



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, October 19, 2023, 10:00 am

Region 1 Planning Council

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

Minutes

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Turner at 10:01 am.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Boone County, Highway Department; City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; City of Rockford, Community Development; City of Rockford, Public Works Department; IDOT, District 2; Rockford Mass Transit District; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park, Community Development; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department; Village of Roscoe; Winnebago County, Community & Economic Development; Winnebago County, Highway Department.

Four Rivers Sanitary District arrived at 10:03 am.

Members Absent: Boone County, Planning Department; Boone County Conservation District; 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 Winnebago; Winnebago County, Soil & Water Conservation District.

Others Present: Doug DeLille, Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Urban Program Planning; Sydney Turner, Eric Tison, Gabrielle Gamily, Lauren Kleve, John Paul Diipla, Makenzee Wilcox, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, and Juliana Charlebois-Berg, Region 1 Planning Council; Carol Gustafson, Village of Roscoe.

Henry Guerriero, Illinois Tollway arrived at 10:03 am.

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

4. Discussion Item: 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Goals & Strategies

Ms. Turner directed members to reference the provided document which presented the goals and strategies for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan's (MTP) update. Ms. Turner explained that the goals and strategies presented were identified using the survey sent out to the MPO Technical Committee as well as public workshops and leadership interviews conducted in Summer and Fall of 2023. She discussed the survey results in detail, listing the top strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified by the committee and engagement activities. Each goal and corresponding strategies were presented and opened for discussion. Committee members discussed the various topics related to the goals and strategies.

5. Action Items

a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 17, 2023

Ms. Hughes asked that Rockford Mass Transit District be added to members present to the August 17, 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion Mr. Molina, Winnebago County, Highway Department, and seconded by Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development to approve the August 17 Meeting Minutes with the inclusion of RMTD as being present at the meeting. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

b. Amendment to the FY 2024 – 2027 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2023-16)

Ms. Ribikawskis reported that the MPO had received several amendment requests for the addition of two new projects and a new project phase into the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. These projects included:

- 1-24-4: Districtwide Bridge Preservation and Deck Sealing (New project)
- 2-24-3: Roscoe Road Widening and Resurfacing from Old River Road to the Rock River Bridge (New project)
- 3-20-1: 15th Avenue Bridge over the Rock River (New project phase)

Ms. Turner opened the floor for discussion. Within the draft resolution tables, the Roscoe Road was listed under the IDOT project and needed to be moved to Winnebago County.

Motion by Mr. Saunders, Village of Roscoe, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County, Highway Department with the proposed change. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

6. Staff Reports

a. Safe Streets for All (SS4A)

Mr. Diipla provided an update on the status of the SS4A project. There are four Traffic Safety Action Plans in total: Regional, Boone County, City of Rockford, and Winnebago County. There has been kick-off meeting with each of the entities. Staff is currently in process data collection and analysis, which will assist in the safety emphasis areas. After the emphasis areas are identified, preliminary counter measures will be chosen. There is a public survey being developed for the MPA plan.

b. GHG Emissions and Air Quality

Mr. Diipla reported that a RFQ for consultant services for the air quality data collection and reporting was released on September 11th 2023 and submittals are due on Nov 3rd 2023. The data collected by the consultants will be conducted between March and June 2024. The GHG emissions data collection is almost complete and staff is looking for the final data sources. The current analysis narrative has been completed.

c. STBG Call for Projects

Ms. Ribikawskis reported that the STBG call for projects is open until November 3. There is more that \$4 million available for this round.

Discussion was held on the exact amount of funding and the next call for projects.

d. Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

Ms. Ribikawskis reported the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for Fiscal Year 23 is posted on the R1 website. This report lists projects with federal funds obligated over the past year.

e. Complete Streets Policy

Ms. Ribikawskis reported that over the past few months R1 has been working on a Complete Streets Policy and Design Guidelines for the region. Per the bipartisan infrastructure law, MPOs are required to have a complete streets policy and design guidelines in order to improve safety and accessibility for all roadway users. As part of this process, there is a Complete Streets Advisory Committee, which has members from MPO Technical Committee and Transportation Alternative Selection Committee. This committee has helped provide guidance regarding what should be included within the Regional Policy.

R1 is currently looking for feedback from the Complete Streets Advisory Committee on the draft of the Policy before it is presented at the next Technical Committee meeting for discussion and recommendation for adoption.

7. Agency Reports

a. Boone County, Highway Department

Mr. Krohn reported that they are grant and data collection for the completing the construction of the Poplar Grove Road bridge over Beaver Creek, which is set to be opened within a month or two. Three Truck Access Route Program (TARP) projects are set for completion within the next 45 days: Poplar Grove Rd, Centerville Rd, and Irene Rd.

b. Boone County, Planning Department

Not present.

c. Boone County Conservation District

Not present.

d. Chicago/Rockford International Airport

Not present.

e. City of Belvidere, Planning Department

Not present.

f. City of Belvidere, Public Works Department

No report.

g. City of Loves Park, Community Development

Not present.

h. City of Loves Park, Public Works Department

Not present.

i. City of Rockford, Community Development

Mr. Bell thanked R1 for the assistance on the development of the City of Rockford's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted on October 2, 2023.

