



## MPO Technical Committee Meeting

Thursday, February 22, 2024 10:00 am

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

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

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

#### 2. Roll Call

- 3. Members Present:** Boone County Conservation District; Chicago-Rockford International Airport; City of Belvidere - Public Works Department; City of Loves Park - Community Development Department; City of Loves Park - Public Works Department; City of Rockford - Community Development Department; City of Rockford - Public Works Department; Illinois Department of Transportation - District 2; Rockford Mass Transit District; Rockford Park District; Village of Machesney Park - Public Works Department; Village of Roscoe; Winnebago County - Community and Economic Development Department; Winnebago County - Highway Department

Boone County Highway Department arrived at 10:07 am.

**Members Absent:** Boone County – Planning Department; City of Belvidere – Planning Department; City of Loves Park – Community Development Department; Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Four Rivers Sanitary District; Village of Machesney Park – Community Development Department; Village of Winnebago; Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District

**Others Present:** Todd Schmidt, Federal Highway Administration - IL Division; Doug DeLille, Illinois Department of Transportation – Office of Planning and Programming; Henry Guerriero, IL Tollway; Shawn Ortgiesen, Illinois Department of Transportation District 2; Brandon Rucker, Eric Tison, Jon Paul Diipla, Melisa Ribikawskis, Nathan Larsen, Isaac Guerrero, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

#### 4. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the committee.

#### 5. Action Items

##### a. Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 18, 2024

Ms. Turner entertained a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of the January 18, 2024 MPO Technical Committee.

Motion by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere-Public Works Department, and seconded by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County Highway Department, to approve the January 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

#### 6. Discussion Items

**a. Broadband Coordination**

Mr. Guerrero led a discussion related to the broadband planning grant funds Region 1 Planning Council has received from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO). Region 1 intends to use these funds to expand the broadband fiber footprint in Boone and Winnebago County, and potentially in Ogle and Stephenson County. Mr. Guerrero laid out R1's three-step process for achieving this goal: (1) Understanding the existing broadband infrastructure in the Region; (2) Researching future business models for broadband; (3) Pursuing, with local jurisdictions, federal broadband grants, and attempting to leverage Public-Private Partnerships with Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

Mr. Guerrero led a discussion on maps of existing broadband infrastructure; concerns over the number of ISPs in the region; and private operators within the public right-of-way.

**b. Safe Streets for All (SS4A) – Traffic Safety Presentation & Discussion**

Mr. Diipla and Mr. Rucker presented on the MPO's efforts to develop the MPO Traffic Safety Action Plan under the SS4A program. Mr. Diipla discussed the SS4A workshop that was held in early February, at which the MPO received input on traffic safety concerns, locations of concern, and potential countermeasures from stakeholders and members of the public.

Mr. Rucker presented on the safety data analysis conducted by R1. Using IDOT crash and person extracts from 2017 to 2022, R1 staff was able to identify the five most common crash types resulting in serious injuries and fatalities in the region: Fixed Object, Angle, Turning, Pedestrian/Pedal-cyclist, and Front to rear. Mr. Rucker presented data related to each of these five specific crash types, including locations of crashes and behavioral factors. Mr. Rucker also shared the high injury network, or streets that contain the highest rate of crashes resulting in serious injury or fatality.

Mr. Diipla led a discussion between committee members about their traffic safety concerns. Discussion topics included: top safety concerns such as of red light running, distracted driving and speeding; concerns about heavier vehicle weights; location of pedestrian crashes; intersection concerns; youngest and oldest roadway users; and consider school zones.

**7. Staff Reports**

**a. Regional Traffic Signal Operations Program**

Ms. Ribikawskis provided an update on the Regional Traffic Signal Operations Program, stating that the consultant, Iteris, has wrapped up its study of the Riverside Corridor and will be sharing its results this month. R1 staff is currently finalizing the program document and will be presenting it to the steering committee for review next month.

**b. Section 319 Non-Point Source Pollution Best Management Practices (BMPs)**

Mr. Tison provided an update on the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Section 319 grant-funded project. In August 2023, R1 was awarded the Section 319 Grant to conduct outreach and activities to educate and encourage local watershed stakeholders to adopt nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control best management practices (BMPs). R1 has partnered with Rockford Park District, Winnebago County, Rockford Township Highway Department, Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Rockford, and Olson Ecological Solutions for the projects.

