



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, February 23, 2012**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Traffic; Kathy Miller, Boone-Belvidere Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; John Donovan, FHWA; Dan Long, IDOT District 2; Curtis Jones, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Carrie Houston, Village of Machesney Park; Ben Ackert, Village of Winnebago; Wayne Vlk, Dave Townsend, Winnebago Co. Highway; Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** RAEDC, RRWRD, Village of Cherry Valley, Village of Roscoe.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, RMAP Staff; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Colin Belle, Our Vital Signs; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Assoc.; David Almy, Hanson Professional Services; Chris Baer, Jim Hankins, McClure Engineering; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 19, 2012 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the January 19, 2012 Technical Committee minutes. Motion to approve by David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport, seconded by the Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway. Motion carried.

**2. AGENCY REPORTS:**

**2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:**

Mr. Long reported that since it's too cold for construction they have been working on some in house planning design.

IL173 Alpine to Rock Cut they are looking at construction staging issues. They want to raise the grade up a couple feet for some drainage concerns. They also want to look at business access during construction. The letting will probably be pushed back a month or two.

I39 I90 Williams Charles partnered with Plote and is the low bidder for this project and should start up this spring.

IL2 South Main Beltline to Clifton we submitted the plans to Springfield and scheduled for an April letting. The other half Clifton to Cedar the plans didn't come back as expected so there is more work to be done on those before we can make offers to everyone. We will be attempting to purchase right of way from the Railroad. We are looking at a November letting for this section assuming the negotiations goes well with the Railroad.

IL2 Auburn to Riverside originally we talked about a public meeting in March but we need to be further along with the plans before we show them again so we'll look at a public meeting for May.

West State Sunset to Kent Creek we are anticipating an August letting and we just got the pre-final plans yesterday.

IL173 at IL76 the public meeting will be March 21, 2012 from 1:00-6:00p and held at the Poplar Grove Village Hall.

### **2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department:**

Mr. Vlk reported that the Meridian Road project will resume in the spring for the remainder of resurfacing.

Our Sign Upgrade Project for the east part of the County road way system will start once weather permits.

This spring we will have a project at the intersection of Baxter and Harrisville Road adding a left turn lane onto Baxter Road and widening out the radius returns.

The Condon Road resurfacing project from Kishwaukee to 251 is anticipated to be ready for this spring.

We have two parking lots in the downtown area under design that we hope to have ready this spring.

Pecatonica Prairie Path project will finish up the section from Meridian to the County line and is on a March letting.

Montague Bridge replacement project is on a March letting.

Guard rail upgrade project is scheduled for a June letting.

We anticipate if funding comes together adding our traffic signals to the Perryville/Broadcast and the Perryville/Nimtzt intersections which will tie in with the traffic signal synchronization that is in place up to Riverside.

### **2.3 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:**

Mr. Zuroske reported that the West State Street project is in the land acquisition stage.

The City of Rockford is working together with the Chicago/Rockford International Airport on an Economic Development Administration grant for the reconstruction of Airport Road and Falcon Road.

Mr. Zuroske and Mr. Ernst along with RMTD have been working together to put together the RFP Train Station and they hope to have it finished in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Zuroske reported that both the Morgan Street Bridge project and Riverwalk project still have construction going due to the great weather we've been having.

The North Main/Auburn Roundabout project is about 75% complete on the design and is currently in land acquisition stage. There will be some demolition going on in this area in the next 30 days.

**2.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:**

Mr. Jacobson reported that they anticipate an April letting for their Garden Plain Bridge project.

We have some signage replacement on North Second Street and some sub-divisions.

**2.5 Village of Machesney Park:**

No report.

Carrie Houston introduced herself to members. Carrie is the new Planner for the Village of Machesney Park.

**2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:**

Mr. Lindberg reported that they are working with the City of Rockford for funding to enhance the entrance into the Airport from 11<sup>th</sup> Street with another roundabout and Falcon Road resurfacing.

We will be commencing in early summer for a three year project to rebuild our north south runway. We're working out the logistics right now for when the construction will start.

The Chicago/Rockford International Airport Air Show is scheduled for June 2-3, 2012. The Thunderbirds are the featured act.

For the month of March we had an all-time high for passenger volume. We have 40% more seats in the market than we ever had. The carrier that is flying to Fort Myers will have 220 seats flying two times daily three times a week starting in March.

