



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 21, 2012

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kris, Tobin, IDOT District 2; Joe Vanderwerff, Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Steve Thompson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Colin Simpson, Village of Machesney Park Public Works; David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; David Nord, Village of Cherry Valley; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Planning Department; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Lisa Brown, RMTD.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: City of Loves Park Community Development Department, City of Rockford Community Development Department, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development Department, Village of Roscoe, Village of Winnebago.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, RMAP Staff; Ron Clewer, RHA; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Maria Hawley, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Mr. Ernst introduced RMAP newest RMAP Metropolitan Planner, Colleen Hoesly.

Mr. Ernst invoked executive privilege today and moved the agenda around and hold the agency report till later in the agenda. First order of business is agenda item #3.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MAY 17, 2012 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES: Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the May 17, 2012 Technical Committee minutes. First motion to approve made by David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport, seconded by Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2: Ms. Tobin reported that IL-251 at Springcreek Road continues and to expect lane and ramp closures, will probably go on until the end of August. Springfield Road safety project is completed.

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Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey
City of Rockford, Chairman
Chairman Bob Walberg
Boone County, Vice-Chairman

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

Chairman Scott H. Christiansen
Winnebago County
Mayor Tom Strickland
Village of Machesney Park

Acting Deputy Director Eric Therkildsen
Illinois Department of Transportation,
Region 2

IL-2 to Latham is reporting no problems.

IL-251 at IL-173 paving has begun and the second phase of construction will start in August.

I-90 is still on schedule.

I-39 North bound to US-20 eastbound ramps has been completed.

US-20 at IL-251 ramps has been completed.

IL-173 from Alpine Road to Rock Cut is still working on plats and still on track for a March letting next year.

IL-2 to South Main Beltline to Clifton was on the June letting and the project should be awardable.

Clifton to Cedars is still on track for a November letting.

IL-2 from Auburn to Riverside a date has not been set yet, but the public meeting will be held in July which will begin to wrap up Phase I engineering. Phase II will be done in house and will begin after the meeting.

West State Street Sunset to Kent Creek is still on schedule for a November letting.

I-39 over Kishwaukee River has lane closures for bridge work.

IL 2 Elmwood to Latham we are anticipating the final plans will be submitted to Springfield next week.

Ms. Tobin stated that Mr. Jay Howell has retired; John Wegmeyer is the Acting Program Development Engineer and John McCormick, Acting Studies and Plans Engineer.

2.2 Winnebago County Highway Department: Mr. Vlk reported that the Meridian Road project is completed. The sign upgrade project for retro-reflectivity has been suspended pending material issues.

The downtown parking lots project continues.

The Montague Road Bridge project continues.

Pecatonica Prairie Path project has been awarded to Martin and starting up in the near future.

The June letting included the guardrail terminal end section upgrade project which will complete the upgrading of the Winnebago County guardrail system.

There is a township bridge project on Holverson Road in the northwest part of the County which will be starting soon.

The Perryville/Broadcast/Nimtz traffic signal installation is anticipated to be done later this summer.

Condore Road from Kishwaukee to IL-251 is anticipated to be resurfaced later this summer.

Application for ITEP funds for extending the Perryville Bike Path from Hart Road up to the Stonebridge Trail has been submitted. An application has also been submitted for HSIP funds a sign upgrade project for the remainder of the County System

2.3 City of Rockford, Public Works Department: Mr. Zuroske reported that the Morgan Street Bridge project is slightly ahead of schedule. Both piers have been installed and you're starting to see structural steel.

The Riverwalk project is 98% complete and waiting on final guardrail. There will be a July 20, 2012 ribbon cutting and everyone is invited.

The neighborhood and arterial programs are in progress and moving ahead.

Broadway is a separate project and is going to a local letting in the next 2-3 weeks. This project is from 20th Street to 9th Street and is a fairly sizable section.

Mr. Zuroske stated that Mr. Carter is working on an E. State Street signal replacement project. Mr. Carter has been working on the City's sign inventory project and is on the final process on consultant selection.

