



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Carrie Houston, Village of Machesney Park; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Nathan Bruck, City of Loves Park Community Development; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Mick Johnston, Boone County Conservation District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Chicago/Rockford International Airport, Village of Cherry Valley, City of Rockford Community Development, Boone County, City of Belvidere Public Works, Village of Roscoe, RRWRD, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Paul Diipla, Steve Ernst, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Christina Washington, RMAP Staff; Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; Chris Dopkins, McMahon Engineering; Steve Frerichs, Chastain & Associate; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Bev Moore.

Without a quorum present Mr. Diipla called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. to discuss agency reports.

1. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2013 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

With a quorum present, Mr. Diipla formally calls the June 20, 2013 meeting to order and entertains a motion to approve the April 18, 2013 Technical Committee. First motion made to approve Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago, second motion made by Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Long reported that US-20 under Perryville Road patching is complete.

IL-2 from Elmwood to Latham the east leg of Latham is still closed and is anticipated to re-open in a month.

US-20 Ramps at IL-251 are scheduled to start this week.

West State Street is ongoing and there has been a lot plan changes.

I-90 is still head to head traffic in north bound direction and anticipates starting the paving after the 4th of July holiday.

IL-2 South Main Projects, US-20 ramp will re-open either today or tomorrow and they will continue to work on the south bound lanes for another four weeks.

IL-251 at the Kishwaukee River is a remove and replace; the bicycle railing is complete.

IL-173 from Alpine to Rock Cut Park is scheduled for the August letting.

Boone County project US-20 Bonus to Lawrenceville Road is scheduled for the June letting but not sure if it was awarded or not.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that their Rockton Road project between IL-251 and Willowbrook has started and the utility conflicts have been resolved.

Mr. Vlk reported that they are working on the Allworth Road Economic Development and TARP project between the Delong, Elevator and Cunningham Road which was awarded. The pre-construction meeting will be soon.

The sign upgrade project which completes the remainder of their SAFETEA-LU funds has the pre-construction meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2013.

The south east connection bike path that runs along Bell School Road was on the IDOT June letting. Currently exploring awarding, but the bids came in a little higher than anticipated.

The County anticipating a Tipple Road Bridge over Rock Creek replacement which is a township bridge project later this summer.

We are working on a resurfacing project on Montague Road from US-20 west to Meridian Road anticipating to begin later this summer.

Design work continues for the Baxter/Harrisville intersection project in coordination with the landfill.

Design work continues on Bell School/State Street project.

Perryville over the UP railroad design and Telegraph Road Bridge over Coolidge Creek design continues for construction next year.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Carter reported that the Morgan Street Bridge project continues and is on schedule.

The Main & Auburn Roundabout project is hitting its halfway point this week.

The IDOT project southern portion of the northern portion of South Main is under construction and is going smoothly.

The City of Rockford has hired a company to start managing its municipal parking system and has been in place for four (4) months. As of Monday parking fees have been charged for nights and weekends. This has been met with mixed reviews. Currently two decks are automated, the one at State/Main should go live in July and the Pioneer Parking deck should be automated by the end of summer.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Jacobson reported that their EDP project is progressing related to Woodward's development and they are anticipating a letting in August.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park:

No report.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Not present.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

Mr. Johnson reported that RMTD's Route Study continues.

The roofing project at RMTD's main building is virtually complete.

Statements of qualifications for the small bus storage building at the East Side Transfer Center will be received tomorrow by 2:00 p.m.

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:

Ms. Miller reported that the Farmland Conference is scheduled for June 21-22, 2013. The event will be held at the Belvidere Community Building with a variety of speakers on Friday and Saturday morning and Colleen Hoesly is one of the speakers. Saturday afternoon there is a tour of various farms in Boone County. RMAP is one of the sponsors of the conference. Registration is still available.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department:

Not present.

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:

Not present.

2.18 Winnebago County Forest Preserve District:

Not present.

2.19 Boone County Conservation District:

Mr. Johnston reported that they spent their road money on spray painting parking stalls.

2.20 Rockford Park District:

Mr. Bragg reported that in the coming weeks they will be contacting agencies to see about doing reciprocal of support for ITEP applications.

2.21 Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:

Not present.

2.22 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

2.23 Illinois Tollway:

Not present.

2.24 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

2.25 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

No report.

2.26 Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

2.27 Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

2.28 State Line Area Transportation Study:

Mr. Soltau reported that SLATS Technical/Policy Committee meeting for July 15, 2013. SLATS will also have meetings at the end of September and October for UWP. For the July 15th meeting there are 25 TIP amendments.

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. Diipla reported that the IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for September 25-27, 2013 and will be held at Four Points by Sheraton in Fairview Heights.

