



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, September 20, 2012**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Vlk, Dave Townsend, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Colin Simpson, Village of Machesney Park; David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Paula Hughes, RMTD; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Mike Weber, RRWRD.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: IDOT District #2, Village of Cherry Valley, City of Rockford Community Development, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning, City of Belvidere, Village of Roscoe.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Ernst, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Christina Washington, RMAP Staff; Josh McClusky, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Jamie Johannsen, Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Dan Kane, Dave Sliktas, Boone County Conservation District; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Ernst called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 23, 2012 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the August 23, 2012 Technical Committee minutes. First motion made to approve Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway, second motion made by Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.1 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Not present.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that the County's HSIP retro-reflectivity sign upgrade project resumes this week.

On October 11, 2012 the County will be awarding the Condone Road and Baxter Road resurfacing project.

The downtown parking lot project is almost done.

Pecatonica Prairie Path project continues.

Holverson Road township bridge project continues.

Perryville/Broadcast/Nimtz traffic signal project has the pre-construction meeting scheduled for next week. In-house work is being done for Alworth/Winnebago Road.

Anticipated projects next year is a resurfacing project for Elevator Road.

Design work continues Baxter/Harrisville project next summer.

The toll bridge plaza demolition is about ready to go to letting. The toll bridge plaza is anticipated to be completely removed by March 31, 2013.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Zuroske reported that all planned projects are let, completed, underway and under budget and on time. The Train RFP document has been out on the street for a couple of weeks now. The actual opening of the qualification of documents is scheduled for September 28, 2012. We have agreed on the Review Committee and expect to make a selection by the end of October 2012. A copy of the RFP is available on the City of Rockford, RMTD and RMAP's website.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Jacobson reported that their resurfacing projects are 100% complete.

Garden Plain Bridge is 50% complete.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park:

Mr. Simpson reported that they have some signal equipment being given away if any members are interested.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Mr. Lindberg reported that Phase 1 of their rehabilitation project for runway 119 is about two (2) weeks from being completed.

Phase 2 is kicking off and will continue till November.

Their new parking lot project has been let and awarded. We are waiting for the notice to proceed with construction process.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

Ms. Hughes reported that RMTD has an RFP out to replace the roof of RMTD.

Still working on the Route Study and trying to finalize the report.

2.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

No report.

2.09 Village of Cherry Valley:

Not present.

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 Planning and Economic Development Department:

Not present.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department:

Mr. Lundin reported that most of their work is complete.

They have received a letter from IDOT for another bridge closure in Boone County. We have two (2) closed bridges and one (1) with a 3 ton limit on it. Structures are starting to hurt and we're trying to find funds to replace these bridges.

They have a meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, September 25, 2012 to meet with the Illinois Tollway to discuss the Irene Road project and various work in Boone County.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:

Not present.

2.15 Village of Roscoe:

Not present.

2.16 Village of Winnebago:

No report.

2.17 Rock River Water Reclamation District: (move up in agenda format)

Mr. Weber reported that the contract work on Rockton & Halsted was completed yesterday.

Mr. Ernst congratulated Mr. Dana Carroll for receiving the professional Engineering Management Award from the Rockford chapter of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.

2.18 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

2.19 Illinois Tollway:

Ms. Anderson provided members some fact sheets and a news release from the Illinois Tollway. Ms. Anderson reported that Illinois Tollway is now in its 1st year of their new 15 year Capital Program that called for a toll increase recently. Some milestones recently from the increased revenues include the award of over 484 million dollars in construction contracts through July. On the I-90 Corridor (one of the major anchors of the Capital Program) the Tollway will be reconstructing and widening this corridor. This year the advance work of the shoulders is being done in preparation for the major main line reconstruction and widening which will begin in 2013. The westbound portion of the I-90 Corridor from Randall Road to Rockford widening/reconstruction will begin in the Spring 2013 through 2014. In 2014 the advance work for the eastbound for the reconstruction/widening and that mainline work will begin in 2014 through 2015. The next three years the mainline of the I-90 Corridor will be under construction.

