



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

### MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 21, 2013

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; Patrick Zuroske, Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Carrie Houston, Village of Machesney Park; David Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Sue Mroz, Stacy Bernardi, Winnebago County Economic Development; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Brent Anderson, City of Rockford Public Works; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Dana Carroll, RRWRD; Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Dane Kane, Mick Johnston, Boone County Conservation District; Jessica Colecraft, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Village of Cherry Valley, City of Rockford Community Development, Village of Roscoe, Rockford Park District.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Steve Ernst, Jon Paul Diipla, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Christina Washington, RMAP Staff; Josh McClusky, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Bob Soltau, SLATS; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associates; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Bill Hoyt, Arc Design; Ralph Hoesktra, Blackhawk Bicycle Club; Matt Cerutti, Citizen; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

With a quorum present Mr. Diipla called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

**1. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**  
Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the February 21, 2013 Technical Committee minutes. First motion made to approve Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department, second motion made by Sue Mroz, Winnebago County Economic Development Department. Motion carried.

## **2. AGENCY REPORTS:**

### **2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:**

Mr. Long reported that IL-173 from Alpine to Rock Cut State Park is going well. There is some environmental mitigation but is on track for a June letting.

IL-2 from South Main Pond to Cedar, William Charles was the low bidder and should be starting in a month or two.

IL-2 from Auburn to Riverside, Phase II engineering is at 40% and is on target for a January 2015 letting. West State from Sunset to Kent Creek, Sjostrom/Martin & Company was the low bidder and was let this month.

For consideration, a TIP amendment, US BUS-20 from Bonus Avenue to Lawrenceville Road has 50% plans and has been approved for HSIP funding for FY13. Anticipating a June letting.

**2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:**

Mr. Vlk reported that the Bauer Toll Bridge Plaza demolition project is scheduled to start April 1, 2013. The bridge will be closed from April 1-April 10 for removal of the canopy, thereafter it will be open one lane in each direction. A ground breaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for April 2, 2013 at 10:00a on the eastside of the toll plaza.

Rockton Road project from IL-251 to Willowbrook has gone to letting. This is an IDOT bridge project that should be awardable and our roadway project in conjunction with that has been awarded through the county board. Project should begin sometime in May. The bridge part of the project will require a closure and will have a marked detour around the area.

The Baxter Road/Harrisville/Linden Road intersection project are still on hold but design is in the 90% range.

The remainder of the sign upgrade project for reflectivity will go to letting in April.

The southeast connection bike path that will run along Argus and Bell School Road is scheduled for a June letting.

Progressing with the design for next years' Bell School Road project at the State Street area.

**2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:**

Mr. Zuroske reported that they are in full bloom of the Morgan Street Bridge year two (2). The arches are up and currently working on the bridge deck steel. Probably in early spring they will start on the approaches on both sides of the bridge. Mr. Zuroske offered a walk through for any members interested in viewing the project.

The arterial collector program this year is coming together and will have a total of seven (7) arterial collector and neighborhood program projects.

Opened up the bid on the North Main Roundabout on Tuesday, March 19, 2013. This project came in on budget and it is the City's intent to award it and move forward and begin the construction in early May.

The Harrison project design is 40% complete and land acquisition is in the process.

The City has teamed with the Chicago/Rockford International Airport, IDOT and US EDA on a sizable project down on the eastside of the airport which includes Falcon Road and Airport Drive reconstruction.

There is a little bit more money that is going into the City's Sidewalk Program which will address a three (3) year back log of neighborhood and industrial sidewalk to be done.

The Downtown Sports complex (part of the Reclaiming First Initiative) is under design and is in early concept design. We hope to select a final layout and final configuration sometime in the next 3-4 weeks and then will progress directly into construction documents.

The Train Station Project (RRMMTC) is still looking for a better name for the facility. The funding agreement has been received from IDOT and has been approved by the RMTD Board of Directors and has been sent back down for final signatures.

Mr. Zuroske stated that as part of the work done in these Technical Committee meetings a connection has been made with some form liners that is being looked at for Bypass 20 for possible project in 2014 or 2015.

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

Mr. Jacobson reported that they are making progress on the EDP project involving the new Woodward Facility and hopes to have this wrapped up in a month and anticipates an early summer letting.

**2.05 Village of Machesney Park:**

No report.

**2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:**

Mr. Lindberg reported that they are excited about Falcon Road/Airport Drive project. This project also includes a roundabout at Kishwaukee/Airport Drive.

There will be a new parking lot in construction once the snow melts which will be located behind the Emery hanger.

