COLLABORATIVE PLANNING FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS

MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 30, 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; Shannon Messinger, City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Scott Capovilla, 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 (10:07am); Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development(10:19 am); Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago county Soil & Water Conservation District; Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Planning an Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; Patricia Diduch, City of Byron

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; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Winnebago; Boone County Transit; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Tim Hinkens, City of Rockford, Public Works; Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Chloe Barnes, John Mac, Keagan Carlson of Region 1 Planning Council.

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

4) Discussion Items:
a) Call for Projects and Priority Tim Verbeke announced the opening of the Call-for-Projects, and that there is an FAQ sheet included in the meeting packet. He then explained that this Call-for-Projects encompasses both MPO projects as well as EDD/CEDs project for FY27-FY28. He then explained the breakdown of the funding allocations for STBG, TAP & CR programs, indicating that 2 years of funding can be requested with about $12 million in reserve for STBG, $4.5 million for TAP, and $1.1 million for CR programs (which remains contingent on federal government direction.) He then explained that the application portal (Survey Alchemer) on the R1 website would remain open until December 1, 2025. He went on to describe the scoring categories included in the meeting packet and the weight out of 112 points, with focus on economic vitality and project readiness. An application workshop will be held at R1

on November 20, 2025 from 2:30-4:30pm to assist any who would like to participate. Scoring will begin on December 1, with a preliminary presentation of scoring on January 22, 2025, followed by a 45 day public comment period. Final recommendations will be made at the March CAF meeting. Mr. Verbeke then clarified that the max amount that can be requested is $9.5 million over two years, and that construction ready means that work begins in FY27 or very early 2026. A member asked for clarification about reserve funds, and if there is an expiration date on those. Mr. Verbeke and Mr. Delille explained that there is not, however it's encouraged to allocate those funds first, so as not to "bog down" project schedules.

b) Addition of Voting Member to MPO Technical Committee- Mr. Verbeke announced that the MPO Policy Committee will be voting on adding the City of Byron as a voting member of the MPO Technical Committee. He also clarified that this addition will not extend to the Policy committee. He then indicated any questions and concerns should be emailed to him directly. Ms. Diduch then explained that Byron is within the MPO boundary and is happy to have a seat at the table and to participate.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the August 21, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 9/25/2025 meeting minutes. Ms. Mandujano, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development motioned, seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b) Amendment to the FY 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2025-18) Mr. Verbeke described this amendment as addressing updates for various IDOT projects, the 15th Ave. bridge, minor splits in timing for City of Rockford Projects (Mr. Hinkens added these are a reaction to IDOT's multi-year program). Mr. Verbeke then indicated that the HSIP award to Winnebago County can be added at any time. Mr. Verbeke called for a motion. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department, motioned, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development, vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

6) Staff Reports-

- **Call for Projects-**Again the application process is open, as of October 1, 2025 and will close on December 1, 2025.
- **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. All projects will be wrapping up in the next 2 months, and be complete by December 31, 2025.
- **R1 Governing Board Meeting**-The next R1 Governing Board meeting is on November 13, 2025 at 8:00 am. A representative from IDOT will be present to give an update on the passenger rail project, which is still planning to be open by December of 2027.
- **Rail Station Design**- R1 will be looing at a station design project, outside the platform perview, and will be seeking recommendations as well as adding a design consultant. Stakeholder meetings will kick off in Early December of 2026.

- **Reconnecting Communities**-SW Rail Study is moving along. Consultant AECOM will be meeting with railroads to talk about stake and what they would like to see, and explore their openness to possibly offloading properties to landbank.
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6) Agency Reports

a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** n/a
b.) **Boone County Planning Department: n/a**
c.) **Boone County Conservation District:** Phase 1: Engineering for ITEP project, includes 5 bridges.
d.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
e.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report
f.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
g.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a
h.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:**
i.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** No Report
j.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** Whitman St. Project is complete and open to traffic. North Main/Auburn roundabout will remain 1 lane and has been restriped. RAISE grant property has been signed off on to begin Phase 1 & 2 of agreement, waiting on final signatures.
k.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** No Report
l.) **IDOT, District 2**: No Report
m.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** Winnebago St. Project paused until November 10, 2025.
n.) **Rockford Park District:** No Report
o.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** No Report
p.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
q.) **Village of Roscoe:** No Report
r.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
s.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Riverside project-half way with land acquisition-letting early 2026; Owen Center-Phase 1 Engineering complete, working on Right of way acquisition; Roscoe Rd. Bridge- public meeting coming up, bridge will likely be closed for 5 months creating need for alternate traffic considerations; ITEP-Perryville Path-looking at 2026 start; HSIP-Forest Hills south of River Lane-sidewalk project.
t.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a
u.) **FHWA, IL Division**: No Report
v.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** Reminder that Safety Targets sent out, and any action taken needs to be by February 2026.
w.) **Illinois Tollway:** Detour has been picked up near Spring Creek Rd, completed toll plaza work.

Other Business: Mr. Verbeke announced that the regions Complete Streets Policies were ranked 7th in the country and that ours was the only MPO included in the top 10.

7) Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works motioned; seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Dept. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:38 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: _____