MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 25, 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; 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 Campbell, Four Rivers Sanitation District; Faith Duncan, IDOT District 2; Dan Egelkes, Rockford Mass Transit District; Izzy Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park Community Development; Mitch Hilden, Village of Machesney Park Public Works Department; Brandon Boggs, Village of Roscoe; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; John Paul Diipla, FHWA IL Division (zoom); Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Planning an Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; City of Byron

Members Absent: Boone County Planning Department; 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; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; Boone County Transit; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Lauren Kleve, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Chloe Barnes, John Mack, Molli Staroszczyk, Paige Withrow and Megan Devine of Region 1 Planning Council.

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

4) Discussion Items:
a) ADA Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation Paige Withrow, ADA Coordinator for Region 1, described the history of ADA compliance and that state and local governments fall under title 2 of ADA compliance standards. She went on to explain that IDOT has offered assistance to organizations who are working toward compliance. Ms. Withrow explained that Region 1 is currently in the data collection phase, including a self-evaluation of the facility looking at areas with any physical barriers, which will guide a transition plan. This phase will be followed by the development of a transition plan to obtain ADA compliance. This plan will also be available for public input, and then adopted by Region 1 as an employer. The goal is to have the transition plan in place by the summer of 2026. Once in place R1 will offer technical

assistance to local municipalities and other qualifying entities for development of their own transition plans. Any adopted plans will be posted publicly. Mr. Krohn explained that Boone County received an Audit from HDR, but hasn't heard back, and asked if R1 could help follow-up on that information? Ms. Withrow confirmed that yes, R1 can help. Mr. Molina then asked if the self-evaluation was for the entire building, to which Ms. Withrow answered that it is evaluating only the publicly accessible areas of the building.

b) Call for Projects and Priority Ms. Staroczszyk announced that a Call for Projects would be opening up next month, on October 30, 2025 for COG/MPO/EDD members, and that each program can submit up to 5 projects. She then explained that each application would be evaluated using grant criteria and that the list of approved projects would be released early next year. Mr. Verbeke also added that the call for projects for STBC/CR/TAP would take place at the same time. Mr. Krohn asked if there were any changes from the last call for projects, Mr. Verbeke said yes, the max amount allocated has changed. More information will be sent out at a later date for FY27 & FY28, the funding cycle will close on December 1 and announcements will be made in January. Mr. Verbeke then explained that submission will be through the E-TIP, and more information as well as Technical Assistance will be made available.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the August 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 8/21/2025 meeting minutes, Mr. Campbell from Four Rivers Sanitation voiced a few corrections to the minutes, noted by recorder. Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department, seconded by Mr. Hilden, Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b) Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2025-18) -This item was removed from the agenda.

6) Staff Reports-

- **UWP FY25 Project Updates**: Mr. Verbeke explained that any funds that were not used by end of the FY25 fiscal year, have rolled over and can be used up until the end of the year. Projects included to spend down those funds are the Main St. Corridor Study from Park to Bauer Parkway; SW Rockford Traffic Safety Study at Leving's and Clarence Hicks Parks facilities, and the Water Resources study. Ms. Kleve then explained the product of that study will be a Regional Water Quality Report, meant for public education, she then clarified that it covers the region as a whole and focused mostly on drinking water. Mr. Verbeke then explained that around May 2026 R1 will have a better idea of any unspent funds going in to the next fiscal year, and would be happy to entertain any ideas for projects to use those funds.
- **UWP FY26 Project Updates**: Mr. Verbeke announced the kick off of the Food Access and Transportation Study, which will study where there is access to food, and how people are getting there, as well as where there are gaps. He also talked about the Green Streets Plan, which looks at current conditions, what needs improvement and what needs to take place moving forward to get sites shovel ready for new projects. Finally, he described an Autonomous Vehicle Study that will look at how self-driving vehicles are moving through the area.
- **SS4A**: Mr. Molina asked if all plans have been adopted? Mr. Verbeke explained that the Rockford plan is waiting on one more approval, while the progress on the regional plan is contingent on the extension of the SS4A grant.

- **State of the Trails**: R1 is purchasing an additional travel E-Bike that can be more easily transported to more rural areas to collect data on shared use paths. All the High/Medium priorities for data collection has been complete, and data will continue to be analyzed through the winter and spring. Mr. Verbeke then indicated that it's possible for counts to be made available prior to spring.
- **R1 Open House**: Thursday, September 25, 2025 from 3:00 to 5:00pm.
- **Staffing changes**: Nathan Larsen has left R1 and all emails should be forwarded to Mr. Verbeke, and new staff Jon Mac introduced.
- **Open Surveys**: Greenways Plan, Shared Use Paths and Roadways.
- **October MPO Technical Meeting**: Thursday, October 30, 2025 10:00 am

6) Agency Reports

a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Has 2 Safe Route to School Grant Applications out. SS4A Demo grant project out for bid for radar signs and trucks. SPR grant has completed about 90% completion of data collection. Safety meeting is occurring every other month.
b.) **Boone County Conservation District: n/a**
c.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
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:** No Report
j.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** Grace St and North Ave projects are on schedule. A system-wide lining project is going out for bid.
k.) **IDOT, District 2**: No Report
l.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report
m.) **Rockford Park District:** No Report
n.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report
o.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
p.) **Village of Roscoe:** No Report
q.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
r.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Owen Ctr. Public Domain Resolution coming next year. STBG-Perryville in Phase 1 engineering. STBG-Central is in engineering. Forest Hills-Safety project: Striping median up to Pleasant Valley (high accident rate). Arizona Ave.-Patching project. SS4A Demo-running behind and working on it.
s.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a
t.) **FHWA, IL Division**: No Report
u.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** No Report
v.) **Illinois Tollway:** Engineering work over the next couple of weeks for the Harlem Rd. overpass.

Other Business:

7) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned; seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Dept. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:48 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____