



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 29, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Tom Strickland, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mr. Jay Howell, IDOT District 2; Mr. Jim Ryan, City of Rockford; Mr. Rich Lundin, Boone County.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: City of Belvidere.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, RMAP Staff; Tim Savage, Carrie Houston, Village of Machesney Park; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Curtis Jones; IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Maria Hawley, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Northern Illinois; Chris Vineis, Capital Partnerships; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Christiansen with a quorum present at 1:31 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst stated that IDOT Enhancement grant applications are due in May 2012. The Technical committee has been working with their various partners involved in anticipation of enhancement grant submittals.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 1, 2012 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MINUTES:** Motion to approve minutes by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Boone County. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **RMAP TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that Governor Quinn previously announced a \$3 million dollars of funding for the downtown Rockford multi-modal train station. Subsequent to that announcement the State was able to isolate some federal transit funds to be injected into the project about, and approximately \$1.9 million of the \$3 million is now coming from federal sources. The Rockford City Council took action on Monday, March 26, 2012 to support the \$3 million award of funds. This morning the RMTD Board also took action to support the federal transit funding as part of the overall funding package, and RMTD will act as grantee. RMTD is also applying for some Bus Rapid Transit vehicles that use compressed natural gas a fuel source.

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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 RMAP has asked the Technical Committee to review both of these programs and they recommended unanimously passing both resolutions. Mr. Ernst recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2012-4 and RMAP Resolution 2012-5. Motion by the City of Rockford, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. RMAP Resolution 2012-4 and RMAP Resolution 2012-5 were approved unanimously (6-0).

5. RMAP FY13 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):

Mr. Ernst stated that the Unified Work Program (UWP) is primarily RMAP's budget for operations. Staff provide this document to Policy in draft form in March with transmittal of the draft to IDOT for their review, and then the Policy Committee will take final action in May. The UWP programs planning funds and it also sets priorities and targets for the technical work products of RMAP, and potentially any consultant work that might be required. The draft UWP represents a status quo budget.

IDOT has notified RMAP that they are making a slight cut in our federal funds of about \$28,000 due to limits of appropriations. The intent is to restore the small cut once federal limitations are resolved. Mr. Ernst suggested that the work program keep the local match commitments the same as they were the last four (4) years.

Mr. Ernst stated that the UWP was emailed out to all Policy and technical members for their review. Mr. Ernst stated that he would like to have final approval of the UWP in May. No action is required today.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service: No report.

6.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Lewis had reported last month that work is being done in Belvidere and they are roughly 40% done.

6.03 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

6.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Ernst stated that the Mobility Subcommittee has isolated some JARC and New Freedom funding and has put out a call for projects that will be reviewed at Mobility's April meeting. The total amount of funding is \$235,000 out of JARC and \$95,000 out of New Freedom. The transit partners will review a suite of projects to utilize the funding. Applications are due to RMAP by April 4, 2012.

6.05 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: Mr. Ernst congratulated all of the members that had the electrical aggregation on the ballot and passed successfully.

6.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy: No report.

6.07 HUD Sustainability Grant: Mr. Ernst stated that the Regional Governance Task Force is meeting soon. Mr. Ernst stated he has been participating in HUD webinars on fair housing issues.

6.08 Federal Legislation and Initiatives:

Mr. Ernst introduced Chris Vineis (our transportation specialist from Washington, DC). Ms. Vineis indicated the priority projects were the New Starts Program (for NICTI) and counseling on TIGER applications.

Ms. Vineis reviewed the current mood in Washington DC with attention to the debate over the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill. Ms. Vineis indicated that Transportation is not a bi-partisan issue anymore with considerable separation between democrats and republicans. It is anticipated that the House will pass a ninety (90) day extension through the end of June.

Ms. Vineis provided a brief summary of other consulting items Capital Partnerships has been assisting RMAP with over the last year.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Ernst stated that on Monday, March 26, 2012 the Census Bureau released the new metropolitan areas for all the MPO's throughout the United States. The RMAP region moved from the #3 region to the #2 region in Illinois. The regional population increased from 270,000 to 297,000. The Winnebago County population did not change very much; most of the increase in population came from Boone County. The RMAP region did not include land in Ogle County, which was a distinct possibility. The Villages of Timberlane and Poplar Grove are now substantially inside the metropolitan boundary, while Caledonia remained outside the metropolitan boundary. RMAP and SLATS will have some border issues to resolve as some land in Roscoe was placed in SLATS, and some land in South Beloit was placed in RMAP. The Village of Roscoe may be eligible for Policy Committee membership. RMAP staff will report back at the next meeting.

Compared to MPOs throughout the US, every Illinois downstate metro area lost relative rank order. RMAP dropped from a ranking of 121 to 127. Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP will be providing Map details to Technical members on the recent census data.

8. ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business, Chairman Christiansen entertained a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by the City of Loves Park, and seconded by the City of Rockford. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M.