Another major anchor where the work has also begun is building the interchange on the south tri-state at I-57. This is one of two locations in the country where the inter states does not connect. This year the right of way acquisitions are being completed as well as relocation Dixie Creek. In 2013 we will begin construction of the ramps and anticipate the opening in the fall of 2014.

Another major anchor is the Elgin/O'Hare By-pass. IDOT Secretary Ann Schneider and Illinois Tollway Executive Director Kristi Lafleur sent to the Federal Highway Administration the draft environmental statement. We anticipate the decision in December 2012. Staff has already begun the preliminary design of this 3.4 billion dollar project.

Among some of the projects the Illinois Tollway is looking for input on is the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Council. There has been a lot of discussion for a number of years for building a north extension of 355. This Council has done a year's worth of gathering information, discussion and planning and they have presented their final report to the Tollway Board in June 2012. We are proceeding with the next phase of planning and coordination efforts with CMAP and Lake County municipalities in determining the financing of this project. Along the I-88 Corridor a resurfacing and widening is being done as well as on the central tri-state of 294 where a resurfacing is being done.

In conjunction with the I-90 work we are building an interchange at Route 47 and I-90. This is a template for intergovernmental work and coordination in building an interchange. The Village of Huntley has been the lead on this project and monies has been contributed by IDOT, the Tollway, Kane County and McHenry County. Work is well underway in building this interchange.

Executive Director, Kristi Lafleur and Del Webb's Sun City will hold an open house this Monday, September 24, 2012 from 2:00-6:00p and held at Sun City Prairie Lodge, 12880 Del Webb Boulevard in Huntley.

2.20 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

2.21 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Mr. McClusky reported that the 2012 IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for October 25-26, 2012 and held at Four Points by Sheraton in Peoria, IL. More details are available on IDOT's website.

2.22 Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

2.23 Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

2.24 State Line Area Transportation Study:

Not present.

2.25 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:

Not present.

2.26 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:

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 thanked participants who attended the IDOT Multi Year Program Outreach Session that was held at RMAP Regional Planning & Design Center on Tuesday, September 18, 2012. IDOT personnel were extremely pleased with the collaboration and the ideas that came out of the outreach session.

3. IDOT 2013-2018 MULTI-YEAR PLAN:

Mr. Ernst covered most of this item in agenda item 2.29.

Mr. Ernst stated that Dixon also hosted an outreach session a week ago.

The outreach session period goes till the end of the month and comments are being accepted till then.

Mr. McClusky stated that IDOT was very pleased with the small group sessions and information is being gathered. Once the final report is completed, Mr. McClusky will distribute to the Technical members.

4. MAP-21:

Mr. Ernst stated that we are still waiting to hear more from MAP-21 regarding funding amounts for the next fiscal year. Mr. Ernst stated that he is attending a meeting in Chicago next week with Secretary Schneider and he hopes to ascertain some of the funding amounts that we can expect as part of MAP-21.

As more information becomes available, Mr. Ernst will keep members apprised.

5. URBANIZED AREA BOUNDARIES:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has worked out a boundary agreement with SLATS for our long range planning boundary and has submitted the plans to SLATS. RMAP is waiting to hear back from SLATS. As more information becomes available, Mr. Ernst will keep members apprised.

Mr. Ernst stated that Ogle County Board took action a couple of weeks ago to approve extending our metropolitan boundary into Ogle County to encompass Byron, Stillman Valley and David Junction for planning purposes. They will become part of our 20 year metropolitan area boundary that we will submit. Ogle County will be an ex-officio on the agenda.

Hopefully by the end of the year we'll have an official boundary established and we can take this item off of the agenda.

6. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP has been approached by the Rockford Park District, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and Boone County Conservation District for voting membership on the Technical Committee. All three agencies are in attendance to provide an brief overview of each agency.

