



MPO Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 10:00 am
127 N Wyman St, Rockford, IL 61101

1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Ms. Turner at 10:00 am.

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Boone County Highway Department; Boone County Conservation District; City of Belvidere, Public Works Department; City of Loves Park, Public Works Department; City of Rockford, Public Works Department; Four Rivers Sanitary District; Illinois Department of Transportation District 2; Rockford Mass Transit District; Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department; Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department; Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development Department; Winnebago County Highway Department.

Members Absent: Boone County, Planning Department; Chicago Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere, Community Development Department; City of Loves Park, Community Development Department; City of Rockford, Community Development Department; Forest Preserve of Winnebago County; Rockford Park District; Village of Roscoe; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Others Present: Nick Sheppard, Boone County Conservation District; John Donovan, FHWA IL Division (Virtual); Brandon Geber, Illinois Department of Transportation, Division of Urban Program Planning; Henry Guerriero, II, Illinois Tollway (Virtual); Sydney Turner, Eric Tison (Virtual), Makenzee Wilcox, Jon Paul Diipla, Austin Powell, Gabrielle Gamily, and Melisa Ribikawskis, Region 1 Planning Council.

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works Department, second by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department.

Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

5. Discussion Item:

a. Asset Condition Rating Systems

Mr. Diipla delivered a presentation on pavement condition rating systems and available data through the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Discussion, questions and comments followed.

6. Presentation: Transportation Resiliency Study for the Rockford Region

Ms. Wilcox delivered a presentation on the Transportation Resiliency Study Plan for the Rockford Region, which has recently been finalized. The presentation explained how resiliency is defined, it's importance, outline of the plan, and how the vulnerability assessment was conducted as part of the plan.

Discussion, questions and comments followed.

7. Presentation: Mobility Hubs Feasibility Study

Ms. Wilcox delivered a presentation on the Mobility Hubs Feasibility Study, which defined what a mobility hub is, the general purpose of a mobility hub, and provided examples of mobility hubs from around the nation and abroad. Additionally, Ms. Wilcox described the elements and amenities that could be prioritized at mobility hub based on the context and how the locations of mobility hubs will be determined.

Discussion, questions and comments followed.

8. Staff Reports:

a. Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Funding Balance

Ms. Turner provided an update about the change to the scope of the Appleton Road project and that it is no longer able to move forward with the obligation of their previously awarded STBG funds. That being mentioned, Ms. Turner informed the Committee that the region has approximately \$1.8 million in STBG funds and \$220,000 of COVID Relief funds that need to be allocated by the end of the Federal fiscal year. The MPO Policy Committee has been informed and decided to move forward with a spring call for projects. Ms. Turner also noted the FY 2024 STBG allocation, totaling \$4,457,107.

Discussion followed.

b. Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Update

Ms. Turner discussed the progress of the Livable Communities Initiative (LCI). This update included an overview of the LCI. The MPO will be holding an Advisory Committee meeting at the end of March to discuss the specifics of the LCI. Additional information will be provided at the next MPO Technical Committee meeting.

c. State Planning and Research (SPR) Project Updates

- a. Freight Study: Final phases of the development are in progress. In April the draft will be released for a public comment period.
- b. Greenhouse Gas and Emissions Inventory Study: The MPO is anticipating an agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation within the next few weeks, and once the agreement is in place, the project will commence.
- c. Regional Traffic Signal Management Program: Currently in the process of finalizing the Request for Proposals and identifying the preferred respondent.

d. Upcoming FY 2024 Projects

Ms. Turner discussed the studies and plans that the MPO plans to continue and/or commence in the upcoming fiscal year. Some projects noted include a Complete Streets Policy and Standards Guide, Transportation Funding Guidebook, Winnebago County Rural Transit Study, Metropolitan Transportation Plan update, Bus Rapid Transit Feasibility Study, Carbon Reduction Strategy, and a Health and Transportation Study.

7. Agency Reports

7.1 Boone County Conservation District

No report.

7.2 Boone County Highway Department

Mr. Krohn reported that the County has awarded the Poplar Grove Bridge over Beaver Creek project and expects construction to start in March or April of this year.

7.3 City of Belvidere, Public Works

No report.

7.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works

Mr. Messinger reported that that Maple Avenue reconstruction project is currently out for bid.

7.5 City of Rockford, Public Works Department

Mr. Hinkens reported on the progress of the City's roadway projects, including the Parkview Ave Sidewalk construction (TAP), the West State Street and East State Street Sidewalk Projects (TAP). He also noted the current communications with telecommunication companies regarding the installation of fiber conduit in the right-of-way.

Discussion with the Committee followed.

7.6 Four Rivers Sanitary District

No report.

7.7 Illinois of Transportation, District 2

No report.

7.8 Rockford Mass Transit District

Ms. Hughes reported that the District has received its first six (6) battery electric buses.

7.9 Village of Machesney Park, Community Development Department

No report.

7.10 Village of Machesney Park, Public Works Department

No report.

7.11 Winnebago County Highway Department

Mr. Molina reported on the progress of various County projects, including projects scheduled for letting in the upcoming months and construction start dates.

7.12 Winnebago County, Planning and Economic Development

No report.

7.13 FHWA IL Division

Mr. Donovan reported that Todd Schmidt will be the Federal point of contact for the Safe Streets for All award.

7.14 IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning and Programming

Mr. Geber reported that the IDOT State Planning and Research call for projects will be released shortly and funding will be limited.

7.15 Illinois Tollway

Mr. Guerriero reported that the US 20 bridge will be undergoing reconstruction soon.

9. Other Business

No other business was discussed.

10. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Hansen, Four Rivers Sanitation District, seconded by Mr. Molina Winnebago County Highway Department to adjourn at 11:17 am.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Melisa Ribikawskis and Sydney Turner

Minutes approved by action of the Committee: March 23, 2023.