



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford; Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Ms. Kris Tobin, Illinois Department of Transportation- District 2.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Village of Machesney Park.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP Staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Curtis Jones, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Patrick Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Paul Callighan, ComEd; Jim Ryan, City of Rockford; John Lewis, Rockford Region Vital Signs; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Morrissey with a quorum present at 1:21 PM.

#### 2. COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Ernst stated that the 2012 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program applications are due May 29, 2012. The total pot of money statewide is \$50 million. IDOT guidance suggests that projects should be scoped at a maximum of \$1.5 million. RMAP will be working with the Technical Committee to coordinate applications from members.

Mr. Ernst stated that HUD announced a Choice Neighborhood Grant for the Rockford Housing Authority in January. We are 1 of 13 communities around the country that received Choice Neighborhoods awards. The Choice Neighborhood program links nicely to the Vital Signs program.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has received communication from the Census Bureau regarding the release of the urbanized area boundaries. The boundary maps and population data should be available later this month.

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Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford, Chairman  
Chairman Bob Walberg  
Boone County, Vice-Chairman

Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg  
City of Loves Park  
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton  
City of Belvidere

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen  
Winnebago County  
Mayor Tom Strickland  
Village of Machesney Park

Acting Deputy Director Eric Therkildsen  
Illinois Department of Transportation,  
Region 2

Mr. Ernst stated that DCEO hosted their annual meeting in Rockford recently which brings together all of the Regional Coordinators from across the State. The group was able to tour many of the local manufacturing facilities. Mr. Ernst was able to join the session on transportation and there was a presentation from IDOT regarding Transportation Programs to Assist Economic Development (IDOT brochure was provided to Policy members). Mr. Ernst provided some details on what was covered during the session he attended.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Transportation Bill still has not passed but the House is now looking at an eighteen (18) month extension.

Mr. Ernst stated that Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, 2012 but Earth Day activities will be held on Saturday, April 21, 2012. Rock Valley College will be one of the sites with both indoor and outdoor activities. Policy members were encouraged to coordinate any local Earth Day activities with RMAP staff.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Air Show at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport is scheduled for June 2-3, 2012. The featured act is the Thunderbirds.

Mr. Ernst stated that on March 19, 2012 a presentation on designating historic districts will be held at Belvidere City Hall Council Chambers at 5:30p.

Mr. Ernst stated that on March 21, 2012 IDOT will be hosting a public meeting at Poplar Grove Village Hall regarding a proposed intersection improvement at IL-76 and IL-173. The open house will be held from 1:00-6:00p.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2011 RMAP POLICY MEETING MINUTES:**  
Motion to approve minutes by the City of Loves Park, seconded by the City of Belvidere. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

**4. RMAP FY2012 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that IDOT has allocated additional planning dollars for the current fiscal year for RMAP (FY 2012). The additional federal funds are \$85,196 dollars which will have to be matched with \$21,299, for a total of \$106,495. Mr. Ernst provided a detailed breakdown of how the additional dollars were planned to be expended, including an ESRI Business data set (all members will have access to this data), a Fiscal Impact Study for the proposed interchange at I-90 and Spring Creek Road, funding to join the Open Indicators Consortium (coordinated with the Vital Signs project), expenses related to the construction of the Regional Center for Planning and Design, and others.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee and staff recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2012-1. Motion by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. RMAP Resolution 2012-1 was approved unanimously (6-0).

**5 RMAP FY2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP Resolution 2012-2 is to amend the current TIP for three projects; an IDOT project at the US20 interchange with I-39, a Winnebago County Highway (Dry Run Creek) box culvert replacement project, and a City of Loves Park bridge replacement project for Garden Plain Avenue. In addition Mr. Ernst mentioned that a 4<sup>th</sup> project from IDOT on I-39 over the Kishwaukee River was modified using RMAP's administrative modification authority.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee and staff commended approval of RMAP Resolution 2012-2. Motion by Winnebago County, seconded by the City of Loves Park. RMAP Resolution 2012-2 was approved unanimously (6-0).

**6. IDOT COMPREHENSIVE RAIL PLAN FOR ILLINOIS:**

Mr. Ernst stated that an informational open house on a new State Rail Plan was held on February 23, 2012 at the Rockford Public Library. A handout from the meeting (Illinois State Rail Plan Fact Sheet – January 2012) was provided to Policy members.

