



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 26, 2012

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Mr. Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford; Mr. Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Mr. Steve Chapman, Winnebago County; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District 2.

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, RMAP Staff; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Joshua McClusky, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:18 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP received a letter from Charles Ingersoll, IDOT Director Office of Planning & Programming requesting MPOs to get involved in the public outreach period of IDOT Multi-Year Plan. IDOT is requesting the MPOs in the state to host some smaller focus groups and will focus on a specific topic (Economic Development, Human Services, Mobility, etc.). IDOT would like MPOs to suggest what topics need discussion in their region. RMAP will suggest hosting anything related to rail issues. Mr. Ernst is looking for suggestions from members if any.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 28, 2012 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the June 28, 2012 minutes was made by the City of Belvidere, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **RMAP TIP FY 2013-2016:**

Mr. Ernst stated that the FY 2013-2016 TIP is a compilation of the region's capital programs for highway and transit into a single document. The Technical Committee recommended approval at their Thursday, July 19, 2012 meeting. This is one of the standard documents that the MPO produces. RMAP hosted a TIP Open House on July 9, 2012 and invited members of the community to attend and ask questions and give input. The TIP Open House was well attended and all the comments received were very positive and Mr. Ernst stated he is very comfortable in requesting the document be approved by Policy Members and recommended approval of RMAP Resolution 2012-9. Mr. Ernst thanked members for their assistance in this years' TIP process.

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Chairman Bob Walberg  
Boone County, RMAP Chair  
Chairman Scott H. Christiansen  
Winnebago County, RMAP Vice-Chair

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

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford  
Mayor Tom Strickland  
Village of Machesney Park

Deputy Director Paul Loete  
Illinois Department of Transportation,  
Region 2

Mr. Ernst stated that now that we have a transportation bill we have funding that's understood for the next two years.

Mr. Ernst stated that 2-3 weeks ago there was a meeting with the Illinois Tollway regarding the construction project on the section of I-90 between I-90 and the Fox River. The Tollway has made a formal offer to Boone County and the City of Belvidere, if they can secure the land for the southeast quadrant of the ramps at Irene Road and do some preliminary engineering that the Tollway would spend approximately 3.5 million dollars to build that ramp as part of the construction.

Mr. Ernst stated that in 2009 when we were looking at still building Amtrak stations in downtown Rockford and Belvidere the Policy Committee had taken action to allow \$950,000 STP money to be used in assist in starting the preliminary engineering for these stations that was prior to the change in the route choice. That money basically has not been tapped into and one of the considerations that Mr. Ernst is exploring is allowing the City of Belvidere and Boone County to re-purpose their share of that money in some way to compensate some of that money that is needed at Irene Road. Mr. Ernst is still exploring what's possible and does not have a full recommendation. Mr. Ernst stated that Tollway is indicating that they need the land secured by 2013 in order to make this deal. Mr. Ernst stated that Boone County and the City of Belvidere Councils has taken action to award a contract to Hanson Engineers to get the Phase I plan initiated for IDOT and the Tollway's review which would give us some idea on how much land would be required for the ramp at Irene Road intersection.

Chairman Walberg stated that the MOU and a contract approved to help Boone County purchase the property.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the federal funds in the TIP.

A motion to approve was made by the City of Rockford, seconded by Winnebago County. RMAP Resolution 2012-9 was approved unanimously (6-0).

##### **5. BOONE & WINNEBAGO COUNTY REGIONAL SAFETY WORKSHOP:**

Mr. Ernst stated that a few weeks ago IDOT held a Safety Workshop for several counties in Illinois that has been identified for over representative for traffic crashes of certain types. Winnebago County is one of those counties identified. IDOT Bureau of Safety Engineering would like to move forward on a program that targets meetings in each of the counties that have been identified. RMAP has asked IDOT that Boone County be included in this analysis. Mr. Ernst provided some of the graphics that was produced at the IDOT workshop in Woodstock; some statewide fatality statistics and other serious injury accidents and how they lay out geographically in Winnebago County. IDOT has suggested that RMAP hosts a workshop for all the practitioners (highway engineers, safety professionals, police/fire, emergency responders, etc.) and prior to that meeting host an information session for all of the elected officials so that they understand what IDOT is proposing in the safety arena and how they would like to target safety funds in the future.