**2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:**

Mr. Johnson reported that they are continuing on the Route Study and RMTD is looking at a September 2013 mark up to institute the changes.

Beginning of March the Paratransit operations instituted same day reservation plan. Previously, the only paratransit option would be to call the day before to request paratransit service.

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

Mr. Bruck reported that the redevelopment plan for the Forest Hills TIF District should be completed next week. Anticipating public meetings in early May.

**2.09 Village of Cherry Valley:**

Not present.

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

Mr. Zuroske reported the City is looking at a TIF District for the Auburn Corridor and looking at what options would be available.

Amerock is being evaluated for potential redevelopment.

Barber Colman Complex at some point in the future will have a final report for potential redevelopment. The Mayor is interested in creating an information technology health complex for Barber Colman.

The revitalization efforts for the Kishwaukee Corridor/South Main Corridor continue and is primarily driven by their EDEN Network.

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

Ms. Mroz reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Mark Good who has been hired to promote I-39 to high energy users due to the proximity of resources (i.e. methane gas).

Ms. Mroz stated she is also meeting with representatives from U of I in which they will be discussing topics from community kitchen to greenhouse growing using methane gas.

Ms. Mroz stated that she is retiring in a few weeks and introduced Stacy Bernardi who was selected as the new Director of Sales & Marketing for the Winnebago County Economic Development Department.

**2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Planning and Economic Development Department:**

Ms. Miller reported that there was some minor text changes to the Belvidere Flora Neighborhood Plan have been completed.

They are currently working on the Farmland Conference for June 21-22, 2013.

**2.13 Boone County Highway Department:**

Mr. Lundin reported that the Boone County Board awarded their resurfacing project to Rock Road who was the low bidder.

Belvidere Township will also be awarding to Rock Road shortly.

The Centerville Road Bridge is on schedule for a June letting.

Orth Road Bridge in the Village of Timberlane has had a little setback and it is anticipated the letting to be in August. The Spike Mussel mitigation plan is out for public comment.

Recently had a preconstruction meeting with Sjostrom & Sons who are repairing bad timber piles on Shattuck Road Bridge and will get started as soon as the weather cooperates.

Garden Prairie Road Bridge over the Kishwaukee River just north of Village of Garden Prairie is under design. There are some issues with wetlands and endangered species that will delay construction until 2014 and maybe 2015.

Township Road Commissioner is working on obtaining permanent easements on county line for his bridge. When that is completed then it will go out for letting.

**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 Rock River Water Reclamation District:**

Mr. Carroll reported that they have a road closure on Morsay Drive in the near future and should last three (3) days.

**2.18 Winnebago County Forest Preserve District:**

No report.

**2.19 Boone County Conservation District:**

No report.

**2.20 Rockford Park District:**

Mr. Diipla reported on behalf of the Park District that they did not receive an ITEP grant award for the Pecatonica Prairie Trail and they welcome any thoughts as to how they might position themselves for a grant in the future.

**2.21 Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:**

No report.

**2.22 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:**

Not present.

**2.23 Illinois Tollway:**

Ms. Anderson reported that the Tollway is ready to start a major construction year in which they will be spending 922 million dollars in road way improvement this year which is double what they did last year. 415 million is what is being invested in the I-90 Corridor which includes the completion of the interchange Route 47 and I-90. Construction begins towards the building of the interchange ramps at I-57/294 which starts in a few weeks. Advanced work begins on the building of the western access to O'Hare.

Ms. Anderson referred to the overview of the I-90 Rebuilding & Widening project fact sheet that was provided to members. The eastbound lanes between I-39 in Rockford and the Elgin Toll Plaza will be rebuilt and a new lane added to provide three lanes in each direction. In addition, the inside lane and shoulder in both directions will be widened to provide accommodations for future transit opportunities. Ms. Anderson provided a brief summary on the traffic lane usage during construction.

Ms. Anderson stated that in 2013, crossroad bridges carrying traffic over the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) are scheduled to be reconstructed. There will be nine (9) that will need to be closed to do the reconstruction/widening which includes Genoa and Irene Road bridges.

There will also be four (4) ramp improvements on BUS US Route-20 in Rockford.

**2.24 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:**

Not present.

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

Mr. McClusky reported that Performance Measurement is moving along. They have met with all the MPOs and have scheduled a Technical Committee meeting the week of April 22 in Springfield. They have asked all the MPOs to nominate two (2) members to serve on the Technical Committee – nominees should consist of a technical (engineer) and non-technical (non-engineer). They are anticipating guidelines of performance measurement to be out by the end of the year.