Mr. Ernst stated that Illinois has never had a consolidated comprehensive rail plan for both passenger and freight for the entire state. The planning process will bring Illinois into compliance with Federal law and allow Illinois to compete for funding for related to passenger and freight rail improvements. A statewide steering committee is being formed and Mr. Ernst has been asked to join the committee. The Policy Committee Chair has asked Mr. Ernst to draft a letter or resolution from RMAP giving some guidance to the State on local policies and priorities related to rail project planning and implementation.

**7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

**7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:**

Mr. Ernst reported that Governor Quinn was in Rockford in January 2012 to announce funding for the Downtown Rockford Multi-modal Rail Station. Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP has been contacted by METRA to discuss future rail extensions to the Rockford region and a meeting is scheduled for early March.

**7.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:**

Mr. Lewis reported that the Belvidere portion of the project is almost complete. The project is coming to the end of the permitting process with the City of Rockford. There has been 250 miles of construction completed out of the total 600 miles in the project. Fiber has been placed in the underground fiber ducts for a good portion of the project.

**7:03 RMAP Regional Freight Study:** No report.

**7.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:**

Mr. Ernst reported that the Mobility Subcommittee has identified some funds for JARC and New Freedom using FY10 and FY11 funds and call for projects has now been made.

**7.05 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:**

Mr. Callighan provided a brief update of ComEd's implementation of infrastructure upgrades for Smart Grid / Smart meters and helped lead a discussion of Electrical Aggregation. He stated that with the passage of the Energy Infrastructure Modernization Act, ComEd has developed a \$2.6 billion program over ten years to implement the new technology. Mr. Callighan also expressed ComEd's position on Electrical Aggregation and offered assistance as municipalities and counties move the ballot initiatives forward.

**7.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:**

Mr. Ernst stated that the City of Rockford and the Chicago Rockford Airport Authority have jointly submitted an EDA grant application to modernize and rebuild the eastern entrance on Airport Drive and Falcon Road. This is the first grant application to emerge from the approval of the CEDS document.

**7.07 South Main Street / IL-2 Planning Study:**

Mr. Ernst reported that the Rockford City Council adopted the South Main Revitalization Strategy and has amended their 2020 Comprehensive Plan. This agenda item will be removed from RMAP Policy agendas now that it is complete.

**7.08 Greater RMAP Environmental Education Network (GREEN):**

Mr. Ernst reported that GREEN project is now complete. The activities have now become part of the standard RMAP work program. This agenda item will be removed from RMAP Policy agendas now that it is complete.

**7.09 HUD Sustainability Grant:**

Mr. Ernst reported that they are working on scheduling a small group discussion on regional governance. The group will consist of Mayor Morrissey, Village President Shawn Connors, Village President Stephen Rapp, Jim Ryan, Ken Terrinoni, Dan Jacobson, Alan Zais, and Mark Williams. This group will report back to the full Vital Signs Steering Team with their recommendations.

Mr. Ernst stated that the environmental inventory that was funded by the Vital Signs project is now complete. There are 1524 parcels in the two counties that have some type of environmental challenge to them. This data set is available to our RMAP members and hopefully will be added to WinGIS in the future.

## **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

### REGIONAL GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE

Mayor Morrissey stated he'd like to recognize the Airport partners (Chairman Christiansen and RAEDC) for the effort that resulted in EDA grant application. Mayor Morrissey suggested that the operation's level folks that comprise the Airport partners group become a formal subcommittee of RMAP. A brief discussion took place among members.

### ADDITIONAL PLANNERS

Mayor Morrissey stated that Jonah Katz, City of Rockford Planner has accepted another position in San Antonio, TX. Mayor Morrissey stated that he is looking to fill planning capacity in the City of Rockford organization by contracting with RMAP. School District #205 is looking similar planning needs and RMAP has been asked to look at filling that need as well. Mayor Morrissey asked to open the topic up for discussion. Both Chairman Walberg and Mayor Brereton indicated they would be interested in such a partnership and would like to discuss further.

### SENATE BILL 2527

Mr. Ernst stated that Senator Sandoval introduced Senate Bill 2527 that would give the airport authorities the power to invest and support intermodal transportation. RMAP will continue to monitor.

### RAIL DERAILMENT (BY MULFORD ROAD) REPORT

Mr. Ernst stated that the National Transportation Safety Board has released their assessment of the derailment at the Canadian National railroad crossing at Mulford Road. RMAP can provide details to Policy members upon request.

### TIGER 4

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP submitted the pre-application for the I-90 and Irene Road Interchange project in late February and is working on the final application due in a couple of weeks.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:** As there was no further business, Mayor Morrissey entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the Boone County, and seconded by City of Belvidere. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 P.M.