The proposed dates for the elected officials meeting is Wednesday, September 5, 2012 from 1:00-3:00p and held at the RMAP Planning & Design Center. Ms. Priscilla Tobias, Bureau Chief of IDOT Safety Engineering will be providing the overview. The workshop for the practitioners is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 10:00-3:00p.

Mr. Vanderwerff stated that he'd like to hear from the City of Belvidere and Boone County on who they would like to participate in the workshop.

Mr. Jacobson stated that there was some FHWA staff members in attendance at the workshop held in Woodstock and suggested that those folks also be invited to the upcoming workshops.

## **6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

### **6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:**

Mr. Ernst reported that he and others attended the Metra Strategic Plan Public Meeting held in Crystal Lake last night. Mr. Ernst stated that he had conversations with Metra staff regarding potential extended services to this region. Mr. Ernst stated that he provided written comments as well as have conversations. Metra is currently doing their planning process and we hope they consider our suggestions.

### **6.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:**

No report.

### **6.03 RMAP Regional Freight Study:**

Mayor Brereton asked about the status of the Regional Freight Study and referenced the recent Rockford Register Star article discussing the need for North Main Street to get heavy equipment/freight to North Main in Rockford.

Mr. Ernst stated that it was not identified in the study because Ingersoll didn't have a contract along this line. In the last couple days we've done some research; there used to be a rail spur into that North Main facility of Ingersoll. The looks like the right of way is still there but the tracks have been removed for many years. The possibility of exists that you could put that rail spur back in and require a lot of lead time. If this was going to be a recurring part of Ingersoll's business it might be in there interest to put that rail spur back in.

Mr. Ernst stated we are still fine tuning the actual draft of the report and we are trying to schedule Dr. Lee Hutchins to make a presentation of the major bullet items.

### **6.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:**

No report.

### **6.05 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:**

Mr. Ernst stated that there have been conversations within the City of Rockford and letter being distributed regarding the program.

A brief discussion took place among members and the other municipalities looking into electrical aggregation.

### **6.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:**

Mr. Zuroske reported that the Eastern Access Airport Infrastructure Project (Falcon Road & Airport Drive) has received final approval a week ago and conversations with the airport have begun on some of the design issues and they anticipate a public announcement within the next 30-45 days.

### **6.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:**

Mr. Ernst stated that he is targeting the 3rd week of August for a meeting to get the small group that is looking at Regional Governance. The intent is to schedule a major steering committee meeting the 3rd or 4th week of September that would the Regional Governance discussion and the release of the social report (one of the 3 major reports that address current conditions).

Mr. Ernst stated that the indicators part of the program continues and currently 650 have been identified and about a third is being tracked. As part of the implementation tools, conversation have been initiated with Boone County Farmland Preservation Commission regarding tools we can use to help preserve agriculture and farmland.

**7. OTHER BUSINESS:**

**OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

Mr. Ernst stated that Illinois General Assembly passed some legislation that requires Elected Officials to have specialized training on the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Ernst stated that because of Policy members' participation in RMAP we have to document that the members have gone through that training. Mr. Ernst stated that he will be following up with members regarding their status on the Open Meetings Act training. Mr. Ernst indicated that the training is available online.

Mayor Brereton stated that he believes that the training does not need to be completed till 2013.

Mr. Ernst stated that he is bringing up the Open Meetings Act because for future Policy Committee meetings he would like to provide members an I-Pad to use during the meetings that would have all of the necessary meeting materials. A waiver would have to be signed making a statement to the effect that you would not send communication to each other that would violate the Open Meetings Act.

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP REQUEST**

RMAP has received two (2) letters (Rockford Park District and Winnebago County Forest Preserve) requesting Technical Committee membership. We also anticipate receiving Technical Committee membership letters from the Boone County Conservation District and Belvidere Park District. We are pleased to report that getting parks and recreations and forest preserve agencies interested in being part of our process.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, City of Rockford made a motion to adjourn, seconded by City of Belvidere. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 1:49 P.M.