**2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District:**

Mr. Johnson reported that they are currently reviewing the draft report of the RMTD Route Study.

**2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:**

Mr. Bruck reported that he has been working on a couple bigger projects such as the comprehensive plan rewrite and TIF District for Forest Hills/Riverside. Mr. Bruck stated he'd like to get finalized soon and is requesting assistance from RMAP staff.

Mr. Ernst stated he'd be happy to have RMAP staff assist.

**2.9 Village of Cherry Valley:** Not present.

**2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department:**

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Jonah Katz has resigned his position with the City of Rockford to move to San Antonio, TX.

Mr. Zuroske reported that the South Main Corridor Revitalization Strategy project was adopted by their City Council a couple of weeks ago and is now part of their 2020 plan. The 2020 Plan is available for viewing on the City's website.

**2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department:**

Ms. Mroz reported that they have been busy with expansions.

Ms. Morz stated she keeps hearing that they are still having trouble getting trained machinists. Chairman Christiansen is hoping that the Tech Works class will be expanded to get the necessary trained machinists.

Mr. Mroz stated she is currently working on a couple submissions that have come from the IL DCEO from European countries that are interested in looking at investing in the area.

**2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department:**

Ms. Miller reported that they plan to schedule a meeting soon with all the transportation agencies to finish up their Comprehensive Plan.

Our Downtown Strategy presentation on March 19, 2012 at 5:30p and held at Belvidere City Hall Council Chambers to discuss the proposed north and south State Street.

The Boone County Efficiency Grant projects have all been completed and funds expended.

**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:** Not present.

**2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:** Not present.

**2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:**

Mr. Jones reported that there is the Illinois State Rail Plan Open House scheduled tonight starting at 4:00-7:00p and held at the Rockford Downtown Public Library.

**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 SLATS has a Public Hearing scheduled for April 4, 2012 at 3:00p and held at the Rotary Center.

Mr. Soltau indicated he would be holding a SLATS meeting in April 2012.

Mr. Soltau reported that they received a sizeable award from Wisconsin to improve County G.

They also have some Safe Route to School projects. They also have a bunch of amendments to make.

**2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division:**

Mr. Donovan reported that RMAP Planning Certification Review Report should be released in the next couple of months. Mr. Donovan will be presenting the final report to the RMAP Policy Committee in an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Donovan stated that the re-authorization proposal has a flurry of activity on both sides. The Senate proposal is wrangling on where to come up with the additional funds.

House Bill American Energy and Infrastructure Jobs Act seems to be receiving considerable attention.

On the horizon our current extension expires at the end of March so hopefully there will be some action in the near future.

**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 reported that TIGER 4 pre-application deadline was Monday, April 20, 2012 and we successfully met the deadline. RMAP submitted Irene Road Project and the Hudson Road Project was inadvertently submitted but we will not follow through with a final application for Hudson Road. We have three weeks to submit the final application. Hopefully some of the regions outside of Chicago will make the final cut.

As part of the "Our Vital Signs" project we've been working closely with HUD and the Housing Authorities. The idea is that grantees with cities that have a housing project are required to prepare a regional analysis that all of the grantees in the region can use as their document. Mr. Ernst is currently working through the details.

Mr. Hren reported that RMAP LEP Draft Plan is available for review on RMAP's website and a public notice has gone out. Public comments are being accepted and the process to finalize the LEP Plan will be going on for some time.

Mr. Ernst reported that the 2012 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program applications are due May 29, 2012. If you need additional information, including the ITEP Application, instructions and guidelines manual and a frequently asked questions section, can be found on the ITEP website at [www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html). The total pot of money statewide is 50 million. Hopefully we have some worthy projects in the region that will be submitted.

Mr. Ernst reported that Earth Day is Sunday, April 22, 2012 and Earth Day activities are being planned for Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Rock Valley College. If there are any Earth Day activities that you'd like RMAP to promote, please let us know. There will be outdoor and indoor activities planned at the RVC event.

Mr. Ernst provided members IDOT's brochure the Transportation Program to Assist Economic Development for three different programs IDOT provides for Economic Assistance.

Mr. Ernst reported that he expects a March release for the Census information for boundary definitions for the Metropolitan regions.

Mr. Ernst reported that there was a Vital Signs Steering Committee held on Wednesday February 8, 2012 and was very well attended.