Mr. Carter has developed an RFQ for the City's parking system and is in the process of final evaluations.

The Whitman interchange re-configuration project is being looked at and it will have a public involvement process and we invite comments from the region.

The Train Station RFQ for the design consultants has been completed and will be meeting with IDOT in the next couple of weeks to finalize.

Demolition for the Tapco building began yesterday. The signals are shut off at Cedar and South Main for the duration of the demolition which will last for a couple of months.

There are 2 local bridges on DOT's June letting and both appear to be awardable which is Pierce Avenue and Reed Avenue.

We are working collectively with a host of agencies on Reclaiming First Project which is the redevelopment of Sportscore 2 facility.

2.4 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department: Mr. Thompson reported that there is a pre-construction meeting for the Garden Plains Bridge project on Tuesday, June 26, 2012 at 1:00p.m. and held at City of Loves Park City Hall.

2.5 Village of Machesney Park: Mr. Simpson thanked IDOT for doing the closure on Orlando Road very quickly. Both Orlando and Alpine will be kept open.

2.6 Chicago/Rockford International Airport: Mr. Lindberg thanked everyone who attended the 2012 Airshow. It looks like we passed an all-time attendance record and probably had about 30,000 people. Construction on Runway 119 has commenced.

We are adding a 4th International destination in the winter for Montego Bay. Service is scheduled to commence around Christmas and Frontier Airlines will be operating this service.

Mr. Lindberg stated we've become a gateway for international diplomats – we had the Turkish Prime Minister on his way to the G20 Summit last Sunday, June 17, 2012.

2.7 Rockford Mass Transit District: See agenda item #3.

Ms. Brown thanked everyone who attended the East Side Transfer Center grand opening in May.

The RMTD Golf outing is scheduled for August 3, 2012 and will be held at Timber Point.

2.8 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department: Not present.

2.9 Village of Cherry Valley: Mr. Nord reported that the Bell School Road from Magic Waters Drive down to South Mall Drive is being blacktopped and should be completed Friday, May 20, 2012.

Mr. Nord stated that on July 9, 2012 for roughly four (4) weeks; Harrison Avenue from the Mall will construction going on so plan to avoid this area.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department: Not present.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department: Not present.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department: Ms. Miller reported that the Farmland Protection Commission meeting is scheduled for Friday, May 20, 2012 at 7:30a.m.

The downtown strategy is about to be completed with two (2) historic districts were officially designated.

Ms. Miller stated they are making incremental progress on the Comprehensive Plan.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department: Mr. Lundin reported that Boone County board approved all of their projects and will be moving forward.

Mr. Lundin stated they had a meeting with the Tollway at Oasis to discuss southeast ramp constructed by next year.

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

2.15 Village of Roscoe: Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago: Not present.

2.17 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency: Not present.

2.18 Illinois State Toll Highway Authority: Ms. Anderson provided handouts (I-90/Illinois Route 47 Interchange Project fact sheet and I-90 Corridor Planning Council Presents Report to Illinois Tollway press release) and reported that the I-90 Corridor Planning Council has been meeting for the last year. Mr. Ernst and Mr. Don Kopec, CMAP were Co-Chairs and gave a presentation on the Council's recommendations regarding managed lanes at last month's Tollway Executive Board meeting. Infrastructure improvements should also include better access to O'Hare and adding a lane to Kennedy to Randall Road.

Mr. Ernst stated that as Tollway improvement move forward there should be individual corridor planning council to address each section needs.

2.19 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation: Not present.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning: By phone, Mr. Jones reported that the IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for October 25-26, 2012 and held in Peoria. If anyone has suggestions for topic areas in the program, please contact Mr. Jones.

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 mid-year review with WISDOT was held June 18, 2012.

SLTAS UWP and TIP process is starting early next month and they would like to finish up by mid-November.

2.24 Federal Highway Administration, IL Division: Not present.

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. Gary McIntyre is asking those agencies that submitted ITEP applications in the last round to please forward a copy of their application to Mr. McIntyre.