This project will result in the construction of two demonstration BMPs: a bioretention basin in the Spring Creek-Rock Creek Watershed, and a bioswale in the Kent Creek Watershed. These BMP installations will help protect water quality in South Fork Kent Creek, Levings Park Lagoon, Buckbee Creek, and the Rock River. The bioretention basin will be implemented at Ken Rock Park, 2930 Bildahl Street, and the bioswale will be implemented at Parker-Woods Park, 6700 Claremont Street.

During the implementation phase, Winnebago County and Rockford Township Highway Department will provide assistance during construction, with financial support from the City of Rockford.

## 8. Agency Reports

### a. Boone County, Highway Department

Mr. Krohn reported that a request for qualifications (RFQ) has been put out for the Townhall Road extension. The RFQ will be open until March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The County is seeking bids for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) demonstration grant. A request for proposals for the agency's State Planning and Research (SPR) Lidar and GIS data grant has also been released. The agency anticipates releasing its summer maintenance plan in April.

### b. Boone County Conservation District

No report.

### c. City of Belvidere, Public Works Department

No report.

### d. City of Loves Park, Community Development

No report.

### e. City of Loves Park, Public Works Department

Mr. Messinger reported that the Evans Avenue reconstruction went out to bid on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

### f. City of Rockford, Community Development

No report.

### g. City of Rockford, Public Works Department

Mr. Mattson reported that the Whitman Street Reconstruction project was recently bid and construction on the two-year project will begin this year. The project includes water main, lead service, a roundabout at Ridge Avenue and Whitman Avenue, and a multi-use path that will connect the Mel B. Tucker Path to the Rock River Path.

### h. Four Rivers Sanitary District

No report.

### i. IDOT, District 2

Mr. Bates reported that IDOT is looking to start work on the I-39 corridor next month, including the US-20 and Harrison Avenue Interchanges.

### j. Rockford Mass Transit District

No report.

### k. Village of Machesney Park, Community Development

No report.

### l. Winnebago County, Community & Economic Dev.

No report.

### m. Winnebago County, Highway Department

Mr. Molina reported that the County's STBG-funded Riverside Boulevard project is close to receiving approval for Phase I Preliminary Engineering. The Bell School Road project is currently experiencing difficulties because 18 utility poles need to be removed along the route. The Latham Road project, from Owen Center to IL-2, is currently out for bids, as is the Elevator Road project, from Willowbrook Road to the Boone County line. The agency is preparing to submit a RAISE grant application next week for Perryville Road, from US BUS 20 to Harrison Avenue. The application is seeking funds for planning and engineering. Construction on the Perryville Path extension will begin within a month. Construction on Owen Center, between Riverside Boulevard and Latham Road, will lead to the construction of a roundabout at Owen Center and Elmwood Road in 2025.

### n. Winnebago County, Soil & Water Conservation District

No report.

### o. FHWA, Illinois Division

Mr. Schmidt reported on the Transportation Management Area (TMA) certification review of the MPO that took place last month, in coordination with the FTA. The review is held every four years to ensure the MPO is complying with all federal regulations and standards. The MPO received no corrective actions during January's review. The full report will be released in June. The FY24 Notice of Funding Opportunity for the

Safe Streets and Roads for All demonstration grants was released on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024, and Mr. Schmidt encouraged members of the committee to apply for the funds.

**p. IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning and Programming**

No report.

**q. Illinois Tollway**

No report.

**9. Other Business**

Ms. Turner informed the committee that the awards for the FY 2024 Surface Transportation Block Grant will be discussed at the next MPO Technical and Policy Committee Meetings.

**10. Adjournment**

Motion by Mr. Molina, Winnebago County-Highway Department, and seconded by Mr. Krohn, Boone County-Highway Department, to adjourn at 11:11 am. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting minutes prepared by: Nathan Larsen and Sydney Turner.

Minutes approved by action of the Board: March 21, 2024