly explained budget allocations, splits and contributions. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned, seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department. Motion **passed** by unanimous vote.

Staff Reports-

Mr. Verbeke noted the need to change the June MPO Technical Committee meeting date to Wednesday, June 18, 2025 due to the Juneteenth holiday.

6) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** No Report
- b.) **Boone County Conservation District:** No Report
- c.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report
- d.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
- e.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a
- f.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- g.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** No Report
- h.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** No new updates from last meeting.

- i.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District** No Report
- j.) **IDOT, District 2:** I-39/20 project will be done by July 1, 2025; Rt. 2/Rockton Rd bridge has re-opened and project is scheduled to be done by December 2025; Harrison Rd project will be underway and scheduled completion is for Spring 2026.
- k.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report
- l.) **Rockford Park District:** No Report
- m.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report
- n.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- o.) **Village of Roscoe:** Design of residential roadways project will be out for bid by the end of the month.
- p.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
- q.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Elmwood resurfacing on track to begin next week, Linden Rd. project scheduled to start in July. Old River Rd/Roscoe road closures for assessment(?)
- r.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a
- s.) **FHWA, IL Division:** No Report
- t.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** Federal changes to funding to go to STBG, look for more information in the near future, TAP rules will apply. Mr. Molina asked if funding can be applied to rural areas, Mr. Delille and Mr. Verbeke indicated yes, rural areas are eligible.
- u.) **IL Tollway:** No Report

7) Other Business

No other business was discussed.

8) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department motioned; seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Dept. A unanimous vote to adjourn at 12:01 pm

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____