



## MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 21, 2024 10:00 am

Region 1 Planning Council  
127 N. Wyman Street, Suite 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

- 3. Members Present:** Boone County Highway Department; Boone County Conservation District; Chicago-Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere - Public Works Department; City of Loves Park - Public Works Department; City of Rockford - Community Development Department; City of Rockford - Public Works Department; Illinois Department of Transportation - 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 and Economic Development Department; Winnebago County - Highway Department

Brandon Boggs and Troy Taylor of the Village of Roscoe stood in for Josef Kurlinkus.

**Members Absent:** Boone County – Planning Department; City of Belvidere – Planning Department; City of Loves Park – Community Development Department; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Four Rivers Sanitary District; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District

**Others Present:** Todd Schmidt, Federal Highway Administration - IL Division; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; Tim Hinkens, City of Rockford Public Works; Amanda Colver, Brandon Rucker, Jon Paul Diipla, Juliana Charlesbois-Berg, Lauren Kleve, Melisa Ribikawskis, Nathan Larsen, Vanessa Mauries, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

#### 4. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a. 2025 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Update – Financial Assumptions

Ms. Turner presented a memorandum detailing the financial assumptions development as a part of the federally-required, fiscally-constrained project list of the MTP. The financial assumptions process is comprised of a four-phase approach - Historic Funding Levels, Revenue Forecast, Expenditure Forecast, and Results. Six programs were examined for the Historic Funding Levels including Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Urban *and* Rural, Transportation Alternatives Program, Highway Bridge Program, and Carbon Reduction Program. Using historic allotments for these programs, future projections were calculated using a compound annual growth rate. It was noted that there is a negative growth rate for MFT, and an increase in the growth rate of federal programs. Since the increase is attributed to the bipartisan infrastructure bill, only FY23-25 were used in calculations. Projections will be used to identify the amount that can be spent on regionally-significant projects over the next 25 years.

Discussion was held on the inclusion of the Transportation Renewal Fund (TRF), if township MFT was included, and the intent of the process. Some concern over the specific years selected for the MFT data arose among the

group. However, it was explained that the compound annual growth rate was used to average out more significant decreases in one or two years.

**b. FY 2025 Unified Work Program**

Ms. Turner provided the technical committee with an overview of the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Work Program, which will be open for public comment on April 1st, 2024 for 30 days. There was a slight increase in overall funding based on provisional planning funds that utilize previous years' funding throughout the state that have to be spend down. Region 1 Planning Council is receiving a 20% state match to federal funding as well as local contributions. The work elements for the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Work Program will be carried over from the previous fiscal year. A breakout of the new annual budget was provided to members, including new projects. A copy of the Fiscal Year 2025 Unified Work Program will be provided to IDOT Office of Planning and Programming.

**c. Complete Streets Design Standards**

Ms. Ribikawskis explained general information about the federally required complete streets design standards. Elements within the design standards were described, including the pedestrian realm, roadways, and curbside uses. Intersection design is a separate section with its own elements, due to the nature of being conflict points. Shared-use paths and accessways are also a separate section with its own elements.

The implementation to existing plans was also explained to the group, including responsibilities of different agencies. The Complete Street's Design Standards is currently open for public comment and will close on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The document will be brought to the next technical committee meeting after the public comment period. Sources for the document include MUTCD, NACTO, and AASHTO.

**6. Action Items**

**a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of February 22, 2024**

Ms. Turner entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the February 22, 2024 MPO Technical Committee.

Motion to amend the minutes by Mr. Belle, City of Rockford, Community Development by changing description of the "Melby Tucker Path" to the Mel-Anderson Path. Seconded by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works Department, to approve the amendment to the February 22, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**b. Amendment to the FY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) – Resolution 2024-05**

Ms. Ribikawskis told the group that R1 received one TIP amendment from the City of Rockford for project 3-20-21, which is the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Two-Way Conversion Whitman Street Interchange from Whitman Street to East State Street. The amendment included an updated cost breakout to the total funding amount.

Motion to **not recommend** the amendment by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

**c. Award of the FY 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funds – Resolution 2024-06**

Ms. Ribikawskis presented on the call for projects that R1 opened from September to November, 2023. Staff received six new and existing projects. Projects were provided in the meeting packet and included:

- South Perryville Road Rehabilitation
- Harrison Avenue Improvements
- 9<sup>th</sup> Street Two-Way Conversion
- Latham/Ralston Road Widening and Rehabilitation
- Woodstock Road Extension
- Baxter Road/Harrisville Road Intersection Improvements

Discussion on the timeframe of when funds need to be allocated was had among the group. It was explained that there is a three-year “sunset clause” on these projects, meaning there needs to be some sort of movement on these projects by 2027.