Mr. Ernst reported that the Tour de North End 2012 is scheduled for Saturday, July 14, 2012 from 1:00-6:00p.m. at the Olympic Tavern on North Main Street, Rockford. Mr. McIntyre will be attending and will have materials on hand.

Mr. Ernst reported that last month RMAP received a copy of the draft RMAP Certification Review report and this morning we received the final version of the final report. RMAP received an excellent grade and no conditions were received. Mr. Norm Stoner will be attending the Thursday, July 28, 2012 meeting and presenting the final report to Policy members.

RMAP has received some new research information from ENO Foundation that was just released. RMAP will be reviewing this research and coming up with some strategies and will incorporate into the next long range plan.

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Jon Paull Diipla attended on Friday, June 15, 2012 the Lake, McHenry and Winnebago County Safety Workshop which was organized by IDOT Bureau of Safety Engineering to discuss efforts to save lives on roadways in Illinois and helping achieve the goal of zero fatalities.

Mr. Vanderwerff provided a brief summary of the discussion that was held at the Safety Workshop. Mr. Vanderwerff discussed with Mr. Diipla the possibility of creating a subcommittee to look at traffic safety issues for the region. Ms. Priscilla Tobias, IDOT would like to meet with this subcommittee in the next two weeks.

Mr. Ernst stated that he and Mr. Vanderwerff can discuss scheduling further after the meeting. Mr. Ernst indicated that any meeting scheduled can be held at RMAP Planning & Design Center.

Ms. Tobin suggested that Boone County be included in the meeting that gets scheduled regarding Traffic Safety.

3. CIVIC DESIGN ADVISORY GROUP (CDAG):

Mr. Ernst stated that the Civic Design Advisory Group (CDAG) is a public, private partnership group that has come together to review and make suggestions on public infrastructure projects but also to change the design culture of the region.

Mr. Ernst introduced Mr. Ron Clewer, RHA Deputy Executive Director and is the Chair of CDAG.

Mr. Clewer stated that CDAG started in 2010 within the City of Rockford and we came together because we felt there was an opportunity to work closely with the City of Rockford CIP to assist in getting the information out there and communication with the public. CDAG is looking to increase public participation. CDAG serves as a public advisor to advocate for the highest quality planning, design, development and implementation of bridges, right of ways, streetscapes, gateways, corridors, green spaces, path systems and land development.

Mr. Clewer handed out CDAG Statement of Responsibilities which was agreed upon by RMAP's Policy Committee and the existing members of CDAG. The Statement of Responsibilities consists of the following six (6) purposes:

1. Serve as an interface between municipal staff, real estate developers, design professionals, and interested citizens to garner cultural and aesthetic input to improve the design quality of the community.
2. Provide volunteers to coordinate and guide meetings for engagement of citizens in major design projects throughout the region.
3. Prepare model design guidelines for the region's governments which address different types of districts/neighborhoods, private/public projects and provide a distinct palette of choices for critical design elements.
4. Maintain a schedule of priority check points in infrastructure projects in the region to allow adequate time for stakeholders to provide input to implementing agencies.
5. Provide input and consent to implementing agencies on infrastructure projects.
6. Provide predevelopment counseling for developers and property owners to support high quality design and development of private projects.

Mr. Clewer stated CDAG serves as an advisory group and does not hold up a project. The idea is to provide general guideline into the context of a project and to provide pre-development counseling to the private sector along with the public sector. Mr. Clewer stated one of the challenges that Mayor Morrissey has thrown into the table and CDAG has agreed in assisting with is the RMAP Planning & Design Center and programming of the space.

Mr. Clewer stated that bringing people along is a lot easier when the relationship is there so if the CDAG volunteers are able to make this connection it's a positive step.

Mr. Ernst stated that he will be asking the Policy Committee to appoint a representative from each member to CDAG. No action is required at this time but Mr. Ernst would like for members to think about what their role would be in this group.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding CDAG and what capacity members would be in participating in CDAG.

