



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, October 24, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Scott Christiansen, Winnebago County; Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Mayor Jerry Bolin, Village of Machesney Park, Mayor Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Mr. Jim Ryan, City of Rockford; Ms. Kris Tobin, IDOT District #2.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: All present.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Carlos Molina, Winnebago County Highway; Joe Altenhoff, Arc Design; 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 1:19 PM.

2. COMMUNICATIONS:

Mr. Ernst congratulated Mayor Darryl Lindberg on his election as Board President of IML (Illinois Municipal League) at the recent IML Annual meeting. Mayor Chamberlain has accepted a role as a new IML Board Member. Mayor Adams has accepted a role as IML Sergeant of Arms. Ms. Lori Mitchell has accepted the roll as Chief of the Clerks.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors has voted to raise the speed limit on two sections of the tollway system to 70mph; the section of I-90 between the Wisconsin state line and Magic Waters and the section of I-88 west of DeKalb.

3. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 25, 2013 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

A motion to approve the July 25, 2013 minutes was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. RMAP FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – RESOLUTION 2013-11:

Mr. Ernst stated that the cost and scope of the IDOT project on IL-2 at Roscoe Road has increased from \$5.7 million to \$7.3 million. The substantial increase in the cost requires RMAP to amend the TIP so that the additional federal funds can be expended. This project is also eligible for advance construction status.

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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 Mike Chamberlain
City of Belvidere

Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
City of Rockford

Mayor Jerry Bolin
Village of Machesney Park

Deputy Director Paul Loete
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

Chairman Christiansen provided a comment and thanked Ms. Tobin and IDOT for the work on IL 2 at Latham Road, which has been a long-term safety issue. Winnebago County is appreciative of how fast IDOT was able to build and complete the project.

Mr. Ernst is required to alert the Policy members on Advance Construction projects. The USDOT allows states to advance the construction with state dollars and seek reimbursement after the fact with committed federal funds. Along with the IL-2 and Roscoe Road project there are four river bridges on the US-20 Bypass that are eligible for advance construction, as well as the Orth Road Bridge over Beaver Creek.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Technical Committee voted unanimously to recommend the amendment at their October 17, 2013 meeting. A motion to approve Resolution 2013-11 was made by the City of Loves Park, seconded by the City of Belvidere and approved unanimously (6-0).

5. FTA SECTION 5310 DESIGNATED RECIPIENT IDENTIFICATION:

Mr. Ernst stated that the new transportation bill (MAP-21) awarded a certain amount of funds to the large MPOs like RMAP, including the 5310 program that serves the elderly and disabled. RMAP received \$150,000 for the 5310 program. These dollars are generally used to purchase transit vehicles but a percentage could be used for operational expenses. IDOT and the Governor have requested a formal letter indicating which local agency would be the recipient of these funds. RMAP is recommending that RMTD be so designated. Upon Policy Committee concurrence a letter which will be transmitted under Mr. Ernst designating local preference for RMTD as the recipient. RMTD will take formal action at their board meeting next month and RMTD will be sending a formal letter to the Governor. A motion was made by the City of Loves Park and seconded by the City of Rockford to authorize the Executive Director to send the letter to IDOT - Springfield. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

6. UPDATE ON THE VITAL SIGNS PROJECT:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has met substantial completion of all but the last deliverables. A series of open houses were held October 16-18, 2013 showcasing everything that has been done so far. Mr. Ernst stated that HUD has indicated that RMAP is a high performing grantee. The formal work on housing is quite lengthy but is available for review if members are interested. If members or their constituents have questions please contact the RMAP staff.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is being called to Washington in December for the HUD Convening meeting to wrap up the process and it is his goal to push for the next round of implementation dollars. Mr. Ernst stated he'd like 2014 to be known as the year of implementation. In subsequent RMAP Policy meetings the agenda will include presentation and discussion of the Council of Governments / Regional Planning Board concept that was developed in the governance section of the Vital Signs project.

Mayor Lindberg stated that it's a huge step and voiced some concerns such as funding issues and he's glad that those discussions are beginning because this is something that will take some time and due diligence. Mr. Ryan stated concern about the long-term sustainability of the data and indicators from the Vital Signs project. Mr. Ernst stated he appreciates everybody's work on the project and RMAP is working with outside partners such as the Rockford Health Council to maintain specific datasets that will be beneficial the region.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis & Amtrak Service:

No report.

7.02 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mr. Ernst reported that all of the fiber in Winnebago County is now in the ground and is undergoing system testing. The electronics to light the fiber should be completed by the end of the year. The I-Fiber Board has negotiated a contract with an internet service provider and will be available to the anchor institutions.

7.03 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

No report.

7.04 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

No report.

7.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy:

Mr. Ernst reported that the annual update cycle for the CEDS will commence in January or February 2014. Mr. Ernst stated that the EDD project at the airport will require closure of the Airport Drive & Kishwaukee Street intersection until mid-November for advance utility construction.

7.06 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Covered in agenda item #6.

7.07 Regional School Planning:

Mr. Ernst reported that in the last quarter RMAP has logged roughly 57 hours working with the School District 205. RMAP has received the new roster of students from fall registration. Staff is analyzing the data with GIS tools. RMAP would like to extend the school conversation to the Harlem School District and the Belvidere School District in the coming months. RMAP would like Mayor Lindberg, Mayor Bolin, Dr. Fanello and Mayor Chamberlain to assist with organizing future conversations and meetings.

7.08 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:

Mr. Ernst stated that community input meetings for the Noise Study at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport will occur in November, and will be held at the Airport Administrative Offices.

- Wednesday, November 6, 2013 / Stakeholder Coordination meeting from 3:00-4:30p
- Wednesday, November 6, 2013 / Public meeting from 5:30-7:30p

8. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Ernst stated four ITEP projects were submitted to the statewide call for projects:

- Winnebago County submitted a project for an extension of the Perryville Path Bike from Rock Cut State Park to the Stonebridge trail; cost of the project is \$1,747,300.
- City of Rockford submitted a project for a Rails to Trails conversion on the Illinois Railway structure over the Rock River; cost of the project is \$1,212,700.
- Rockford Park District submitted a project for the Willow Creek Trail Extension; cost of the project is \$261,990.
- City of Loves Park submitted a Willow Creek Trail Extension project (for both the Rockford Park District property and the Woodward property); cost of the project is \$240,130.

RMAP has opened a call for TAP projects through January 2014. The Policy Committee will eventually award TAP projects totaling \$625,000 of federal money sometime after the start of 2014.

Chairman Christiansen stated that Frank Hodina has joined the Winnebago County Highway staff and was one of the last graduates of the U of I railway engineering program. Chairman Christiansen stated Mr. Hodina will be available to assist with rail planning and the Winnebago County Rail Authority.

Mr. Altenhoff commented on recent Rockford Chamber presentations regarding the status of transportation funding in Illinois. There was subsequent discussion on how RMAP might be able to provide information to partner organizations in this regard. This topic will be added to future Policy Committee agendas.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the City of Loves Park made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the City of Rockford. Motion approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 P.M.