



## MPO Technical Committee Meeting

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025

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

#### 1) Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Tim Verbeke at 10:00am

#### 2) Roll Call

Members Present: Justin Krohn, Boone County Highway Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Gina Delrose, City of Belvidere Planning Department; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works Department; Chris Baer, Four Rivers Sanitary District; Katie Smith, IDOT District 2; Mitch Hilden, Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Troy Krup, Village of Roscoe; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County, Community & Economic Development; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department;

Members Absent: Boone County, Planning Department; City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Loves Park, Community Development; City of Rockford, Community Developments; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Rockford Mass Transit District; Rockford Park District; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Other Present: Doug DeLille, IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Lauren Kleve, Nathan Larsen, Sarah Renicker, Tim Verbeke, Hailey Blanchard, Jackson Sitter and Chloe Barnes of Region 1 Planning Council.

#### 3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

#### 4) Discussion Items:

- a) **MPO-Attributable Funding-Updates-** Mr. Verbeke restated the sentiments of the previous MPO Technical Committee meeting where Mr. Dunn suggested revising the STBG funding cycle to be a two-year project cycle, as opposed to the current 5-year cycle. This is due to the shift in administrative priorities at the federal level, as well as a build-up of un-used funds from previous funding cycles. Mr. Verbeke outlined a 3 options: 1. Move forward with currently approved 25-26 projects; 2. Open a new call-for-projects for 26-27, or 3. Pause STBG for the year. Winnebago and Boone County representatives expressed concern over losing funds, or expiring funds, with Winnebago County having 3 projects ready to go this year. Mr. Dellile, IDOT, informed the committee of an AMPO memo that described the redistribution of funding back to the state for certain funds unspent. Mr. Sage, Boone County Conservation District, suggested moving forward with the already approved projects. Mr. Molina also

indicate da preference to move forward with current STBG/TAP process. Mr. Carter, City of Rockford still recommends the current 5-year cycle and requested that be brought to the Policy committee, seconded by WCHD and BCHD. A robust discussion about the re-opening of the call-for-projects ensued with the requirement of new resolutions to be brought to the April MPO Technical Committee meeting, and then to the MPO Policy committee in May. Mr. Verbeke clarified that the 2-year change would only effect STBG, and that the TAP/CRP would continue as 5-year cycle. Mr. Dellile indicated that there is some uncertainty concerning projects after FY25. Mr. Krohn asked if there is a possibility to return to the 5-year model later on down the road? Mr. Molina asked if TAP funds can be used for preliminary engineering, since there is a surplus. Mr. Krohn expressed concern about first funds, and last funds moving forward, will banked money go back to the state? Mr. Delille indicated that non programmed funds left sitting does raise red flags, so with there's uncertainty with jumping too far ahead. Mr. Krohn asked if there would be new criteria based on current administrations priorities? Mr. Verbeke indicated any new criteria would be presented at the April MPO Technical Committee.

## 5) Action Items:

### a.) Approval of the February 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 2/20/2025 meeting minutes. Mr. Sage, Boone County Conservation District, motioned, seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department. Mr. Molina indicated a minor correction on the reported timing of the Owen Center project update in the minutes, corrections were recognized by recorder. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

b.) Adoption of the TIP Policy and Procedures (Resolution 2025-03)-Mr. Verbeke summarized the proposed changes to the TIP Policy and Procedures indicating the following: formalized terms and forms, group projects would be dis-allowed, align with Complete Streets, update of TIP activity types (projects will need to fall into specific categories), updated administrative processes, and streamline amendment process to three times per year instead of monthly. Motion called for a vote by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department, and seconded by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works. Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department clarified that if a project changes in between, amendments would be restricted to those three times per year. Mr. Verbeke, R1 confirmed. Vote was called. Motion passed unanimously.

c.) Adoption of Regional Traffic Safety Action Plan (Resolution 2025-04)-removed from the agenda

d.) Alternative Transportation Selection Committee (Resolution 2025-05)-Mr. Verbeke explained that the committee would make recommendations for the allocation of 5310 funds which address the needs of community members with limited mobility or have accessibility limitations. Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department suggested adding Belvidere Park District, Ms. Delrose suggested adding a Boone County Transit Representative, and Jeremy Carter suggested adding a private firm that focuses on transportation. Mr. Molina asked if recommendations would require Policy Committee Approval, which Mr. Verbeke indicated was correct. Mr. Krohn, Boone County motioned for a vote, Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works and Troy Krup, Village of Roscoe seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

## 6) Staff Reports-

a.) Safe Streets for All- Mr. Verbeke reported that the document was under review with input from Winnebago County, Boone County and the City of Rockford, regarding the Regional plan. He also indicated that the project would be presented at a public meeting in Rockford in May.

- b.) Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)-Mr. Rucker, R1, reported that this federally required plan designed to assist seniors and disabled citizens would be wrapping up this year. It is currently in the third phase of development, which includes public engagement with a stakeholder meeting scheduled for April 9, a public comment period in May, before going before the MPO Technical and Policy Committees in June. A draft of the plan is available on the R1 website.
- c.) Livable Communities Initiative (LCI)-Mr. Sitter, R1, reported that the Keith Creek project is entering its public engagement phase with a community meeting at a neighborhood church to solicit input from residents about the direction of the project. R1 is offering Technical Assistance this year, and will be assisting with implementation next year. Mr. Carter expressed concern about overlapping projects, and Mr. Verbeke explained that this would be coordinated with the City of Rockford to avoid that.
- d.) State of the Trails-Mr. Larsen, R1, described the progress of the State of the Trails project, and reported that a data collecting e-bike has been purchased and that he is in the process of reaching out to local organizations and municipalities to gather information about locations to be assessed. He also clarified that they are focusing predominantly on shared-use paths.
- e.) Resiliency Improvement Plan (RIP)- Ms. Kleve, R1, reported that there is currently a survey on Region 1's website regarding the RIP.

## 7) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** Preparing to resurface a significant area of roadway in Boone County requiring 37000 tons of asphalt. Letting scheduled for April 28.
- b.) **Boone County Conservation District:** No Report
- c.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** No Report
- d.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
- e.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a
- f.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- g.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** Housing Strategy Plan established at 3/17 City Council Meeting.
- h.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** Whitman St. project is underway, the W. State is currently working on a right-of-way acquisition. Madison St. on track to start end of March or Early April.
- i.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District** Mainline Sewer Lining and Sanitary Lining projects on track for service laterals in Rockford and parts of Machesney and Love Park for June-August.
- j.) **IDOT, District 2:** No Report
- k.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** No Report
- l.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** No Report
- m.) **Village of Roscoe:** Picking up design of residential roadways project near Hodges (near Elevator Rd. Will be in beginning process of developing a "long-overdue" Capital Improvement Plan, which should be read for the September Board meeting.
- n.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** No Report
- o.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** Owen Center project open for bids, to close next month. Working with Cherry Valley on resurfacing of Mulford Rd from Blackhawk Rd to Linden, and Linden Rd from Mulford to Perryville Rd. Working with Village of New Milford on Water Main project and will be meeting with sanitation regarding project.
- p.) **Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation:** n/a
- q.) **FHWA, IL Division:** No Report
- r.) **IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming:** There will be no external call for Statewide Planning Projects this year, all projects will need to be held for next year.
- s.) **IL Tollway:** No Report

**8) Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**9) Adjournment**

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department motioned; seconded by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford, Public Works. A unanimous vote to adjourn at 10:56 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the Board: \_\_\_\_\_