Mr. Ernst stated that CDAG was able to garner some funds through CFNIL and will be purchasing video units which will be placed throughout the region and will be displaying video segments that highlight infrastructure projects that are going on in the region now. It will highlight some private projects that are also taking place in the region. The 5 or 6 units will be placed throughout the region in restaurants, gathering place, Tollway oasis, etc. This will be in the community for about a year and once the field operations are completed they will be brought back to RMAP's Planning & Design Center for public viewing and usage.

Mr. Zuroske stated that the City of Rockford has been very pleased with CDAG's assistance on some of their projects.

Mr. Ernst stated that if anyone is interested in attending an upcoming CDAG meeting the next scheduled meeting is Wednesday, July 18, 2012 at 3:30p.m. and held at RMAP's Planning & Design Center.

4. ROCK RIVER WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT (RRWRD) – RESOLUTION 2012-10:

Mr. Ernst stated that Rock River Water Reclamation District (RRWRD) has been a very active non-voting member of the Technical Committee for a year and half. They have formally requested of the Policy Committee consideration for Technical Committee membership.

Mr. Ernst stated that for many reason RMAP believes this is a very appropriate time to allow this to happen. It also begs the question of other agencies that are involved in waste water or drinking water (North Park Water District which is not represented on the Technical Committee) might not want to participate as voting members in the future, this would open the door for that to happen. RRWRD has been very active along the fringes of this idea of Winnebago County/Ogle County connection in working with Boone County on issues of wastewater. We all know that it's an important part of the development process and closer ties between the traditional groups here of transportation. It makes a lot of sense for the Technical Committee to want RRWRD at the table. It doesn't give RRWRD voting rights on Policy and it doesn't require them to financially participate but it gives them a formal seat on the Technical Committee. Mr. Ernst stated that he did draft an RMAP resolution to add RRWRD as a voting member on the Technical Committee. Mr. Ernst asked members on their thoughts.

There was a brief discussion among members regarding RRWRD being added as a voting member on the Technical Committee.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve recommendation of RMAP Resolution 2012-10. First motion made by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford CIP, second motion made by Mr. Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway. Motion carries.

5. RMAP FY 2013-2016 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

Mr. Hren stated that the TIP Draft FY13-FY16 is available on RMAP's website. There are CD's and hard copies of the TIP FY2013-2016 document available for the members review. The tables are accurate from what has been received from each agency. If there are any corrections, Mr. Hren asked that he be contacted before the document is recommended for adoption in July 2012.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP feels pretty confident that the TIP document will be approved next month.

Mr. Hren stated that RMAP will be holding a TIP Open House on Monday, July 9, 2012 from 3:00-6:00p.m. and held at the RMAP Planning & Design Center.

6. URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has had a preliminary meeting with SLATS to discuss the MPA boundaries between RMAP and SLATS. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has reached out to Ogle County to schedule a meeting and is still waiting to hear back from them. The reason RMAP is reaching out to Ogle County is because the municipal boundaries of the City of Rockford and Davis Junction are contiguous with one another now. RMAP would like to open up the conversation with Ogle County to see if they would like to be included within the MPA.

Mr. Diipla stated that once we've met with Ogle County and have received a little more information from SLATS we'll update the Technical Committee and look at activating the subcommittee for the Urbanized Area MPA Boundary.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the adjusted boundaries and what it might end up looking like.

7. RMTD ROUTE STUDY:

Ms. Brown stated that RMTD held public hearings for the RMTD Route Study on Thursday, June 14, 2012. The consultants have been reviewing the current routes for the last fourteen 6-8 months. There are not a lot of changes but there are some City loop changes. There is some growth on the northeast side that need to be addressed. The economic way to look at that is to open up the north loop. We will be changing the configuration of the City Loop. The North loop will be servicing Rock Valley College and provide service to new cancer center on Bell School Road once it opens up. The Veterans Clinic on Featherstone will be serviced by the East State Street route which is new. In order to create this service RMTD will probably have to cut service to Arnold Avenue. There is discussion of cutting the Magic Water stop on East State Street and will probably be discussed further. The south loop, the biggest change may have an adverse effect which we will not be going to Mulford and Newburg anymore. There were citizens at the evening public hearing who were vocal about the south loop change and we will be reviewing the south loop again. We are eliminating the number 13 rural route which has low ridership and incorporating this route with the Clifton Route and will swing up north that will service parts of the rural route and the advantage is we will have service on Parkview where PA Peterson is. We did not receive much feedback on changing the rural route. We will have service on the South Main Routes on Saturdays. Overall the proposed changes are mostly changes and not eliminations.

