



MPO Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 19th, 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 10:01 am.

2) Roll Call

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

Village of Machesney Park, Public Works and Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department arrived at 10:05 am.

Members Absent: Chicago/Rockford International Airport; City of Rockford, Community Development Department; City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; City of Belvidere, Planning Department; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Boone County Conservation District; Rockford Park District

Others Present: Doug DeLille, IDOT, Division of Urban Planning and Programming; C. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Sydney Turner, Makenzee Wilcox, Kara Harmet, Melisa Ribikawskis, Alexandra Rosander, Region 1 Planning Council.

3) Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

4) Consent Agenda

a) Approval of The June 17th, 2021 MPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes

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

Resolution 2021-14: Ms. Turner describes amendments to the MPO FY 2021-2024 TIP at the request of Boone County Highway Department, Winnebago County Highway Department, and Rockford Mass Transit District. Amendment includes the inclusion of projects and updates in project costs.

- Winnebago County requested the following amendments:
 - #2-21-2: Belvidere Road, IL 173 to Main Street (New Project)
 - #2-21-3: Perryville Road Bike Path (Phase II), Willowbrook Lane to Anjali Way (New Project)
- Boone County Highway Department

- #13-21-2: Poplar Grove Bridge, over Beaver Creek (Update in cost breakouts and sources. It was noted that the Boone County has provided updated numbers for this project following the release of the Meeting Packet to the Committee. The following amounts will be reflected in the TIP Amendment presented to the MPO Policy Committee at their August 27, 2021 meeting: ISBP = \$2,613,000; MFT = \$653,000; Total = \$3,266,000.
 - Rockford Mass Transit District requested following amendments:
 - # 7-20-9: Capital Program Application, Replacement of Alternative Fuel Vehicles (Update cost breakout)
 - #7-20-11: Capital Program Application, Battery Electric Charging Station (Facility #1- Mulberry) (Update cost breakout)
 - #7-21-4: Capital Program Application, Rehabilitation/Facility Expansion (Facility #1 – Mulberry) (Consolidation of projects and update in funding source)
- Additionally, the two project TIP # for illustrative projects have been updated.
 - #13-21-10: Irene Road
 - #13-21-11: Woodstock Road Extension

Ms. Turner asked the committee for a recommendation to approve the consent agenda for the August 19, 2021 MPO Technical Committee Meeting Minutes and MPO Resolution 2021-14.

There was discussion on the projects, including to changing Miller Road to Wheeler Rd in the June 17th meeting minutes.

Motion by Mr. Bruck, Loves Park Community Development Department and seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County Highway Department, to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

Motion **approved** by unanimous vote.

5) FY 2022-2025 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) AMENDMENT – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-15:

Ms. Ribikawskis discussed the final draft FY 2022-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The public comment period for the draft document was held from July 19, 2021 until August 18, 2021. One comment was received by the MPO in regards to several roadways that were not listed in the TIP document. MPO staff will forward the comments to appropriate jurisdictions.

Ms. Turner asked the committee for a recommendation on the adoption of Resolution 2021-15 for the adoption of the FY 2022-2025 TIP.

Motion by Mr. Hodina, Winnebago County Highway Department, seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone county Highway to **recommend** adoption of FY 2022-2025 TIP MPO Resolution 2021-15.

Motion **approved** by unanimous vote.

6) FY 2022 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP) AMENDMENT – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-16:

Ms. Turner stated that there has been request for an amendment to the MPO FY 2022 UWP. The first part of the amendment was requested by IDOT for the inclusion remaining FY 2021 federal and state funds (FHWA-

PL, FTA 5305(d), and State match) to “Appendix C: Funding Sources & Allocations.” Due to COVID-19 Pandemic, the MPO has a remaining balance of approximately \$140,000 from the FY 2021 PL allocation as of June 30, 2021. In accordance with the intergovernmental agreement between IDOT and RPC, the MPO has until December 31, 2021 to spend the remaining funds. The amendment to the FY 2022 UWP reflects this remaining balance and identifies the work elements in which the FY 21 agreement will be attributed to.

