



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, January 19, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; Kathy Miller, Boone County Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; John Donovan, FHWA; Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Curtis Jones, IDOT Programming and Planning; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Chad Hunter, Village of Machesney Park; Ben Ackert, Village of Winnebago; Joe Vanderwerff, Wayne Vlk, Don Krizan, Winnebago County Highway; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Economic Development.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford Airport, RAEDC, Village of Machesney Park, Village of Roscoe, RAEDC.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Assoc.; David Almy, Hanson Professional; Chris Baer, McClure Engineering; Joe Altenhoff, Arc Design; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 17, 2011 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the November 17, 2011 Technical Committee minutes. Motion to approve by Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway, seconded by the Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Mr. Long reported that construction is on hold for the winter. Mr. Long indicated he can give an update on planning projects

IL-173 Alpine to Rock Cut Park construction limits are under review and looking at a January 2013 letting.

I39/I90 project is scheduled for selection tomorrow and there is still one condemnation to complete. Construction is scheduled to start this spring.

IL-2 S. Main Beltline to Clifton final plans is under review and we will have the 60 day letters out this week. We are on target for April letting.

Clifton to Cedar project is at 90% plans. Land acquisitions are a little behind.

IL-2 Auburn to Riverside consultant is working on cross sections and should be able to get construction limits established by March or April. A public meeting will be held so the public can weigh in on the plans so far.

West State is in the land acquisition process.

IL-173 at IL-76 is an intersection project. There have been some crashes and development going on in this intersection and a public meeting will be held in March. A bike trail is also being considered in this project.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department: Mr. Vlk reported that Winnebago County Highways' suspended projects are being resumed in the spring.

The Meridian project from Cunningham to Knapp just has some resurfacing to do.

Winnebago County Highways' sign upgrade project will start in the spring.

Mr. Vlk reported that the new projects that are scheduled for a spring letting are new signals going in at Perryville/Broadcast and Perryville/Nimtz. The design is just about done and will be sent to IDOT for review and we hope to get scheduled for a spring letting.

Harrisville/Baxter intersection has some improvements planned for a spring letting.

Condore Road resurfacing project is scheduled for a spring letting

Mr. Vlk reported that there is some parking lot improvements planned for the downtown Rockford area and it is scheduled for a spring letting.

Montague Road Bridge over Mill Creek is a bridge replacement project and is scheduled for a March letting. A temporary jump span bridge has been put in place and the road has been opened for a little over a week for one way traffic. Traffic signals are in place to facilitate the one way traffic.

Pecatonica Prairie Path is on schedule for a March letting.

The Winnebago County Highways' guard rail upgrade project is on schedule for a June letting.

2.3 City of Rockford, Public Works Department: Mr. Zuroske reported that all of the City of Rockford's projects are wrapped up.

Mr. Zuroske stated that they do a fairly significant RFQ process for pre-qualifications of our consulting partners. Mr. Zuroske wanted those consulting partners to know that this process is moving along and we hope to have letters out in the next couple of weeks.

2012 neighborhood program is complete and will go to bid in early February.

Downtown one way pair conversion is in the process of selecting a consultant for the 2nd phase and we have received comments from IDOT which were very responsive. We hope to make this conversion in 2013.

The City is in the final stage of negotiating a contract with a consultant regarding the Whitman Interchange project.

Morgan Street project is progressing.

Mr. Zuroske stated that they are working cooperatively with the Rockford Park District to redevelop Ingersoll into a sports complex.

The City of Rockford's Whitewater project is moving along. We've had some movements with ComEd and we expect to see some significant Whitewater recreation park planning in 2012.

We are working on several projects with the Chicago/Rockford International Airport such as improvements to Falcon Road.

The City of Rockford is also working on an ITEP grant.

2.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department: Mr. Jacobson reported that their projects are completed. Mr. Jacobson indicated that they are anticipating a letting for a Garden Plain Bridge in April.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: No report.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Not present.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: Mr. Johnson reported that the East Side Transfer Center is done and they are still waiting to get the furniture in place. RMTD has been operating the Belvidere Service out of the East Side Transfer Center and the East State Route has been stopping at the Transfer Center.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department: Mr. Bruck reported that they City of Loves Park will be applying for a Brownfields grant.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department: Mr. Zuroske reported that the S. Main Corridor Plan is being prepared through go to City Council for adoption as an amendment to the City's 2020 Plan.

