



MPO Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 22, 2021

Region 1 Planning Council, 127 N Wyman St., Suite 100, Rockford, IL 61101

1) Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Turner at 10:02 am.

2) Roll Call

Members Present: Illinois Dept. of Transportation, District 2; Winnebago County Highway Dept.; City of Rockford Public Works Dept.; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works; Rockford Mass Transit District; City of Loves Park, Community Development Dept.; Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Dept.; City of Rockford, Community Development Dept.; Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Dept.; Boone County, Planning Department; Boone County Highway Dept.; City of Belvidere, Public Works Dept.; City of Belvidere Planning Department; Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD); Boone County Conservation District; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Members Absent: City of Loves Park, Public Works Dept.; Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Rockford Park District.

Others Present: T.J. Nee, State Line Area Transportation Study; John Donovan, Federal Highway Administration; Colin Belle, City of Rockford; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; Michael Dunn, Sydney Turner, Shelby Best, Kara Harmet, Chuck Klutho, Joe Koralewski, Matthew Miller, Melisa Ribikawskis, Alexandra Rosander, Ivy Hood, Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

4) Consent Agenda

a) Approval of The March 18, 2021 MPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

b) MPO FY 2021 – FY 2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment - MPO

Resolution 2021-07: Ms. Turner describes amendments to the MPO FY 2021-2024 TIP at the request of Illinois Department of Transportation, Boone County Highway Department, and Rockford Mass Transit District.

- IDOT District #2 requested the following amendments:
 - #1-17-2: IL-251, Railroad 0.1 mi S of IL-72 (Cost update)
 - #1-17-4: IL-2, 0.1 miles north of Luther Dr to 0.1 mi south of Beltline Rd (Moved to FY 2022 and cost update)
- Boone County Highway Department requested the following amendments:
 - #13-21-7: Centerville Rd, IL-173 to Stimes Rd (New Project)
 - #13-21-8: Irene Rd, US 20 to Beverly Materials Quarry (New Project)
 - #13-21-9: Poplar Grove Rd, City of Belvidere to Village of Poplar Grove (New Project)

- Rockford Mass Transit District requested following amendments:
 - #7-19-4: New Discretionary Grant Application: Replacement of electric buses (“New” project)
 - #19-12: New Discretionary Grant Application: Charging stations for electric buses with associated design and build facilities upgrades (“New” Project)

Ms. Turner entertained a motion to approve the consent agenda for the March 18, 2021 MPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes and MPO Resolution 2021-07.

Motion by Mr. Bruck, City of Loves Park, Community Development Department and seconded by Tim Hinkens, City of Rockford, Public Works Department, to **approve** the Consent Agenda. Motion **approved** by unanimous voice vote.

5) 2021 GREENWAYS: A GREENWAYS PLAN FOR BOONE, OGLE, AND WINNEBAGO COUNTIES – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-08:

Ms. Turner notes the final draft for 2021 Greenways: A Greenways Plan for Boone, Ogle, And Winnebago Counties underwent a public comment period from February 3, 2021 through March 5, 2021. The 2021 Greenways, and related materials, can be accessed at <https://r1planning.org/planning-activities>. Ms. Best provided an update on the public comments received on the 2021 Greenways Plan. Comments included requests to update map features and shapefiles, including identification of appropriate agencies, adding possible widgets and transit stops. Additional changes made to the draft version of the document included updating charts and links. The MPO Technical Committee is asked for its recommendation of MPO Resolution 2021-08.

Motion **approved** by roll call vote.

6) ELECTRIC VEHICLE READINESS PLAN FOR THE ROCKFORD REGION – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-09:

Ms. Turner states the final draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan for the Rockford Region (EV Readiness Plan) underwent a public comment period from January 28, 2021 through March 1, 2021. RPC staff received eight (8) comments on the EV Readiness Plan—seven emails and one phone call. Comments included: discussing language of multi-family units under zoning ordinance template, with emphasis on new units incorporating features being highly recommended, but not required to mirror single family language. Additionally, two comments on partnerships with private entities—such as car dealerships—to bring the plan to fruition were received, as well as notes on repurposing on-street parking, service stations and gas stations. Two comments noted reduction in Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) reduction with widespread adoption of EVs; two comments referred to working with utilities on grid resiliency, and one comment stated mandates for charging infrastructure could increase housing cost. One update to the draft occurred, detailing how the assumptions were made and what calculations were used in Part 5 of the Plan that pertained to the charging station network. Table 5-1 was updated with two forecasts for the potential number of EV vehicles in the region by 2030. Ms. Turner entertained a motion to approve MPO Resolution 2021-09.