Discussion occurred on the prioritization of funds and project details.

Motion to allocate 100% of funds to Winnebago County’s South Perryville Road Rehabilitation by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 7. Staff Reports

### a. SPR – Paths and Trails Asset Management

Mr. Larsen described the scope of the Paths and Trails project, as well as the status of the grant application. Representatives from the partner agencies who helped to develop the application will be asked for letters of support. Submission for the application is due by April 14, 2024.

## 8. Agency Reports

### a. Boone County, Highway Department

Mr. Krohn reported that the County has gone out to bid for their summer rehabilitation and resurfacing program, including Spring Creek Road, Caledonia Road, and Hunter Road, as well other rural roads. Total project costs are estimated to be \$4 million. Additionally, the County anticipate awarding the extension of the Townhall Road RFQ for their SPR grant at the next County Board meeting.

### b. Boone County Conservation District

No report.

### c. Chicago Rockford International Airport

No report.

### d. City of Belvidere, Public Works Department

Mr. Anderson reported that the State of Illinois opened up their Newburg Road Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) project bids.

### e. City of Loves Park, Public Works Department

Mr. Messinger reported that the Evans Road project was recently awarded to Northern Illinois Services, and their 2024 overlay is going out soon.

### f. City of Rockford, Community Development

No report.

### g. City of Rockford, Public Works Department

Mr. Carter expressed gratitude for the help that R1 provided in the Whitman Interchange Reconnecting Communities grant that was recently awarded \$7.1 million. Additionally, a reconstruction meeting for the Parkview Avenue Sidewalk Project (TAP-funded) occurred on March 20 and will begin shortly. The West State Street Sidewalk Gap Project (TAP-funded) is moving into Phase 2 Engineering. This summer construction for water main replacements along Jefferson Street will commence.

### h. IDOT, District 2

No report.

### i. Rockford Mass Transit District

Mrs. Hughes reported that 14 new demand-response vehicles will be coming in next month, as well as four hybrid buses coming in May. After this, 33 fixed-route vehicles will be battery-electric or hybrid of the 41 total vehicles for this service.

### j. Rockford Park District

Mr. Bragg reported that Rockford Park District may be reaching out to R1 and the City of Rockford for assistance with a Reconnecting Communities grant application for a section of the Pecatonica Prairie Path. Additionally, He shared information about the expansion of recreational programs.

### k. Village of Machesney Park, Community Development

No report.

### l. Village of Machesney Park, Public Works

No report.

**m. Village of Roscoe**

Mr. Boggs reported that the Village of Roscoe will be going out for bid soon for their annual resurfacing project, with the work totaling roughly \$900,000.

**n. Winnebago County, Community & Economic Dev.**

No report.

**o. Winnebago County, Highway Department**

Mr. Molina reported on several of their capital projects for this year, including Bell School Road, which had previously had some problems with ComEd. The project should still be happening this year. Bids have been opened for Elevator Road and Latham Road. The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) project on Riverside Boulevard is getting close to completion of Phase 1.

**p. FHWA, Illinois Division**

Mr. Schmidt reported that a discretionary grant (Active Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Program) recently became available and provided some information regarding the grant. He also noted that the Division's Director of Environmental Planning will be replaced at the end of the month.

**q. Illinois Tollway**

No report.

**9. Other Business**

Mr. Carter brought up a discussion regarding IDOT's Complete Streets Policy and information about state and local funding from that policy. A question was asked whether funding could be sourced for maintenance projects under the same scope.

Mr. Krohn asked about an update on the selection of intersections for the video analytics RFQ. Mr. Diipla explained that he would be reaching out to all partner agencies to schedule consultant interviews.

A brief discussion on the eligibility of the uses of TAP funds for maintenance was had among the group. Subsequently, a discussion regarding potential additional funding sources for alternative transportation projects occurred.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, and seconded by Mrs. Hughes, Rockford Mass Transit District, to adjourn at 11:19 am. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Brandon Rucker and Sydney Turner.

Minutes approved by action of the Board: 05/23/2024