The Statewide Congestion Study is still in the process of development and anticipates the RFP to go out in the next couple of months.

The Bikeway Plan is still in the process of development.

**2.26 Ogle County Highway Department:**

Not present.

**2.27 Boone County Council of Aging:**

Not present.

**2.28 State Line Area Transportation Study:**

No report.

**2.29 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:**

Not present.

**2.30 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:**

Not present.

**2.31 Growth Dimensions:**

Not present.

**2.32 Stateline Mass Transit District:**

Not present.

**2.33 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning:**

Mr. Diipala reported that RMAP's Annual Notice of Planning Activities will be published in the Rock River Times Wednesday, March 27, 2013.

Mr. John Slattengren, Executive Director of Boone County Council on Aging is retiring Friday, March 22, 2013. Mr. John Fortmann was selected as the new Executive Director.

Mr. Ernst reported that the IDOT OPP requested all of the MPOs to submit ideas on locally driven data that could be used to measure performance and is due to IDOT by the end of the month. RMAP is responding on the region's behalf to what data we currently have and that is universally available. This would help to measure not only state of good repair but also economic activity or other measures that could lead to measurement of livability/sustainability.

The 2013 Tri-State Alliance Summit will be held in Beloit, WI on May 10, 2013 at the Eclipse Center. The agenda and registration information should be announced soon.

### **3. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION AND ADJUSTED UA BOUNDARIES:**

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has met with all of the jurisdictions in all three (3) counties (Winnebago, Boone and Ogle County). The Adjusted UA has been scaled back somewhat on the maps we have presented. Based on that feedback we produced new maps showing the adjusted urbanized boundary. The adjusted UA has been shrunk back which does accommodate the census defined urbanized area which is a requirement as well as entire municipal boundaries. For example the City of Rockford has annexed property into Ogle County and that portion is now included in the adjusted urbanized area. Mr. Diipla referred to the fact sheet which describes the requirements of the adjusted UA, MPA as well as functional classification. Once we determine and everyone agrees on the adjusted urbanized area we can then move forward with functional classification percentage calculation. Mr. Diipla stated that they are still looking for feedback from members.

There was a brief discussion among members regarding the adjusted UA boundaries and it was determined that another round of meetings with all of the local jurisdictions will be scheduled to discuss the boundaries further.

### **4. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES:**

Mr. Diipla stated that at the last meeting it was discussed that a direct allocation amount would be available to the region and the development of selection criteria and a sub-committee to score applications would be need to be undertaken. Since then, RMAP has put together a draft proposal of selection criteria. Members were provided a copy of the draft Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Scoring Sheet for their review.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is working to craft an agreement with IDOT to move forward on a local allocation of dollars to implement the transportation alternatives projects. We are anticipating on having the two (2) years of funding that came with MAP-21 available to us to do one single call for projects. RMAP did some research not only on the old transportation enhancement program but also on some of the new regulations for transportation alternatives. The front side of the draft TAP scoring sheet is a draft of scoring matrix RMAP intends to use to evaluate the projects that will be submitted to RMAP for funding. The back side of the TAP scoring sheet is basically direct quotation out of MAP-21 that explains what is eligible and no longer eligible under the new criteria for MAP-21 regarding transportation alternatives. Mr. Ernst brought to attention the Pre-Application Checklist that must be met before you can proceed with application. Mr. Ernst provided a brief summary on the three criteria's for the Pre-Application Checklist and members had a brief Q&A.

Mr. Ernst stated that an application booklet will be created for members to use as a template for them to craft their applications for the funding. Target amount is roughly \$650,000 dollars toward projects and Mr. Ernst is suggesting members look at a minimum \$50,000 project size.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is looking for projects smaller in size and scope than previously submitted to the State. These should be projects that fill gaps and make logical implementation.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is looking for comments from members and would like to finalize the TAP scoring sheet in April.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP is waiting for a signed agreement with the State before a call for projects can be released. Mr. Ernst indicated that there will still be a statewide call for projects also.

Members had a brief discussion regarding transportation alternative funding, application process, scoring committee and possible projects.

#### **5. RMAP FY2014 DRAFT UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM (UWP):**

Mr. Diipla reported RMAP has been working on the draft FY14 UWP and provided members a copy of the draft FY14 UWP. RMAP is looking for approval of the FY14 UWP document at the May 2013 Technical/Policy Committee meetings. A few members have contacted RMAP to include some project within the new UWP and have been incorporated into the document. RMAP is looking for feedback from members on the current draft FY14 UWP.

