



## MPO Technical Committee Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2025

127 N. Wyman St. Suite 100, Rockford, IL 61101

#### 1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tim Verbeke at 10:01am

#### 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; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works Department; Matt Campbell, Four Rivers Sanitary District; Katie Smith, IDOT District 2; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development(10:04); Troy Krup, Village of Roscoe; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County, Community & Economic Development; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department;

Members Absent: Boone County, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; City of Rockford, Community Developments; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Rockford Mass Transit District; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Village of Winnebago; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Other Present: Doug DeLille, IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Clara Romeo, Hailey Blanchard, Jackson Sitter and Michael Dunn Jr. of Region 1 Planning Council.

#### 3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

#### 4) Discussion Items:

- a) **MPO-Attributable Funding-Updates-** Michael Dunn Jr., Region 1, provided an update on how STBG funds will be allocated within the coming years. He stated that due to the current economic uncertainty, that Region 1's MPO would follow the example of some other larger MPO's and assess qualified projects based more on if they are "ready to go," and move from a 5-year project cycle to a 2 year project cycle. He indicated that application criteria would not change, but how projects are prioritized will change, so that funding can be spent down faster, and not sit un-spent until projects are ready, and will also be skewed toward economic impact. The MPO Technical and Policy Committee will still vote to approve projects. Mr. Dunn indicated that TAP and CRP funding cycle would remain at the current 5 year cycle. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department and Mr. Krohn, Boone

County Highway Department, both expressed concerns over the timing and planning for projects with this change, indicating that it will be a challenge to have projects ready without federal funding lined-up in advance. Mr. Dunn assured them that this will be a test and adjust type of process and that his door is open and phone is on, for any specific concerns.

Mr. Krohn then asked if there would be a new call for projects. Mr. Verbeke said that was a possibility and that revisiting the process would be included at the next MPO Technical Meeting.

- b) **Health and Transportation Study**-Mr. Nathan Larsen provided an overview of the recently completed Health and Transportation Study. He indicated that the purpose of the study is to assess the relationship between transportation and access to health services. Mr. Larsen explained the social determinants of health that were used within the study and then outlined the Principles, including: Active Lifestyles, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, Safety, Choices and Access for All, and Equity. Recommendations were also listed under each principle, highlighting that supporting ridesharing programs that connect people to jobs and essential services and the consideration of all ages and abilities in the design and operation of the active transportation system are already being pursued.

## 5) Action Items:

- a.) Approval of the January 23, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 1/23/2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, motioned, seconded by Mr. Hinkens, City of Rockford. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

## 6) Staff Reports-

- a) Livable Communities Initiative: Tim Verbeke reported that the first round of LCI Technical Assistance hours was awarded to the Keith Creek project and the team would be working to secure private funding for the project for 2026 and that the next round of applications would be opening in April.
- b) Housing Corridor Study: Mr. Verbeke also announced that R1 is launching a Housing Corridor Study using some available UWP funds. The study would focus on the North Main Corridor from Park St. to Auburns St. RFP for consultant is now open.
- c) 2025-2028 and 2029 TIP- Mr. Larsen reminded members that any TIP updates are due Friday, February 21, 2025 and they would then be reviewed to ensure alignment with policies.
- d) Water Planning Initiative- Ms. Kleve reported the initiation of a Water Quality study that would assess the water system improvement needs. She indicated that a consultant would be hired, and the study would be based on the results of a public survey that is currently open for the community fill out.
- e) Bicycle and Pedestrian SPR application- Ms. Barnes reported that R1 is working on a grant application for a program that would provide bicycle and pedestrian safety education for area elementary school students.

## 7) 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:** W. State St. sidewalk project contingent on RHA-Imminent Domain (April letting), E. State St. sidewalk phase 1 engineering, 9<sup>th</sup> St 2-way conversion (June letting); RAISE-RMTD done with final plans, contingent on RHA-Imminent Domain(April letting); Madison St. Reconstruction, State St. to Prairie St. beginning March/April, road will remain open; 11<sup>th</sup> St. Harrison to Broadway Reconstruction phase 1 beginning soon, Council approved resurfacing for Alpine, Mulford, Riverside and Spring Creek; Auburn project going out for bid this summer with work beginning in fall with watermain work. Keith Creek channel widening seeking funding.
- i.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District** Mainline Sewer Lining project, weather permitting, Sanitary Casting notice going out soon.
- j.) **IDOT, District 2:** No Report
- k.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report
- l.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- m.) **Village of Roscoe:** n/a
- n.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
- o.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Riverside project undergoing appraisal/review/bid process letting scheduled for later this year. Owen Center HSIEP to Latham was presented at a public meeting also scheduled to begin next year. Springfield Ave. Bridge moved w/detour at Auburn & Central through February.
- p.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a
- q.) **FHWA, IL Division:** No Report
- r.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** Shakeups at FHWA-may be delays with formula funds. AMPO/STIP Amendments require USDOT General Council Approval, not sure if there will be time delays.
- s.) **IL Tollway:** No Report

#### 8) Other Business

No other business was discussed.

#### 9) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development motioned; seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. A unanimous vote to adjourn at 11:07 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

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