j. City of Rockford, Public Works Department

Mr. Hinkens reported on the three project that received Transportation Alternatives Program: the Parkview Sidewalk project is being let in November 2023 with construction estimated to begin next spring; the West State Street Sidewalk project is moving towards Phase 2 engineering; and East State Street Sidewalk connection from Alpine Road to Newtowne Drive is waiting on environmental survey results for Phase 1 engineering. The STBG-awarded project, 9th Street Two-way Conversion, is in Phase 1 engineering and they are completing design studies for 20 intersections. The awarded COVID-19 Relief funds need to be spent by June 2024, so they will be used for the Phase 2 engineering of the 9th Street project. Charles Street open and complete. The City will be going out to bid for the Madison Street Reconstruction Project, which will be from East State Street to Prairie Street, before end of 2023. The City is also partnering with Four Rivers Sanitary District on the Whitman Street reconstruction bid, which will be out before end of year (2023).

k. Forest Preserves of Winnebago County

Not present.

l. Four Rivers Sanitary District

Mr. Baer reported that they are working on the preliminary engineering of major sewer east of Alpine Road, which runs parallel to major railroad tracks. There is also a superfund site nearby which they will need to address.

m. IDOT, District 2

Mr. Bates reported on several projects along the I-39/US 20 corridor. The Perryville Road bridge replacement will be wrapping up in November 2023. The first contract for the larger I-39/20 interchange

project has started with major excavation at the site. The Lyndon Road Bridge to be open at the end of the year. Other major contracts for the project are anticipated to begin in April 2024.

n. Rockford Mass Transit District

Ms. Hughes reported that RMTD received eight hybrid buses. Seven of the vehicles were purchased with FTA low/no funds from the previous round. RMTD has order an additional four hybrids with this year's funding.

o. Rockford Park District

Mr. Bragg reported that two neighborhood park reinvestments have been completed: Oxford and Harmon Parks. Oxford Park was upgraded with ADA accessibility and rededicated to former park district employee, John Beck. Harmon Park completed a new recreation path with fitness stations and pathway lighting. On November 1st, the Park District is hosting an event at the Indoor Sports Factory for contractors who want to do business with the Park District.

p. Village of Machesney Park, Community Development

No report.

q. Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department

No report.

r. Village of Roscoe

Mr. Saunders reported that the Main Street reconstruction project is underway and there has been an emphasis on stakeholder engagement to advance the project. The Village is in the process of developing a grant application for a trailhead as a part the future extension of Perryville Path; this project would provide facilities and a pedestrian bridge. Roscoe is also applying to Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) grant to study pedestrian path connections to get across IL-251 to connect the east and west sides of Roscoe.

s. Village of Winnebago

Not present.

t. Winnebago County, Community & Economic Dev.

No report.

u. Winnebago County, Highway Department

Mr. Molina reported that Bell School Road from Harvest Drive to Gilford Road is going out for bids on October 21st. The MTDS permit for the Perryville Path, from Anjali Way to Willowbrook Lane, has expired. Construction will start spring next year. Perryville Path, from Willowbrook Lane to McDonald Road, is in the engineering phase and estimated construction is FY 2025. The TIP amendment discussed previously is for a HSIP -funded project for Roscoe Road, from Old River Road to the Rock River, which includes widen and resurfacing of the road. The County is pursuing a FEMA grant to raise Roscoe Road to address flooding issues. The county does have funding for Roscoe Road bridge deck and super structure replacement, which is scheduled for FY 2027. The HSIP-funded project for improvements to Belvidere Road, from IL-173 to Village of Roscoe, is completed. The County also has submitted report to IDOT for approval of Phase 1 engineering for the STBG-funded Riverside Boulevard project and are looking to move forward with construction FY 2025. Currently, part of this project (\$600,000) is being funded with COVID Relief funds which needs to be used by June 2024. To do so, there is a scheduled local material letting for traffic signals and storm sewer. The county continuing work on the SPR-funded project for asset management and data collection. Next year, the County will be working on the Elevator Road project, from Willowbrook Road to County Line Road.

v. Winnebago County, Soil & Water Conservation District

Not present.

w. IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning and Programming

No report.

x. Illinois Tollway

No report.

8. Other Business

Ms. Turner shared the schedule of MPO Technical & Policy Committee meeting dates for calendar year 2024.

Mr. Bragg asked about the creation of a collective trail condition report via a joint regional grant application. This report would include conditions of the trails and paths, as well as provide an estimated cost for improvements. This project would address complaints on the condition of paths in the region. There was discussion about regional trail/path maintenance, with several agencies receiving complaints from residents. The challenges with the maintenance of paths and trails. Several agencies would like to schedule an additional meeting to discuss a project that would inventory the region's trails and provide maintenance funding recommendations.

Ms. Turner announced that IDOT is hosting a public hearing for the US Business 20 project on October 25 2023.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Hughes, Rockford Mass Transit District and seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department, to adjourn at 10:56 am. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Makenzee Wilcox and Sydney Turner.

Minutes approved by action of the Committee: January 18, 2024.

Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact R1 Planning at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.