



MPO Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 20, 2026 – 8:30 am

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

a. **Call to Order**

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Chiarelli at 8:33 am.

b. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Chairman Chiarelli, Winnebago County; Mayor Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford; Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County; Doug DeLille, IDOT; Clint Morris, City of Belvidere; President Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park; Michael Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District.

Members Absent: Greg Jury, City of Loves Park

Other Present: Carlos Molina, Winnebago County; James Richter, Village of Machesney Park; Michael Dunn, Jackson Sitter, Amy Salamon, John Mack, Molli Staroszczyk, and Keagan Carlson, all of Region 1 Planning Council.

c. **Public Comment**

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

d. **Discussion:** Mr. Dunn described the status of the following projects:

a. Draft FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP): Funding and the proposal is similar to the previous year. The committee will vote on the UPWP at the May meeting. There was no discussion.

b. BASICS Act Briefing: Mr. Dunn explained that IJA will expire on September 30 and the proposed bill that will replace it will rely almost entirely on formula funding, focusing on transit, rail, and highway projects. The BASICS Act is AMPO and the LOT Coalition's response to proposed transportation funding changes, modernizing how funds should be used. Among other priorities, it gives the MPO authority over project selection and fund distribution.

AMPO has requested that the MPO work with DOTs to weigh in on this act.

e. **Action Items**

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 30, 2026

Chairman Chiarelli entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the January 30, 2026 MPO Policy Committee. Motioned by Chairman Johnson, seconded by Mayor Johnson with no discussion.

Motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

b. Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2026-02).

Request from IDOT to include four new projects to the TIP. Mr. Chiarelli entertained a motion to adopt. Motioned by Mayor McNamara, seconded by Chairman Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Approval of the FY 2026 MPO Attributable Funds (Resolution 2026-03). Mayor McNamara asked if projects proposed for funding would be able to apply for subsequent funding without penalty. Mr. Dunn responded that existing merit criteria do not penalize already funded projects, but do provide additional points for unfunded projects. Mr. Chiarelli entertained a motion to adopt. Motioned by Mayor McNamara, seconded by Chairman Johnson. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

- d. BASICS Act Letter to IDOT.

The committee was asked to sign a letter to the IDOT Secretary of Transportation asking for IDOT's formal response on the BASICS Act. Mr. Chiarelli entertained a motion to adopt. Motioned by Mayor Johnson, seconded by Mayor McNamara. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

f. **Director Reports**

- This was tabled until the next meeting.
- Mr. Dunn pointed out that the MPO is receiving national recognition for the quality of work it does. Mr. Dunn praised Mr. Verbeke for the work he is doing in selecting transportation projects and responsibly distributing funding.

g. **Adjournment**

Chairman Chiarelli entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mayor Morris, City of Belvidere, second by Chairman Johnson, Boone County. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 am.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Amy Salamon

Minutes approved by action of the Committee at the May 1st 2026 MPO Policy Committee Meeting 7-0