



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 25, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Bob Walberg, Boone County; Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Dan Long, IDOT District 2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County, Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County joined meeting at 1:20p.m., Mayor Larry Morrissey, City of Rockford joined meeting at 1:30p.m.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** City of Belvidere; Village of Machesney Park.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, RMAP Staff; Dan Jacobson, Loves Park Public Works; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick, Zuroske, Rockford Public Works; Joshua McClusky, IDOT Transit & Metro Planning; Mark Lynch, Poplar Grove Village Administrator; Maria Hawley, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Bill Hoyt, MDES; Matt Cerruti, citizen.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Walberg with a quorum present at 1:17 PM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS:** Mr. Ernst provided calendar reminders as follows:

- ❖ Tri-State Alliance Summit scheduled for Friday, May 10, 2013 from 8:30a-2:30p to be held at the Eclipse Center in Beloit, WI. Mr. Ernst stated any Policy members interested in attending could contact RMAP staff to complete the registration and cover the cost.
- ❖ The Illinois Agricultural Preservation Conference “Planning, Preservation, and Economics of Farming” is scheduled for June 21-22, 2013 to be held at the Community Building Complex in Belvidere. RMAP is a participating sponsor of the event.
- ❖ RMTD Annual golf outing is scheduled for Friday, August 2, 2013 at Timber Pointe in Boone County.

Mr. Ernst introduced Mr. Mark Lynch, Village of Poplar Grove Village Administrator. Mr. Ernst stated that the Village of Poplar Grove is interested in participating as a formal member of RMAP and a letter from the Village is anticipated soon.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2013 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the February 28, 2013 minutes was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Winnebago County. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

our future, our goals, our map 313 North Main Street, Rockford, IL 61101 815.964.RMAP direct 815.967.6913 fax rmapil.org

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 Mike Chamberlain  
City of Belvidere

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey  
City of Rockford

Mayor Jerry Bohm  
Village of Machesney Park

Deputy Director Paul Loete  
Illinois Department of Transportation,  
Region 2

**4. TIP AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2013-5:**

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP Resolution 2013-5 amends the Transportation Improvement Program to add a safety project on US-20 from Bonus Avenue to Lawrenceville Road in Belvidere. The project adds a travel lane and provides a median barrier to prevent head-on collisions. This project is scheduled for a June letting. Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee voted unanimously to recommend the amendment at their April 18, 2013 meeting. A motion to approve Resolution 2013-5 was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by Winnebago County and approved unanimously (4-0).

**5. RMAP FY2014 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that the Unified Work Program for FY14 outlines planning funds and work tasks that RMAP intends to provide for the region in the next fiscal year.

- RMAP was able to secure additional planning funds to upgrade our transportation model to add an economic output module to the software. RMAP will be able to code major infrastructure and private investment developments into the model and generate economic forecasts out of the model which would include jobs and return on investment (ROI).
- Mr. Ernst stated RMAP has set aside some funds to provide an update to the Flora Neighborhood Plan in Boone County which include the Irene Road interchange. These funds would help to update the existing plan that was done over 10 years ago.
- RMAP will continue much of their work on implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Study.
- RMAP will continue the work of Vital Signs and hopes to assist in the early implementation steps. The maintenance of the data commons would also be part of the work program.
- RMAP will be assisting RMTD with implementation of the new routes and schedules.
- Staff will assist RREDD to continue the work to analyze regional freight and the movement of goods, services and logistics.
- RMAP will continue to do the traditional work required to maintain federal documents and requirements.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP will be asking Policy members to take action on the FY14 UWP at the May 2013 meeting, and the new work plan will take effect July 1, 2013.

**6. UPDATE ON THE REGIONAL GOVERNANCE MODEL:**

Mr. Ernst provided members two charts that will be used to start the conversation about regional governance. The Vital Signs grant funds will help to bring consultant expertise to the initial meetings. A Steering Team meeting is planned for June 12, 2013. This will lead to the setting of sustainability targets, and the strategies and tactics to accomplish the 20-year planning goals. Vital Signs is making outreach to nonprofit groups, community groups, commissions and boards to generate interest in the final stages of the Vital Signs project, called Topic Teams. There was a brief discussion among members regarding regional governance.

## **7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

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

Mr. Ernst reported that IDOT continues their negotiations with the Canadian National Railroad and they have not come closer to terms in the last couple of months. The City of Rockford and RMTD are moving forward with the implementation of the train station project in downtown Rockford. The Midwest High Speed Rail Association will be hosting a luncheon with Amtrak CEO Joe Boardman as the featured speaker. Mr. Ernst will be attending. The State of Illinois has been asked on behalf of a multi-state consortium to purchase new modern rail cars and locomotives. The bid award for the new rail cars was made to Nippon Sharyo and they are being fabricated and assembled in Rochelle. The State of Illinois has targeted the Chicago/Rockford/Dubuque service for some of the new vehicles.

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

Mr. Ernst reported that he had a conversation with Mr. John Lewis who stated that the iFiber project is 85% installed underground and most of the underground now contains fiber strands. The project has a late summer 2013 completion date.

### **7.03 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:**

Mr. Ernst reported that the RMAP Mobility Subcommittee is entertaining new transit projects to utilize JARC/New Freedom funds. They are anticipating selecting projects at the May Mobility Subcommittee meeting which will then come before Policy for final award.

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

Mr. Ernst reported that he had a conversation with Mr. Paul Callighan who stated that ComEd would like to host a future Policy Committee meeting in their new Training Facility. They would like to showcase what they are doing for training as well as the equipment and technology that will be deployed with the Smart Grid/Smart Meters program. Mr. Ernst asked the City of Loves Park if they would be willing to forgo having the June Policy meeting at Loves Park City Hall and holding it at ComEd's Training Center. Mayor Lindberg stated that would be fine.

**7.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:** No report.

**7.06 HUD Sustainability Grant:** See agenda item #6.

### **7.07 Regional School Planning:**

Mr. Ernst reported that RMAP has received the GIS-compatible files from District 205 for all of the school boundaries within the district. RMAP staff are working to geocode the District 205 student file, which will provide the data required to analyze student assignment.

**7.08 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:** No report.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS:**

AIR QUALITY

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has tabulated and is prepared to submit to State and Federal partners updated air quality information. RMAP is required to monitor three (3) different components of air quality; ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter. The region is not in danger of non-attainment for any of the air quality components.

NEW STATE MYP PROGRAM

Mr. Ernst provided members a summary tabulation of the new State MYP Program that the Governor released last week. The release includes major project highlights by region. Mr. Ernst tabulated the project funding by region. The document uses a very broad definition of a “region” and therefore it is difficult to analyze the exact impact of the new MYP. But from the highlight summary it appears that the projected funding in the new MYP for the RMAP region is lower than expected. Members had a brief discussion on the implications of the new MYP.

REGIONAL PLANNING & DESIGN CENTER

Mayor Morrissey suggested to members that they submit plans and illustrations of local projects that they would like to be displayed at the Regional Center for Planning & Design so that it’s available for public viewing.

TIGER VI

Mr. Ernst stated that USDOT announced another round of the TIGER program, known as TIGER VI. Applications are due by June 3, 2013. The process to make an application is very complex. RMAP is considering resubmitting the Irene Road Project for this round of TIGER VI. If any other member is interested in submitting a project, RMAP can assist with crafting the application.

TIFIA

Chairman Christiansen asked about TIFIA. Mr. Ernst stated he is still researching the program and will try to have an update at the next Policy Committee meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, City of Loves Park made a motion to adjourn, seconded by IDOT District 2. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 P.M.