



MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026 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 10:02 am.

2) Roll Call

Members Present: Jessica Roberts, Boone County Planning Department; Josh Sage, Boone County Conservation District; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works Department;; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works Department; Matt Campbell, Four Rivers Sanitation District; Doug Delille, IDOT District 2; Dan Egelkes, RMTD; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Troy Taylor, Village of Roscoe; Karl Palmquist, Winnebago County Community Development; Jon Paul Diipla, FHWA, IL Division (zoom); Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway

Members Absent: Boone County Highway Department; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; City of Byron; City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Village of Machesney Park, Community Development; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County, Highway Department; IDOT Division of Public Transportation; Ogle County Highway Department; SLATS; Stateline Mass Transit District.

Other Present: Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Tim Verbeke, Jackson Sitter, Marilla Smith, Chloe Barnes, John Mack, Keagan Carlson, Ellie Sander, Lizette Gomez, Hallela Wagner, Nammratha Palli, Anushka Chipade, Ava Divizio and Sarah Renicker of Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment

No public comments were brought forward at this time.

4) Discussion Items:

a) Street light Data Discussion- Mr. Verbeke introduced representatives from Streetlight, a database that will support the work being done on the NHTSA-bicycle and pedestrian Safety (School-zone Safety) study. The presenter gave an overview of what the data service offers and how it can be customized to the work being done. This includes data on traffic and intersection activity, crash data, a network screen viewer (safety considerations, focused on school zones). They described 2 modules for procurement: Crash Data viewer-example: 5 year history of data; Network Screening-provides a wider view-deeper dive into where resources could best be used region wide or school-specified. Mr. Verbeke then indicated that this will be a 2-year contract. Committee member asked where the data was coming from, to which the representative from Streetlight indicated that it is coming from the state as well as gps/apple/google maps (scrubbed).

b) Green Streets Plan: Ms. Barnes gave an overview of the Green Streets Plan. Its purpose is to analyze current infrastructure, and offer regional recommendations regarding things such as flooding, sustainability, and aesthetics. The plan is currently in its draft stage, including a guide to design component standards, transportation infrastructure,

and sustainable materials. The report will include graphics and photos of Green Streets projects. Ms. Barnes also explained that the first round of public engagement took place during the December 2025 Community Advisory Forum meeting. Rounds 2 & 3 will take place in the summer of 2026 and include the Youth Engaged in Planning program. All work up until now has been included with this year's round 1 funding. Next year's round 2 funding will include a more in-depth look at potential corridors and enhancing pedestrian experiences. An Engage R1 survey is available on the R1 website for the public to submit feedback. Ms. Barnes then led the committee members in a guided discussion about what past, present, and future projects contain properties of the Green Streets Plan. Members indicated previous projects that included permeable pavement, but that it doesn't last long without consistent maintenance. Maintenance was mentioned several times as a barrier to success for many Green Streets initiatives. Members asked about the availability of a sustainable, salt resistant plant list for use in future projects. Ms. Barnes indicated that she is working with Morton Arboretum, and the Rockford Park District to build that list and then would be distributing it to members of the committee.

5) Action Items:

a) Approval of the March 19, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Verbeke called for the approval of the 3/19/2026 meeting minutes. Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere, Public Works motioned, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development. With no further discussion, motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

b) Approval of the FY27 Unified Planning work Program (UPWP) (Resolution 2026-04). Mr. Verbeke reviewed new projects included and the funding amounts, which included a slight increase from last year. The document is currently out for public comment which will end at the end of April. Federal formula and State planning funds increased, but the required match amount stayed the same. He explained that staff expense was 80% of budget, which means that more can be done in-house. He explained that there are approximately 40 projects being funded for the year, including: Pavement toolkit, additional neighborhood studies, Green Streets and an Autonomous Vehicle study. Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public works motioned, seconded by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works, vote passed by unanimous voice vote.

c) Approval of the Regional Housing Coordination Plan (Resolution 2026-05). Ms. Sander explained that the Regional Housing Coordination Plan would be out for public comment at the beginning of next week, comments will be incorporate and ready for the final draft at the end of the month. Mr. Capovilla asked who was involved in the development of the plan and why City was not consulted. Ms. Sander indicated that there were meetings of a focus group that provided input and relevant information. Mr. Capovilla indicated that it's important to be aware of political implications of zoning in various parts of the plan. Mr. Carter then asked what the goal was for the plan? Is it to make it part of municipalities/communities master plans? Mr. Verbeke then suggested that the vote be tabled until there is more time for input and development from additional stakeholders

6) Staff Reports-

- Streetlight- contract is looking to be approved and executed at the May 14, 2026 R1 Governing Board Meeting for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety grant. And that the subsequent School Zone Safety Program will kick-off in 2 weeks. 5 school districts are interested in participating. And Mr. Verbeke and Ms. Barnes will be traveling to Kentucky next week to present about the program at a conference.
- LCI-final meeting with Keith Creek Neighborhood will take place on April 30 with the engineering consultants presenting their final plans and discussing the timeline for construction. The Midtown Neighborhood will be

presented 9 projects to choose from the following week. Round 3 will kick-off June 2026 with more neighborhoods being eligible to apply (Applications can be submitted between July 4-Labor Day.)

- The June MPO Technical Committee meeting has a conflict with another IDOT meeting, there is no objection to keeping the date.

6) Agency Reports

- a.) **Boone County Highway Department:** N/a
- b.) **Boone County Planning Department:** n/a
- c.) **Boone County Conservation District:** n/a
- d.) **Boone County Transit:** n/a
- e.) **City of Byron:** n/a
- f.) **Chicago/Rockford International Airport:** n/a
- g.) **City of Belvidere, Public Works:** n/a
- h.) **Loves Park, Community Development:** n/a
- i.) **Loves Park, Public Works Department:** n/a
- j.) **City of Rockford Community Development:** The Future Land Use Plan has been approved, and will be working on Amendment 2 regarding Infield Development Project.
- k.) **City of Rockford, Public Works Department:** RAISE Grant has received Feds for approval and is moving forward. The Auburn St. project has begun and is running smoothly. Asked IDOT about Safety Bureau Study, discussion with a hired consultant (Doug D.-responded that it came from a different department, and when looked into, they are looking for community concerns, but is unsure of the deliverable.)
- l.) **Four Rivers Sanitary District:** n/a
- m.) **IDOT, District 2:** NOFO for next round of Safe Streets for All funding due May 26, potentially the last round.
- n.) **Rockford Mass Transit District:** n/a
- o.) **Rockford Park District:** Submitted an easement request with the City and County for a temporary construction project. Dennis Jacobson is retiring and there will be an open house for him at 2:30 on April 29 at the Webbs Norman Center.
- p.) **Machesney Park, Community Development:** n/a
- q.) **Machesney Park, Public Works Department:** n/a
- r.) **Village of Roscoe:** Regional Street resurfacing project is getting underway.
- s.) **Winnebago County Community & Economic Development:** Zoning & Zoning
- t.) **Winnebago County Highway Department:** n/a
- u.) **FHWA, IL Division:** n/a
- v.) **IDOT:** n/a
- w.) **Illinois Tollway:** n/a

Other Business:

Adjournment

Mr. Verbeke entertained a motion to adjourn. Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development motioned; seconded by Mr. Palmquist, Winnebago County, Community Development. A unanimous voice vote to adjourn at 10:46 am

Meeting minutes prepare by: Sarah Renicker

Minutes approved by action of the MPO Technical Committee on 5/21/2026