Motion by Mr. Richter, Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford, Community Development Department. to **recommend** MPO Resolution 2021-09. Motion **approved** by roll call vote.

7) SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM OF PROJECTS – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-10:

Ms. Turner notes a competitive call for projects was held from January 21, 2021 to February 22, 2021, with MPO staff scoring projects according to December 2019 criteria, adopted by the MPO Policy Committee. The project scoring process resulted in a project priority list that may utilize STBG funds. The list has been presented in two parts: “Corridor Revitalization” (projects requesting greater than \$5 million in STBG funds) and “Other Corridor Projects” (requesting less than \$5 million in STBG funds). FHWA and FTA certification review suggested award amounts to projects may not exceed the STBG funds available to be programmed within the region. Funds may not be “borrowed” from future fiscal years, and there is a sunset clause representing a three (3) year window in which to allocate and have projects must begin work. It has been recommended to pursue funding for one project from each of the lists, however, such a decision is left to the discretion of the MPO Policy Committee. Ms. Turner asks for a recommendation on projects to be awarded STBG funds.

Discussion occurred regarding the available funding amounts to be awarded; the allocation of the funds between “Corridor Revitalization” and “Other Corridor Projects”; updates to the data used in the scoring of the projects; history of project selection criteria; partially funding versus fully funding a project; increased costs associated with Federal requirements; annual basis of the call for projects; the 3-year “sunset” clause on federal funds; recommendations to the Policy Committee; and project summary sheets.

Motion made by Mr. Richter, Village of Machesney Park Community Development Department to recommend the Program of Projects presented to the Technical Committee to be recommended to the MPO Policy Committee. Seconded by Mr. Bruck, City of Loves Park, Community Development Department to **recommend** MPO Resolution 2021-10.

Motion **approved** by roll call vote. 16 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain.

8) Agency Reports

9.01 – Illinois Dept. of Transportation, District 2:

No report.

9.02 – Winnebago County Highway Dept.:

Mr. Molina reported that the Alpine Road Bridge rehabilitation was awarded and a pre-construction meeting will be held virtually.

9.03 – City of Rockford, Public Works Dept.:

Mr. Hinkens reported the Park View Sidewalk TAP-funded project is wrapping up Phase 1. The City recently met with FHWA regarding the East State Street and West State Street sidewalk gap projects and the projects are proceeding smoothly.

9.04 – City of Loves Park, Public Works Dept.:

Not present.

9.05 – Village of Machesney Park, Public Works:

Mr. Hunter reported the Alpine Rd project bid is opening up next week, with construction slated to start in June 2021.

9.06 – Chicago Rockford International Airport:

Not present.

9.07 – Rockford Mass Transit District:

No report.

9.08 – City of Loves Park, Community Development Dept.:

No report.

9.09 – Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Dept.:

Not present.

9.10 – City of Rockford, Community Development Dept.:

No report.

9.11 – Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Dept.:

No report.

9.12 – Boone County, Planning Dept.:

No report.

9.13 – Boone County Highway Dept.:

No report.

9.14 – City of Belvidere, Public Works Dept.:

No report.

9.15 – City of Belvidere, Planning Dept.:

No report.

9.16 – Rock River Water Reclamation District:

No report.

9.17 – Forest Preserves of Winnebago County:

Not present.

9.18 – Boone County Conservation District:

No report.

9.19 – Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:

No report.

9.20 – Rockford Park District:

Not present.

9.21 – Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

9.22 – Illinois State Toll Highway Authority:

Not present.

9.23 – IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

9.24 – IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Not present.

9.25 – Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

9.26 – Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

9.27 – State Line Area Transportation Study:

No report.

9.28 – Federal Highway Administration, IL Division:

Not present.

9.29 – Stateline Mass Transit District:

Not present.

9.30 – RPC Metropolitan Planning Organization:

Ms. Turner reported on the following items:

- FY 2022 UWP Draft
 - Planning funds from both Federal and State sources have not changed from the previous year. All work elements will be consistent with the FY 2021 UWP. The draft will be released for a 30-day public comment period next week.
- Advanced Construction Notices
 - Projects which are moving into advanced instruction include:
 - #1-17-4: IL-2 - 0.1 miles north of Luther Dr to 0.1 mi south of Beltline Rd
 - #1-20-13: IL-251 – 0.3 mi N of Auburn St/Spring Creek Rd
 - #2-17-1: Perryville Road Bike Path - Hart Rd to IL-173

9) Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10) Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works Department, seconded by Mr. Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development Department to **adjourn** at 11:01 am.

Prepared by: Matthew G. Miller

Minutes approved by action of the Committee: June 17, 2021