



## MPO Policy Committee

Meeting Minutes

Friday, November 4, 2022

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

### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County, at 8:33 am.

### 2. Roll Call

**Members Present:** Boone County; City of Loves Park; Illinois Department of Transportation; Rockford Mass Transit District; Village of Machesney Park; Winnebago County.

**Members Absent:** City of Belvidere; City of Rockford

**Others Present:** Tim Hansen, Four Rivers Sanitary District; Brandon Geber, IDOT Office of Planning and Programming; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department; Eric Tison, Michael Dunn, Sydney Turner, Brandon Rucker, Region 1 Planning Council.

### 3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

### 4. Action Items:

#### A. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2022

Chairman Johnson entertained a motion to approve the August 26, 2022 Policy Committee minutes.

Motion by Chairman Chiarelli, Winnebago County, seconded by Mayor Jury, Loves Park, to approve the August 26, 2022 meeting minutes. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### B. Amendment to the FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program (Resolution 2022-13)

Ms. Turner explained the amendment to FY 2023 – 2026 Transportation Improvement Program is for the addition of several new projects and a project adjustment. The Illinois Department of Transportation has requested the change of five projects: #1-22-6, #1-23-17, #1-23-18, #1-23-19, and #1-23-20. Winnebago County has requested the addition of two new projects: Project 1-23-6 and Project 2-23-5. Boone County requested #13-21-5 be moved across fiscal years and the cost adjusted.

Motion by Chairman Chiarelli, Winnebago County, seconded by Mayor Jury, Village of Loves Park, to approve of Resolution 2022-13. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### C. Amendment to the FY 2022 Surface Transportation Block Grant Funds Project (Resolution 2022-14)

Ms. Turner noted that at the request of the Policy Committee, the MPO went out for a second call for projects in 2022. The call for projects was to program the FY 2023 STBG apportionment, approximately \$4.2 Million. During the call for projects (August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022– October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022), no new projects were submitted. The program of projects contains four projects ranked in order by technical analysis in the program of projects: Winnebago County Riverside Blvd, Harrison Avenue improvements, the 9<sup>th</sup> St two-way conversion, and Newburg Rd.

The Technical Committee made a recommendation to fund the Newburg Rd project in its entirety, which is equal to \$334,000. With the remaining STBG funds going towards the Riverside Blvd project, which is \$3.9 Million.

Motion by Mayor Jury, City of Loves Park, seconded by Chairman Chiarelli, Winnebago County, to approve Resolution 2022-14. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

## 5. Directors Report:

Ms. Turner reported on the following items:

### A. 2023 Infrastructure Priorities Report

On October 14, 2022, a memo was sent to the MPO Technical and Policy Committees, as well as the North COG Board of Directors regarding the 2023 Infrastructure Priorities Report. The report is provided to the legislation. Region 1 Planning Council is looking for projects to be submitted by the end of this week. So far no new projects have been requested to be included. The categories for the report have been changed to include: Active Transportation, Roadways and Bridges, Water and Sewer, Critical Infrastructure, Public Transit, Energy, Communications, and other capital projects that Committee members would like to be included.

### B. Discretionary Grant Coordination

Region 1 Planning Council, in partnership with IDOT's Transit Division and Rockford Mass Transit District, are submitting a joint application for the Strengthening Mobility and Revitalizing Transportation (SMART) Grant Program, which seeks to advance smart city or community technology/systems throughout the country. The application is Phase 1 SMART grant opportunity. The application focuses on Transit Signal Priority technology along Riverside Boulevard in addition to on-vehicle technologies, including transit collision avoidance and roadway maintenance equipment.

### C. SPR Project Updates

Keith Creek Corridor Study: It is now the last month of the project. A public engagement event was held on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to present the final draft version of the plan. Approximately 22 members of the public were in attendance for the open house.

Passenger Rail Station Siting Analysis: Last month, R1 staff held a public meeting in Belvidere, which allowed the public to provide comments on the initial design of the station and surrounding development opportunities. The project is still on hold until more conversations are held with IDOT officials and the City of Rockford. More public engagement opportunities are likely to come in the next several months. Communication with IDOT about ridership numbers is still underway, and there may be an opportunity to publicly discuss those numbers shortly, but final analysis is still underway.

Regional Transportation Signal Operations Program: A meeting will be held on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 with the advisory committee to discuss the development of the Request for Proposals. This will be for the individual corridor studies, including the coordination and synchronization of the traffic signals on Riverside Blvd and other corridors that are determined by the advisory board.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Region 1 Planning Council has been awarded additional SPR funding for Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory. This will be a comprehensive analysis of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and an Air Quality assessment. As a part of this program, additional air quality monitors set up throughout the region. This study will feed into the Climate Action Plan that has been ongoing. Total additional funding is just over \$297,000, split between federal and state funds.

Data Collection and Asset Management: Mr. Molina gave an update about the SPR project for Data Collection and Asset Management. This project is in partnership with the Village of Winnebago, South Beloit, and Rockford township. Data collection is being done on curbs and gutters, traffic signals, guard rails, state lights, etc. The project is now in the Request for Proposal phase. The award amount was \$680,000.

### D. Advanced Construction Notices

Projects currently authorized in Advanced Construction Status:

- #1-16-6: I-39/US20 under Perryville Road southeast of Rockford
- #1-23-3: Districtwide Bridge Cleaning
- #1-23-4: I-39 Bridge over the Kishwaukee River 0.8 miles south of Blackhawk Road

Projects or a portion of these projects have been converted from Advanced Construction to current status:

- #1-20-9: US Bus 20 (Belvidere Bypass) from State St to US20 in Belvidere
- #1-22-14: IL 2 and 72, Mill Creek at the west edge of Byron & Rock River at east edge of Byron

Administrative Modification

- Region 1 Planning Council processed an administrative modification for RTMD, which was a duplicative project and has been removed from the TIP (Project #7-23-1: ARPA Operating Funds)

**E. Other Updates**

Ms. Turner mentioned the Federal Metropolitan Planning Marks received for FY 2024. There is a 3.5-percent increase in planning marks in FY 2024. As a result, local contribution will not need to be increased this year. Additional projects are being sought from the Policy Committee to be included in the UWP, including corridor studies or any feasibility studies. Mr. Dunn noted that an outside consultant will often be hired for corridor studies. However, MPO staff are also capable of assisting to some degree to reduce the overall cost of the corridor study. In FY23 and FY24, discussions have been made about identifying regionally significant areas and looking at future infrastructure needs of those corridors to spur private investment. Some of the additional funding will be used for outside help/assistance.

**6. Other Business**

No other business was discussed.

**7. Adjournment**

Motion by Mayor Jury, City of Loves Park, seconded by Chairman Chiarelli, Winnebago County, to adjourn at 8:50 am.

Prepared by Brandon Rucker and Sydney Turner.

Minutes approved by action of the Committee: 01/27/2023.