The City's Brownfields effort have centered around Barbara Colman on South Main as well as the rail yards. Assessments are being made for the South Main Corridor and West State Street Corridor and some other scattered site locations.

Governor Quinn was in town on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 regarding funding for the Rockford Train Station.

The City of Rockford is in the 3rd stage of our Keith Creek buyout process. Ultimately our goal is to enlarge the flood zone in this particular area primarily in the Church Hills Park area.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department: Ms. Mroz reported that they have been busy with expansions. Ms. Mroz indicated that they are currently working on one in Machesney Park and the City of Loves Park.

Ms. Mroz met with two different CEO's who are interested in finding out if their building will pass the Historical qualifications. These houses were built in 1909 and 1929.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: Ms. Miller reported that the Boone County Board has approved the Regional Stormwater Plan so they will be figuring out the next steps for that.

Ms. Miller indicated that they continue to work on the Comprehensive Plan.

The Citizen Planner Workshop held in November 2011 was very successful and we will plan on holding another workshop in the future.

There has been an EECBG grant administered to a couple agencies in Boone County.

Mr. Miller indicated they have an intern starting in the office tomorrow and he is very interested in working on Sustainability.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department: No report.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department: No report.

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: No report.

2.17 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: Not present.

2.18 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority: Ms. Anderson reported that 2012 will be a very busy year for Illinois Tollway Systems. Starting this year the Illinois Tollway will start on \$609 million dollar investment to repair and rebuild roadways, bridges and interchanges and other capital investments across the 286-mile system.

Tollway increase began January 1, 2012 to assist with the funding of the capital plan that is being put in place.

2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: Mr. Jones reported that STU allotments have come out. Mr. Jones will be providing information to members.

2.21 Ogle County Highway Department: Not present.

2.22 Boone County Council of Aging: Not present.

2.23 State Line Area Transportation Study: Mr. Soltau reported that they will be looking at a Transit Development plan for SMTD for Rockton, Roscoe and South Beloit.

Mr. Soltau stated that he is planning on having the SLATS Technical/Policy meeting in April 2012.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Mr. Donovan reported that the report writing for RMAP's Certification Review is currently taking place and should have the finalized report in March. Mr. Donovan indicated that there are very positive results regarding RMAP's certification review.

Mr. Donovan stated that he wants to remind folks that the Highway Trust fund only has authorization through the end of March. This will be our next hurdle again. Map-21 has some bipartisan support but still has quite a ways to go.

2.25 Rockford Area Economic Development Council: Not present.

2.26 Rock River Water Reclamation District: Not present.

2.27 Growth Dimensions: Not present.

2.28 Stateline Mass Transit District: Not present.

2.29 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning: Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Michael Maddox has taken another position with an Engineering firm in Fargo, South Dakota and his last day was January 6, 2012. RMAP is currently in the process of hiring for this vacant planner position.

The 319 Grant project and Brownfields Inventory project that Michael Maddox was working on will be taken over by Gary McIntyre.

Mr. Zuroske suggested that we show our appreciation of Michael Maddox's hard work in a letter and have all of the Technical Members sign and forward to Michael Maddox.

Mr. Ernst reported that Rockford Housing Authority was one of 13 grants awarded nationwide for the Choice Neighborhood Programs to be used at their facility in Rockford. Mr. Ernst stated in talking with HUD representatives that the preferred Sustainability status that RMAP received played a big role for RHA to receive the Choice Neighborhood Program Grant. The Sustainability Communities Grant project is starting to pay dividends to our community.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Sustainability Steering Committee meetings scheduled in January 2012 have been postponed until Wednesday February 8, 2012 from 6:00-8:00p and will be held at Rockford Association of Realtors on E. State Street.

The RMAP Design Center construction is progressing very well.

Mr. Hren stated that we are closer to finalizing the DRAFT LEP Policies. Mr. Hren hopes to have a final draft LEP Policies at the February Technical meeting for their review and comments.