Rockford Park District

Mr. Tim Bragg, Park Planner from Rockford Park District stated the Rockford Park District was established in 1909 and Sinnissippi Park was the first park site established. Rockford Park District's service area covers Rockford, New Millford, New Milford and portions of Cherry Valley and Machesney Park. A total of 175 park and facility sites are within the RPD park system. Total park acreage is approximately 4,800 acres consisting of neighborhood parks, regional/community parks, special use facilities and conservation areas. RPD operating budget is derived from property taxes (55%), service fees (35% and 10% derived from grants, donations, sponsorships and advertising.

RPD assisted RMAP with the Boone & Winnebago Counties Greenway Plan by providing input as well as financial assistance in the printing of the brochure.

Mr. Bragg provided a breakdown of RPD long term planning for recreational paths by quadrant:

Northwest Quadrant – Illinois Route 2 (North Main). IDOT is currently in the design phase for proposed roadway improvement along Route 2. IDOT, with assistance from a citizen advisory group is also planning for a recreation path connecting into the Riverside Bridge and Sportscore path networks, travelling west to North Main, then south on North Main to the project limits at Auburn Street. Planning is in process for a path alignment to connect to the residential neighborhoods south of Riverside Boulevard.

Riverwalk – Opened July 2012: A combined effort between the City of Rockford, Rockford Park District, IDOT and Riverfront Museum Park (RMP) to complement the RMP campus expansion.

Jefferson Street Bridge Pedestrian Underpass – Initial design engineering for bridge replacement listed as 2012 CIP project for the City of Rockford. Suspended multiuse path nearing end of life cycle. District to explore opportunities to path with City for incorporating new path into bridge design. CIP funds are being set aside annually in anticipation of this project.

Southwest Quadrant – South Main Corridor. As a companion to the proposed right of way improvements, IDOT plans include installing a multiuse path recreation path on the east side of Route 2. The limits of the path are Loomis Street (near the Ethnic Heritage museum) to the north and terminating just south of Iroquois Avenue (near Blackhawk Fire Protection District fire station).

Pecatonica Prairie Path – Winnebago County to complete their section of path this year. (12.49 miles from County line to Merdian Road). RPD is exploring construction of a 0.8 mile of path (Daisyfield to Horace Avenue pending grant assistance) section of the overall 3.5 miles of District path responsibility. District is discussing with City the future extension from Liberty Park to Davis Park.

West State Street Linear Park – Joint City/IDOT urban redevelopment project which includes park and recreation path. The limits of Phase One are Kent Creek (near Kilburn Avenue) west to Independence Avenue. Projected park construction date of 2014. Future phases continue the project west to Pierpont Avenue. Sustainable design futures of the park include landscaped median, bioswales and rain gardens.

Northeast Quadrant – Midway Village Connector Path. Ongoing planning efforts by District to develop path on south side of Guilford Road connecting Perryville Path to Midway Village Loop path.

Southeast Quadrant – Keith Creek Greenway. Ongoing efforts with the City of Rockford to establish greenway to link multiple park sites/recreational facilities.

Rock River Greenway South – Ongoing planning efforts with RRWRD to plan greenways bounded by Harrison Avenue and Brooke Road. The District entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with RRWRD to exchange land between the agencies, relocating and making improvements to the camp sites and plan for future path alignments along the riverfront.

Mr. Bragg stated that the Rockford Park District's role as a Technical Committee member would (1) formalize existing relationship with RMAP and RPD (2) would provide additional conduit for reciprocal sharing of information between RPD and regional agencies (3) meets MAP-21's goals/objective of improved coordination between transportation and natural environment agencies and (4) mirrors interagency collaboration efforts taking place at the Federal level.

