MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 21, 2025 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; Collin Belle, City of Rockford Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Matt H(?) Four Rivers Sanitation District; Faith Duncan, 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; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development; Matt Fox, Winnebago County Highway Department; Erin Marshall, Boone County Transit; John Paul Diipla, FHWA IL Division; Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Planning an Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway

Members Absent: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; City of Loves Park, Public Works Department, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Vanessa Mauries, Chloe Barnes and Cesar Medina of Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment
No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:
a) Alpine Road Traffic Signal Coordination and Timing Study- Tim Verbeke presented on the findings of the Alpine Road Traffic Signal Coordination and Timing Study conducted by Iteris, with funds from the SPR: Traffic Signal Management Study Grant. The study began in August 2024, studying signals on an approximately 10 mile stretch of Alpine Road from Sandy Hollow Rd in Rockford to IL 173 in Machesney Park. Iteris established a baseline, and then altered signal timing in various scenarios with the goal of improving travel time. The study also identified the need for most critical repairs and upgrades along the Alpine Road corridor. Mr. Verbeke explained that the grant period has been extended and a request for a forthcoming additional study would be extended by late September. Mr. Krohn asked about next steps in implementing improvements as a result of the study, Mr. Verbeke explained that findings

have been sent to the applicable parties for further action. Mr. Belle asked about the appendices, which Mr. Verbeke indicated will be sent out and made available on the R1 website. Members also asked about pedestrian and mass transit, and emergency service implications, to which Mr. Verbeke explained that this particular study was vehicle focused, but that he would review the grant scope to see if pedestrian or mass transit studies could be included.

b) Local Public Agencies Maintenance Responsibilities- Justin Krohn began by making clear that Boone County Highway Department very much supports the development of alternative transportation projects and programs. He then went on to explain that IDOT recently proposed a multi-use path project along a portion of Route 20 from Belvidere to Rockford, with IDOT taking on construction of the project on IDOT jurisdictional property, but handing off maintenance of the path to the local agencies (Boone County Highway Department). He then went on to explain that, unfortunately, Boone County did not currently have the budget, and that the scope of that service would not be possible this year. Mr. Krohn then suggested the possibility for this body to open discussion for how to handle, or discuss a new policy, that would develop cross-agency maintenance/cost-sharing/uniform guidance for future similar projects. Jeremy Carter indicated his support for this initiative and suggested the possibility of shared services/contracts/system maintenance, and that Ogle County has experienced a similar concern along Route 2. He also explained that there was a policy change a few years ago with IDOT projects requiring shared costs (IDOT-80%, Local 20%), but now IDOT takes on 100% of construction costs, with local expectation of maintenance. Ms. Duncan then indicated that IDOT will only maintain shared use structures, but would follow-up with IDOT for more information. Mr. Verbeke then added that R1 is more than happy to host this group to have further discussion.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the June 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 6/18/2025 meeting minutes, pre-emptively addressing attendance corrections. Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development, motioned, seconded by Mr. Palmquist, Winnebago County, Community Development. With no discussion, motion passed by unanimous vote.

b) Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2025-17) Mr. Larsen described the changes made to the TIP, with no questions from the group. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion to vote, which was made by Mr. Belle, City of Rockford Community Development, seconded by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works. With no discussion, motion passed by unanimous vote.

6) Staff Reports-

Nathan Larsen- gave an updated on the transition to the E-TIP software, indicating that the goal is to be able to go live by September 3. He then gave a brief update on the State of the Trails, stating that ¾ of the data collection has been completed and is being uploaded. A contract is pending with I-Trans: Iowa State University for data analyzation services. The team is continuing to gather user count using tube counters at 36 locations. Tim added that there is also a budget amendment pending. Mr. Boggs asked if the information would be uploaded to the WinGIS site? Mr. Larson explained that it wouldn't be a part of WinGIS, but an interactive map will be made available to the public.

Lauren Kleve- updated the committee on the Boone County Conservation District project where R1 is assisting with public engagement, including survey creation, Pop-up events, and a web-site link to promote the work

being done by the BCCD. Ms. Kleve also provided an update on the Greenways Plan 2026 updated, explaining that the plan hasn't been updated since 1997. The plan will include input from stakeholders, a forthcoming public survey, followed by drafting strategies and recommendations for the MPO service area.

Eric Tison-gave an update on the Reconnecting Communities project, where a consultant will be conducting a technical assessment of the Southwest railyard for future development. AECOM has been contracted with and will begin by gathering stakeholder feedback. Mr. Tison also explained that the North Main Corridor Study taking place between Park St. and Bauer Parkway, is under way and the results should be available by December 1, 2025.

Tim Verbeke-listed a few other ongoing projects: ADA Compliance, FY26 Major Projects update available by the end of September, STBG/TAP/CR projects will be reviewed and discussed in October.

6) Agency Reports

a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** TIP Rail Crossing Bridge project will be moving forward in the next year. SS4A Demo grant contract signed for the next 3 years. IDOT/Boone County project moving forward with roundabout at IL Rt. 76 and Spring Creek in Caledonia

b.) **Boone County Conservation District:** Thanked R1 staff or public engagement assistance with survey, and indicated the district is currently hiring engineering for ITEP project.

c.) **Boone County Transit:** Transfer Facility approval going before the board

d.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report

e.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a

f.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a

g.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:**

h.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** No Report

i.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** Thanked R1 staff for presenting about pedestrian safety. Whitman St. project is operating on time. Alpine/Mulford/Spring Creek Projects are on track to be done before October. Recommending that the roundabout at Auburn/Main will remain 1-lane moving forward.

j.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** Upcoming projects Gray St./Huffman Blvd beginning August 25th, and North Ridge/Auburn beginning in October.

k.) **IDOT, District 2**: No Report

l.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report

m.) **Rockford Park District:** Thanked R1 for LCI participation, and informed committee of Opening of the Clarence Hicks Sports Complex on August 30 from 2-4 pm.

n.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report

o.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report

p.) **Village of Roscoe:** Reported that the Residential streets program has been completed, and that the Capital Improvement Program draft will be available end of September/early October.

q.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report

r.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Bridge projects; Perryville/Riverside going to bid, Roscoe Rd. is in phase 1 engineering, out for bid in 2026, Owen Center is in Phase 1 approval, HSIP Roscoe Rd. Phase 1 Engineering

s.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a

t.) **FHWA, IL Division**: No Report

u.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** Open call for Safe Route to School Program. MYP status unclear: Hold-up in Springfield with 19 projects submitted with $400 million available, decision should be by end of September.

Other Business: Reminder that the September MPO Technical Committee date has been changed to Thursday September 25, due to AMPO conference conflict. The October MPO Technical Committee date has been changed to Thursday October 30, due to IDOT Fall Planning Conference conflict.

7) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Boggs, Village of Roscoe motioned; seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Dept. A unanimous vote to adjourn at 10:48 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____