Mr. Ernst stated that the January 26, 2012 Policy Committee meeting is cancelled. Due to the calendar year the next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1, 2012. One of the main items that will be brought up at the March 1, 2012 Policy Committee meeting will be the discussion of Electrical Energy Aggregation and Smart Grid/Smart Meters Program.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Belvidere Transit Route is up and operational. The consultant for RMTD is collecting data and Jon Paul Diipla has a couple of the maps that are now being produced for the Belvidere Route if anyone is interested.

3. TIGER III:

Mr. Ernst provided two handouts regarding TIGER III. The awards were made in December 2011. There were 3 projects for Illinois; 2 for Chicago and 1 for Alton. Mr. Ernst provided a brief summary on the TIGER III handouts he provided to members.

Mr. Ernst suggested that members start on their projects now for the next round. We'll keep applying.

4. TOLLWAY I-90 MODERNIZATION:

Mr. Ernst stated that Ms. Anderson provided a good lead in into the Tollway I-90 Modernization in her agency report.

The I-90 Coordinating Council Financial Committee is meeting now (Mr. Ernst was not able to attend) and Mr. Terrinoni and Chairman Walberg are attending on the region's behalf. There is a draft resolution that has been prepared to endorse the managed lane concept on I-90.

The next I-90 Coordinating Council meeting will be held in March 2012.

Members had a brief discussion regarding the Tollway I-90 Modernization plans.

5. RMAP DRAFT UWP FY2013:

On behalf of Mr. Gary McIntyre, Mr. Ernst asked that if members have planning projects that you'd like RMAP's assistance on starting July 1, 2012 please contact Gary McIntyre at RMAP. Even though we don't have funding marks from IDOT, they have asked for us to proceed at the same level as the previous year.

Mr. Ernst stated that we don't have the 2010 Census Data which shows us where our new boundaries will be yet. We're anticipating that anytime now. This will play a role on our ability to deliver demographic information and other planning work on the members' behalf. Please keep in mind how the new census information might affect some of the work you do in comprehensive planning.

6. STORMWATER COMMITTEE:

Mr. Ernst stated that he would like to re-engage members to look at the stormwater issues regionally.

Mr. Ernst stated that he had a conversation with Mr. Joe Altenhoff on the structure of what the committee might look like and how we might kick this off.

Mr. Ernst stated that it would be an opportune time to apply for the Urban Water Grant through the EPA. We could use this as a pilot project to kick off the Stormwater Committee. Grant applications are due Monday, January 30, 2012.

Fortunately the Winnebago County 319 Grant project has been active for a while.

Mr. Altenhoff has volunteered his time in assisting on putting the grant proposal together. RMAP will do the federal paperwork.

Mr. Altenhoff stated that the grant application really focuses on the long range plan of the Clean Water Act and there are two vision plans out there; one that will end in 2012 and one that will end in 2015. The purpose of this is to improve water quality. Flooding is a major concern in the Winnebago County area since there is no real buffer for the water that comes down the urban water ways. We're trying to think of ways to combine flood control and water quality which is a primary focus of the grant. We're looking at the potential to re-purpose some of the existing storm water facilities that exist along the urban water ways.

Mr. Ernst asked members for comments and a brief discussion proceeded among Technical members.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Mr. Ernst reported that in late 2011 Metra released their feasibility study which studied the extension of service from Elgin to Big Timber to just within McHenry County (Huntley/Marengo). We are working with METRA staff to go over cost estimate that they had in their report and our report. We have not heard from the Federal Transit Administration Region 5 on our submittal draft Environmental Statement but we hope to have that happen fairly soon.

7.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: See agency report 2.10.

7.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: No report.

7.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study: No report.

7.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Diipla reported that the next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 14, 2012 and held at the YWCA on E. State Street.

Mr. Diipla stated we will begin the conversation on updating the HSTP document we currently have. Two elements that will be important to update is the RMTD Comprehensive Route Analysis and 2010 Census data.

7.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs): No report.

7.07 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: See agency report 2.29.

7.08 South Main Street / IL-2 (SM2): See Agency Report 2.10.

7.09 Greater RMAP Environmental-Education Network (GREEN): No report.

7.10 HUD Sustainability Grant: Mr. Ernst stated he would cover at the February 23, 2012 Technical Committee meeting.

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Zuroske wanted to mention Mr. Gary Camling from McClure Engineering and his untimely passing. Mr. Zuroske wanted to show our great appreciation for all Mr. Camling did for our community.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway and seconded by Mr. Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway. Meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.