Boone County Conservation District

Mr. Dan Kane (Executive Director) stated that the Boone County Conservation District was formed in 1964. Mr. Kane stated that Boone County Conservation District's primary objective and mission is to manage and provide for ecological open space. We manage the lands primarily for ecological results and passive opportunities. We have 3300 acres we manage for open space values and functions. These areas are generally not as accessible because most are hiking trails and more remote type of access points. In terms of our function with other local government and municipalities, and collaboration with agencies such as RMAP, Mr. Kane stated he serves on a wide range of technical committees already. We're well placed to review natural resource concerns, issues associated with storm water management, ground water and ground water recharge as well as the ecological aspect. We play a strong role in Boone County with respect to conducting inventory or collaborating with other entities involved in doing inventory work. We've played a strong role in the last three or four greenways plan that has been developed since 1996. We also have a role with the Boone/Belvidere Planning Commission.

Winnebago County Forest Preserve District

Tom Hartley, & Jamie Johannsen (Director of Marketing & Community Relations).

Mr. Tom Hartley stated that Winnebago County Forest Preserve District is a county wide park system that purpose is to protect natural land and now days also recreating natural land. The Winnebago County Forest Preserve District currently owns 9050 acres within county and makes us the largest open space in Winnebago County. We seek to add lands primarily in river corridors based on the greenways plan. Currently that land acquisition is dormant due to fund abilities but it will probably continue sometime in the near future. Actively we have been working on the Greenways Plan along with other agencies since its inception in 1996. We have some action activity with bike way planning; we were participants with SLATS where two versions were produced.

We have done a little spearheading of a path length that we would like to see around North Main/Route 2 to connect the northern section of the county; it won't be happening this time around but we do have a letter of request on file with IDOT. We have also been involved with the Pecatonica Prairies Path planning. Almost all of our lands are outside of the City of Rockford limits so much of our work is rural. We've been instrumental and a leader in open space planning with the acquisitions along the Kishwaukee River. Our purposes on what Winnebago County Forest Preserve District would bring to the table as a Technical Members is much along the same line of what the Rockford Park District and Boone County Conservation District would provide since we're all similar agencies.

Mr. Ernst stated that Ms. Jamie Johannsen is the Chair of the Mayor's Green Team/Green Team Coalition and has been instrumental in moving the Greens Coalition along.

Mr. Ernst stated that attached to a copy of RMAP Resolution 2012-11 is the RMAP & the Evolution & 3-C Planning which details the relationship RMAP has had with all three agencies. Mr. Ernst stated that based on the research we've done he is recommending Technical members approve RMAP Resolution 2012-11.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the inclusion of Rockford Park District, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and Boone County Conservation Districts as voting member on RMAP Technical Committee.

Mr. Jacobson suggested that IDNR also be invited to attend the RMAP meetings as non-voting members.

Mr. Lundin asked if the meeting location would change since the number of attendees is increasing and a larger space will eventually need to be looked at to accommodate the numbers. The RMAP Regional Planning & Design Center and RMTD East Side Transfer Center was both suggested as future meeting locations and will be discussed in future meetings.

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2012-11. The first motion was made by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; second motion was made by Mr. Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works. Motion carries.

7. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

7.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:

No report.

7.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:

No report.

7.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

No report.

7.04 RMAP Regional Freight Study:

No report.

7.05 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Ms. Hughes reported that the meeting location for the RMAP Mobility Subcommittee has been moved to RMTD East Side Transfer Center for the rest of 2012.

7.06 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):

Mr. Ernst reported RREDD held their annual meeting this morning and AngelouEconomics provided a presentation on the regional economic diversification plan for which RREDD received an EDA adjustment grant. If anyone is interested in reviewing the report they can contact Ms. Patricia Diduch at RREDD.

7.07 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

No report.

7.08 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Mr. Ernst reported that there is a HUD Sustainability Steering Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2012 from 5:30-7:30p and will be held at RAAR (6776 East State Street, Rockford).

8. COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Hughes stated that RMTD is holding a Meet & Greet on October 30, 2012 at Rock Valley College a flyer will be sent out. RMTD is still looking to get the minority, women contractors and small business more involved in the area.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Ernst entertains a motion to adjourn. First motion was made by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway and seconded by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport. Meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.