**3. RMAP FY2012 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP) – RMAP Resolution 2012-1:**

Mr. Ernst stated that agenda item 3 is the amendment to the RMAP FY2012 UWP. RMAP needs to amend the adopted FY2012 UWP for additional FHWA planning funds received from IDOT Office of Planning and Programming.

The additional funds totaled \$160,000 dollars to RMAP's FY12 budget. Mr. Ernst provided a detailed breakdown of how the additional dollars were expended – ESRI Business data set (all members will have access to this data), funded additional costs for the aerial photography done of Boone County, funded Springcreek/I-90 Interchange Fiscal Impact Study, funded Open Indicators Consortium through UMASS, funded the extra costs that the DCEO Grant did not cover for the Regional Planning and Design Center, funded engineering contract to look at the Union Pacific Rail facilities and entered into a contract for professional services to administer the construction of the Regional Planning and Design Center.

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Gary McIntyre prepared RMAP Resolution 2012-1 and indicated that this is a standard amendment.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 2012-1. First motion by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP, Second motion by Mr. Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works. Motion carries.

**4. RMAP FY2012-2015 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):**

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP Resolution 2012-2 is to amend TIP FY2012-2015 for three projects. RMAP received requests for three projects to be amended in the TIP FY2012-2015 which are IDOT's I39 and US51 Project, Winnebago County Highway (Dry Run Creek) box culvert replacement project and the City of Loves Park addition of Garden Plain Bridge project. Mr. Ernst stated that if members make a motion to approve RMAP Resolution 2012-2 members would also be making a motion to recognize the fact that we have used our administrative modification powers for this amendment.

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Gary McIntyre prepared RMAP Resolution 2012-2 and is a standard amendment.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of Resolution 2012-2. First motion by Mr. Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works, second motion by Ms. Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development.

**5. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:**

**5.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:** Covered in Agency Reports.

**5.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:** No report.

**5.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:** No report.

**5.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study:**

Mr. Ernst reported that both NICTI and the Freight Study grant funds will expire at the end of this fiscal year so we should have a report shortly.

**5.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:** Mr. Diipla reported that a Call for Projects will be going out for JARC and New Freedom funds. Application period will be from February 29 through April 4, 2012. The total JARC amount for this round from FY10 is \$92,936 and FY11 amount is \$142,580. The total New Freedom funds available for FY11 is \$95,413. The public notice will be published in the Rock River Times next Wednesday and will also be emailed out to all of RMAP's committees and interested parties. The applications will go through the Mobility Subcommittee, the project selection and follow the Technical process all the way to the Policy Committee.

Mr. Diipla reported that IDOT DPIT sent out Consolidated Vehicle Procurement applications last week. If you need the application, please contact Mr. Diipla. Applicants will need to submit the application to RMAP (HSTP Office) for review and will then forward on to IDOT. Applications are due into RMAP by April 6, 2012. Any questions about the applications, please contact Mr. Diipla at RMAP.

Mr. Diipla stated that the next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 13, 2012 and held at the YWCA on East State Street.

**5.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):** No report.

**5.07 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:** No report.

**5.08 South Main Street / IL-2 (SM2):** Mr. Ernst stated that now that the City of Rockford has approved the South Main Street Study we will be removing from progress reports.

**5.09 Greater RMAP Environmental-Education Network (GREEN):** Mr. Ernst reported that GREEN has also wrapped up and will be removed from progress reports.

**5.10 HUD Sustainability Grant:** Mr. Ernst introduced Colin Belle, Our Vital Signs Research Associate who will be contacting Technical members regarding the data needs we need for the HUD Sustainability Grant project. The need for background data has grown to the point where we were looking at some data from the 1980's instead of just the 2010 and 2011 Census information. We are looking for land use data, parcel data and building permit data and RMAP is requesting Technical members to help in producing some of that data. A brief discussion took place among members regarding the data Our Vital Signs is requesting.

## **8. COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS:**

Mr. Jacobson asked Mr. Hren if Harlem School District was still working through the energy grant cycle?

Mr. Hren stated that the only thing left for Harlem School District to do will need to submit the final documentation to him for general review and then the document will need to be signed by Loves Park Mayor. Once the paperwork is signed, Mr. Hren will submit for reimbursement.

Mr. Jacobson thanked RMAP for their assistance in getting the energy grant for Harlem School District.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway and seconded by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.