Additionally, it has been requested that the MPO incorporate two additional studies to the FY 2022 UWP, which had not been identified in the June 25, 2021 version of the FY 2022 UWP. Both these additional projects align with the goals and strategies identified within the 2050 MTP adopted by the Policy Committee on July 31, 2020. The update includes language under “Work Element #6: Land Use-Planning, Data Collection, and Title VI & EJ (LUPDC)” specifically identifying a project aimed at updating the Regional Freight Rail Site Feasibility Study for Southern Winnebago County, conducted on behalf of the MPO in 2015. The second additional project is technical assistance in the development of a Climate Action Plan for RMTD. This project is in accordance with Federal Transit Administration’s Sustainable Transit for a Healthy Planet Challenge announced on June 15, 2021.

Ms. Turner asked for a recommendation to approve the MPO Resolution 2021-16 for the amendment to the FY 2022 UWP.

Discussion was held on the expenditure of the remaining FY 2021 and FY 2022 PL funds.

Motion by Mr. Hodina, Winnebago County Highway Department, seconded by Mr. Engelkes, Rockford Mass Transit District to **recommend** approval of MPO Resolution 2021-16.

Motion **approved** by unanimous vote.

7) COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) – MPO RESOLUTION 2021-17:

Ms. Rosander provided an update on the HSTP and the results of the public comment period that was held from June 14, 2021 until July 12, 2021. The MPO received two public comments on land use and transit routes; one comment on inconsistencies in municipal population, and a comment on development patterns that may exacerbate challenges identified in the plan.

Ms. Turner asked for recommendation to approve MPO Resolution 2021-17 for the adoption of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan for the Rockford Region.

Motion Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works Department, seconded by Ms. Mandujano, Boone County Planning to **recommend** approval of MPO Resolution 2021-17.

Motion **approved** by unanimous vote.

8) TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MANAGEMENT & OPERATIONS (TSMO) PLAN:

Ms. Ribikawskis provided an update on the progress of the project. She provided the results of the poll everywhere survey conducted at the June 17th 2021 Technical Committee Meeting that was used to identify the management and operations needs of the region. The top five priorities identified were efficient movement of goods and people during peak hours; traffic signal coordination and timing; improved on time performance of transit service; safe and comfortable multi-modal options; and the efficient movement of freight and goods. The next steps in the project will be to set up a working group meeting to discuss the draft goals that were developed based on the survey results.

9) FREIGHT STUDY FOR THE ROCKFORD REGION:

Ms. Turner discussed with the committee, that MPO staff has identified several freight-related needs and opportunities for the region. The needs and issues were identified from private sector engagement, previously identified needs, and national trends. These needs and issues have been grouped into three categories: physical constraints, operational constraints, and regulatory constraints. While the region may not be able to address all of the constraints identified, it is staff belief that all constraints should be included to provide a holistic view of the needs and opportunities. Ms. Turner asked for the committee's assistance in the identification of specific infrastructure needs for the efficiency and safety of freight movement, via a short survey that will be sent out.

Discussion was held on the rail consolidation study and its connection to the Freight Study, as well as the class of railroads and possible TARP projects.

10) SPR-FUNDED PROJECTS:

Ms. Turner reported on the progress of the SPR-funded projects underway by the MPO, including RMTD Comprehensive Mobility Analysis, Keith Creek Corridor Study, and Passenger Rail Station Siting Analysis.

- a) RMTD Comprehensive Mobility Analysis: MPO staff, in coordination with RMTD, is continuing to work with Sam Swartz Consulting to develop the Implementation Plan of the Comprehensive Mobility Analysis. Over the past few months, several scenarios on routes changes have been developed with the preferred scenario in the final development. The project team will soon begin working on cost estimates and action steps for the proposed route/services changes will be identified.
- b) Keith Creek Corridor: RPC recently completed the search for a consulting firm and has entered into a contract with the Lakota Group as the lead consultant. Lakota Group has identified several subcontractors to assist in the study, including Studio GWA, Hey Associates, and Strand. Additionally, a clean-up event on July 30, 2021 was conducted to initiate public outreach for the plan.
- c) Passenger Rail Station Siting Analysis: A second Steering Committee meeting for the project was on August 5, followed by site visits of the proposed site locations. The consultant team is currently conducting market analysis for the location and draft potential siting configurations. Additionally, MPO staff will be presenting to the Belvidere Committee of the Whole on August 23, 2021 to highlight the benefits and challenges of park-and-ride facilities vs downtown stations.
- d) Regional Traffic Signal Management Program: Last week, MPO staff was informed it has been awarded \$400,000 in SPR funds to complete a Regional Traffic Signal Management Program. The program will focus on the Strategic Regional Arterial network. The project will be conducted in three phases. A significant amount of data will need to be collected to develop the TSMP, including an asset inventory (signal controller type, cabinet type, video monitoring and vehicle count capabilities, etc.); traffic and turning movement counts; signal timing and phasing; and intersection geometry.