Mr. Diipla stated that the public hearings were very well attended. The consultants PDF presentation of the Route Analysis is available for viewing on RMAP's website.

Mr. Ernst asked about service to Boone County.

Ms. Brown stated that Route 24 which services Belvidere is being funded through JARC and is funded through another year. Down the road there is a proposed additional service to Belvidere but realistically probably won't happen for another two (2) years. The Boone County service continues to grow.

Ms. Brown stated that under the proposed systems we have two routes in and out of our East Side Transfer Center now under the new proposed routes we'll have three routes and as the extension goes in down the road there's going to be possibly a fourth route as funding allows.

Ms. Brown stated that RMTD is looking at October 2012 for the new routes to be put in place.

8. REGIONAL PLANNING NEEDS FOR STORMWATER, HAZARD MITIGATION AND DISASTER RESILIENCY:

Mr. Ernst stated that as part of RMAP's HUD Sustainable Communities grant we are looking at stormwater and drinking water issues but was not originally going to look at Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Resiliency planning. FEMA has approached RMAP and asked that we look at Hazard and Mitigation Resiliency planning and tying it into our HUD Sustainable Communities grant. There might be some opportunities in the future to look at this as a regional plan instead of county by county plan.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is looking as possibly activating a subcommittee to look at Hazard Mitigation & Disaster Resiliency planning. Mr. Ernst asked Mr. Vanderwerff and Mr. Vlk to discuss Winnebago County's hazardous planning.

Mr. Vanderwerff stated that we don't have the dollars available to us yet but Southern Illinois University is reviewing the draft for the application for the grant for Winnebago County at no cost. There is millions of dollars available for flood control and is available for everyone and not just a specific municipality. Mr. Vanderwerff stated that the agencies of Winnebago County are very interested in keeping this plan current because without you cannot apply for these funds.

Mr. Ernst and Mr. Vanderwerff have been discussing doing a regional plan instead of one specific individual county plan. A possible Stormwater Committee might be created to look more closely at these issues regionally.

A brief discussion took place among members on how a regional plan would benefit both counties.

Mr. Ernst stated he's looking for volunteers on re-activating the Stormwater Quality Control Subcommittee.

Both Mr. Vanderwerff and Mr. Lundin indicated they will provide Mr. Ernst a list of previous members who served on the Stormwater Committee.

9. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

9.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis: Mr. Ernst stated that the grant is closed and the final paperwork is being processed. The consultant work is completed. At some point a CD of all the NICTI documents will be made available to all members.

9.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area: Mr. Zuroske covered in agency report 2.03.

9.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband: Mr. Ernst stated that I-fiber is in a transition time for having the contractors be responsible for the lines JULIE locates and are hit by construction. This issue is currently being looked at by Mr. John Lewis.

9.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study: Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has received the draft final report and Mr. Gary McIntyre is currently reviewing. We hope to have a final report to share with members by July or August 2012.

9.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee: Mr. Diipla reported that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, 2012 at 10:00a.m. and held at RMTD Eastside Transfer Center.

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

9.07 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters: Mr. Zuroske stated that there have been some informal meetings held discussing combining these systems.

Mr. Ernst stated that Mr. Paul Callighan, ComEd provided RMAP some documents on ComEd's Upgrade Plans and are currently available for viewing on RMAP's website.

9.08 HUD Sustainability Grant: Mr. Ernst stated that HUD is requiring us to complete a regional housing analysis and the RFP for this should be out on the street by tomorrow (Friday, June 22, 2012).

8. COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Zuroske stated that Mr. Dan Long, IDOT has been under the weather and we all wish him a quick recovery.

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 11:50 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.