Mr. Ernst stated that pg.11 has a travel demand model and economic connection funding amount. RMAP has been awarded \$325,000 in state planning research dollars to purchase the REMI Software (Travel Demand Model & Economic Connection). This software will allow RMAP to provide members traffic forecasts as well as economic performance measures for their project scenarios. This new software will allow RMAP to provide job creation, dollar creation and wealth creation. Mr. Ernst stated that this software is a huge step forward for the organization in growing our technical modeling capacity. Mr. Ernst stated that the \$81,250 shown in the state planning fund column is an amount which the state is using internally to match the SPR \$325,000 fund and needs to be shown in our UWP document for the state – it is not additional money.

Mr. Ernst provided a detailed summary of the UWP to members and asked if members had any concerns. Mr. Ernst stated that a draft copy of RMAP FY14 UWP has been provided to Mr. McClusky to take back with him for IDOT OPP to start the review process. RMAP would appreciate any feedback and can contact Mr. Ernst or Mr. McIntyre at RMAP. Mr. Ernst stated that we are not looking for action now but will be asking for action in May.

There was a brief Q&A among members regarding the FY14 UWP.

#### **6. IL-173 CORRIDOR ACCESS PLAN:**

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP was contacted by the Village of Machesney Park and McMahan Engineering regarding the IL-173 Corridor Access Plan. As part of the IL-173 improvements, it has been determined by IDOT that a large parcel needs to be acquired at the northwest corner of IL-173 and Mitchell Road and as a result of that there will be a relocation of Wimbledon Road. Mr. Diipla opened the floor up to the Village of Machesney Park & IDOT.

Mr. Ernst stated that as RMAP understands, it is basically one of the approved access points that needs to be slightly adjusted a couple 100 feet to accommodate. It is not adding any additional access points and is basically just relocating one that has already been approved on the access management plan.

Mr. Long stated that there has been a preliminary look and it will probably be ok but it will need an official review from the Village of Machesney Park to send back to IDOT so that IDOT can review the idea and make sure that it meets safety criteria.

Mr. Diipla stated discussion can take place at RMAP's April Technical meeting.

Mr. Ernst requested that an engineering representative from the Village of Machesney Park be present at next month's meeting.

**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 Mobility Subcommittee:**

Mr. Diipla reported that a call for projects was published on February 20, 2013 and applications for JARC/New Freedom Funds are due into RMAP on April 5, 2013. There will be an April 9, 2013 Mobility Subcommittee meeting to discuss all applications and we intend on selecting projects at that time. Mr. Diipla stated that if there were any questions with the applications or submittals, please contact him and he would assist further.

**7.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS):**

No report.

**7.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:**

No report.

**7.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:**

**REGIONAL ANALYSIS FOR IMPEDIMENTS**

Regarding the Regional Analysis for Impediments, Mr. Diipla stated there were a series of meetings held for housing professionals, staff, elected & appointed officials and residents & interested parties on March 11-March 14, 2013.

Mr. Ernst stated that the consultant (J-Quad) is planning to come back to Rockford to meet with each of the housing councils. Mr. Ernst hopes to eventually bring back HUD Region 5 back for further discussion.

**ECONOMIC REPORT / SOCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Ernst reported that the Economic Report is in draft form. The Social Report is completed and available on RMAP's website.

**OUR VITAL SIGNS DATA TRAINING**

Mr. Ernst reported that Ms. Genevieve Borich is looking to schedule some data training days and anyone interested in participating can contact Genevieve or RMAP. Currently April 5th is the date being targeted for the training session. This training session is also open to members of the community.

**7.08 Regional School Planning:**

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP is providing GIS maps based on District #205 enrollment data. Currently RMAP is waiting to receive the data from District #205 and then RMAP will be mapping enrollment zones.

Mr. Diipla stated at last month's Policy Committee meeting this item was requested to be placed on the progress reports items. This item will be a recurring progress report item on the Technical and Policy Committee level.

**7.09 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:**

No report.



**8. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Jacobson stated that Senate Bill 2 would abolish the DCEO and is sponsored by Senator Cullerton. Mr. Jacobson stated that the local economic development partners are opposed to this bill and asked members to review Senator Bill 2 with their economic development agencies and possibly opposing the bill.

Mr. Hren asked members who have TIP amendments to contact him ASAP.

Mr. Painter asked if RMAP is looking for input on functional classification from a municipality such as the Village of Winnebago. Mr. Diipla stated they would welcome any input from any member.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway and seconded by Ms. Mroz, Winnebago County Economic Development Department. Meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.