11) AGENCY REPORTS

9.01 – Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Bates reported that IDOT has awarded the West State Street Reconstruction project from Sunset Avenue to Day Avenue and construction would begin this. Another project that has been awarded and work started is the resurfacing of US 20 from Falconer to Simpson; this project is anticipated to be complete by the end of the year.

9.02 – Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Hodina reported that the Baxter Road project is complete, with the exception of landscaping from I-39 to east of Mulford Road.

9.03 – City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

No report.

9.04 – City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Messenger report that the City has begun the River Lane Reconstruction and 2020 overlay projects have begun. **The City has also award a contract for the** drainage improvements as a part of their watershed program and will begin within a few weeks. .

9.05 – Village of Machesney Park, Public Works:

Mr. Hunter reported that the Alpine Road Project is moving forward with an anticipated completion in 4 to 5 weeks. Additionally, the Village’s pavement maintenance program for this year has begun.

9.06 – Chicago Rockford International Airport:

Not present.

9.07 – Rockford Mass Transit District:

Mr. Engelkes reported that RMTD is pursuing a grant for a new facility and the renovation of current maintenance facility.

9.08 – City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

No report.

9.09 – Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department:

No report.

9.10 – City of Rockford, Community Development Department:

Not present.

9.11 – Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Not present.

9.12 – Boone County, Planning Department:

No report.

9.13 – Boone County Highway Department:

Mr. Krohn reported that the have several structural projects they are working on, including the replacement of the bridge at Denny Road as well as a structure extension and a culvert extension on Wheeler Road. The County’s annual resurfacing projects are roughly 50 percent complete with an anticipated final completion September.

9.14 – City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:

Not present.

9.15 – City of Belvidere, Planning Department:

Not present.

9.16 – Four Rivers Sanitation Authority (Rock River Water Reclamation District)

Mr. Baer reported that they have finished reinforcement and replacement project from the Cherry Valley pump station to Alpine Road. The Authority is starting work on the West State Street Project, in conjunction with IDOT. In the next couple of months, the Authority will be looking at the upcoming budget and would like information on any major constructions that partner’s may be working on.

9.17 – Forest Preserves of Winnebago County:

Not present.

9.18 – Boone County Conservation District:

Not present.

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:

Mr. Delille reported that the State is accepting Safe Routes to School applications through the end of September.

9.25 – Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

9.26 – Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

9.27 – State Line Area Transportation Study:

Not present.

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:

- RPC in partnership with ComEd, will be hosting a Drive Electric Week. This event will feature multiple in-person and virtual events designed to engage the community and provide information on new electric vehicle (EV) technology from September 3-12, 2021. Virtual events will include online panel discussions and demonstrations, and three in-person community events, located in Rockford, Belvidere, and Machesney Park.
- Advanced Construction Notices:
 - The MPO has received advance construction notices for:
 - #1-17-2: IL-251, Railroad 0.1 mi S of IL-72
 - #1-22-12: Various (Safety), Districtwide
 - The following projects are being moved from advanced construction to current status:
 - #1-17-4: IL-2, 0.1 mi N Luther Dr to 0.1 mi S of Beltline Rd
 - #1-20-10: ILL 70, Pecatonica River to 0.1 mi W of Stafford Rd in Rockford
 - #1-21-1: US 20 Rockford Bypass, 0.2 W of Falconer Rd to Simpson Rd SW of Rockford

12) OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

13) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Hodina, Winnebago County Highway Department, seconded by James Richter, Machesney Park Community Development Department, to **adjourn** at 10:43 am.

Prepared by: Makenzee Wilcox

Minutes approved by action of the Committee: October 21, 2021.