



MPO Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, January 31, 2025 –8:30am

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

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Chiarelli at 8:36 am.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Mayor Greg Jury, City of Loves Park; Mayor Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford; Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County; Chairman Joe Chiarelli, Winnebago County; Katie Smith, IDOT District 2; President Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park; Michael Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District.

Members Absent: Mayor Clint Morris;

Other Present: Dough Delille, IDOT OOP; James Richter II, Village Administrator of Machesney Park; Michael Dunn, Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Jackson Sitter, Chloe Barnes, and Nathan Larsen, Region 1 Planning Council.

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

4. Discussion

a. FY 2026 Unified Work Program

- i. Mr. Dunn discussed the elements of the UWP that have been updated to align with nationwide best practices in the proposed FY 2026 UWP. Mr. Dunn discussed each individual element, and explained the process by which the UWP will be adopted by the MPO Policy Committee.

b. Transportation Improvement Program Policies & Procedures

- i. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Larsen explained that an update to the TIP Policies and Procedures has been drafted. The updates focus on regional significant and logical termini, and will come before the committee next month.

5. Action Items

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2024

Chairman Chiarelli entertained for a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the October 17, 2024 for MPO Policy Committee. Motion by Mayor Drury seconded by Village President Johnson. Motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

b. Amendment to the FY 2025-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2025-01)

Mr. Dunn explained that the resolution contains one updated cost breakout from City of Rockford, two new projects and one updated cost breakout from IDOT, and four new projects and one updated cost breakout from Rockford Mass Transit District.

Chairman Chiarelli entertained for a motion to approve Resolution 2025-01. Motion by; Mayor Drury, seconded by Village President Johnson. Motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

- c. Adoption of the Federally Required-Required Performance Management Targets (Resolution 2025-02)
 - i. Mr. Dunn explained that MPO recommended the adoption of the state’s targets for Safety, Asset Management, System Reliability, Transit Asset Management, and Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan. The MPO Technical Committee has recommended the adoption of the performance measures set by IDOT. Chairman Chiarelli entertained a motion to approve Resolution 2025-02. Motion by; Mayor Jury, seconded by Michael Stubbe. Motion **passed** by unanimous voice vote.

6. Director’s Report

- a. Michael Stubbe provided an update on the bus rapid transit study that was conducted by Sam Schwarz in association with R1. It led to the identification of N/S and E/W corridors that could support BRT, based on factors such as current ridership and growth in ridership. E State Street would be one corridor; other potential corridors include the N Main Corridor, Kishwaukee, and Riverside/Rockton. The study looked at economic development and housing while considering potential corridors. The consultant identified capital and operating expenses, and next steps for funding and growing ridership, which can be done by increasing frequency service. Mr. Stubbe stated RMTD needs support from local and state to increase frequency. The consultant also identified two funding paths, either all federal funds, or a combination of smaller grants. RMTD will need to look at environmental impact and other impacts. Initial investments have been submitted into LRPT. There also was discussion on the fiscal cliff looming in 2029.
- b. Mr. Larsen provided a brief overview of the recently completed Health and Transportation Study, which looks at the interactions between health and transportation in the region and how transportation enables access to healthcare and essential services in the region. He indicated additional information will be provided at the Governing Board meeting next week, and stated that principles from the plan have been incorporated into other MPO Planning Documents and its project prioritization processes.
- c. Mr. Dunn stated that the MTP and CEDS heading for adoption this year, and have been developed with connections between the two. The CEDS and MTP have been developed in parallel and contain many synergies.
- d. Mr. Dunn also spoke on the federal funding crisis, stating Chairman Chiarelli and himself have been participating in AMPO, NARC and NLC calls. He asserted that formula funding is likely to be fine, while discretionary funding is in doubt.
- e. Mr. DeLille stated that everything at the state level is following status quo. Existing grant agreements are fine, but new agreements may be held up. IDOT has received minimal feedback from FHWA. For grants under an existing agreement, agencies should keep submitting payments’. He stated that discretionary grants are the question at the moment, and speculated that more “partisan” grants are under the greatest threat.
- f. Mr. Dunn stated that the NARC Executive Director will be presenting on transportation reauthorization at the Governing Board.
- g. Mr. Dunn also provided an update on the composition of the MPO’s staff, shouting out team members including Clara and Tim.

7. Other business

- a. Mr. Dunn stated that the Policy Committee lost and gained a Boone County Chair. He asked if everyone is okay with Chairman Johnson serving as vice-chair in the interim, and Chairman Riley was previously serving as vice-chair.
- b. Mr. Chiarelli stated Winnebago County Rural Transit will be up and going in a couple weeks, after the next county board meeting. He thanked RMTD for their support.

8. Adjournment

Chairman Chiarelli entertained a motion to adjourn. Motion by Mayor Jury, Loves Park, second by Village President Johnson, Village of Machesney Park. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Nathan Larsen

Minutes approved by action of the Committee at March 28th 2025 MPO Policy Committee Meeting 7-0