IDOT is holding outreach meetings for their Illinois Bike Transportation Plan. On July 25, 2013 there are two meeting scheduled locally; 1) for the Transportation Professionals from 3:00-5:00 p.m. and 2) at 6:30-8:00 p.m. and both will be held at the Regional Design Center in Rockford.

RMAP is still working on getting the REMI software incorporated within the existing transportation model. RMAP is currently waiting on the IGA between RMAP and IDOT. In speaking with IDOT they are waiting for FHWA to approve the total work plan. Once that is in place RMAP will move forward with that project.

Mr. Hren reported that during the past month RMAP has undergone an administrative modification to the existing 2013 TIP for the delineation of a couple projects as advance construction projects; related to a request from IDOT for the purposes of having them fall under federal compliance. It is not a significant change to the TIP and does not change the amounts of the project nor does it add federal dollars. It is basically a delineation that has been requested to come in compliance with federal statutes. We are delineating that in the TIP and also listing in the new TIP.

3. RMAP FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP):

Mr. Hren passed around the draft copy of the FY2014-2017 TIP for members review. Hard copies or digital copies are available to members at their request. There is still a month's time to make any additions needed and currently there are not a lot of changes. There are some updates to the text.

Mr. Diipla stated that MAP-21 streamlined some of the funding so when you read through the document a lot of the information has been updated both in the text and tables. For example, on the transit side, the JARC/New Freedom programs have been folded into previously existing FTA funds: 5316 which was JARC was put into 5307 category and 5317 which was New Freedom has been placed in 5310 category. You will notice some MAP-21 language within the TIP. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP will be looking for a tentative adoption in July and a recommendation from the Technical Committee at that point to Policy.

Mr. Diipla stated that if there are any questions or concerns to please contact him or Mr. Hren.

Mr. Ernst stated that because the Technical Committee has expanded considerably we now have many new partners and we are showing projects that may not be necessarily be strictly highway or transit related in our TIP but in effort to be a little more comprehensive we have expanded the scope of our TIP to better provide information.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the FY14 TIP.

4. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND ADJUSTED UA BOUNDARIES:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has been working on our planning boundaries (MPA and Adjusted Urbanized Area) and there seems to be a level of agreement with all the member agencies with the boundaries that have been presented. Falling in line with that is the updated Function Classification system RMAP has been working on. At the last meeting it was mentioned by both Winnebago County & Boone County Highway Department that they received a letter from IDOT requesting changes outside the urbanized area to be submitted by July 8th. RMAP has met with both Counties and Mr. Long (IDOT) and they have provided some feedback. RMAP will incorporate the data from the Counties into their GIS files so that there will be a comprehensive functional classification map for the region. Boone and Winnebago Counties are trying to get IDOT request completed as soon as possible. Additionally RMAP has held meetings in the past with various agencies around the table today and RMAP would like to go ahead and schedule another meeting with these agencies again to discuss what has been updated at their request.

Mr. Belle stated that he is just waiting for responses from individuals from the data that was presented. Otherwise the process is going smoothly.

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has met with Ogle County to get their input and data. The planning boundary will be extending into Ogle County along IL-72 corridor. Ogle County has provided their functional classification data and RMAP will be updating that as well. Mr. Diipla stated that work continues on that and we will be working with all of our member agencies to comply with the urban and non-urban side delineations.

Mr. Ernst asked if it was intended for this to be ready to go for the July Policy meeting or sometime this summer.

Mr. Diipla stated that for the non-urban area, it has to go through the county boards first and then it will be submitted to IDOT. On the urban side, Mr. Diipla indicated he would like to have it completed by the end of this summer. Mr. Diipla stated otherwise the deadline is June-2014.

Mr. Vlk stated that they anticipate going to their county board at their July meeting for the rural end of Winnebago.

5. IL-173 CORRIDOR ACCESS PLAN:

Mr. Diipla stated that this item was on the agenda a few months ago and it was regarding the possible proposed relocation of Wimbledon Road. Mr. Diipla stated that a member from McMahon Engineering and the Village of Machesney Park are in attendance to discuss further.

Mr. Dopkins passed around copies of a map showing the road location exhibit for Wimbledon Road for members review. The drawing dates back to 2009. The corridor plan for IL-173 which was put together by RATS in the early 90's and it modeled itself after the East State Street corridor plan which was full access every quarter of a mile with right ins and right outs in between. Through the development of IL-173 corridor and the planning of Phase II IL-173 project IDOT was placed under a permit situation where it was necessary to relocate a portion of the creek that is along north branch of Willow Creek along IL-173. There is a point system established by EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers in order to mitigate the damage to the creek that was going to be relocated. IDOT investigated a dozen different ways to mitigate damage to the creek but ultimately came down to purchasing the property on the northwest corner of Mitchell Road and IL-173 and preserving that property in perpetuity in order to mitigate damage. IDOT will be doing a lot of plantings essentially creating a greenway along IL-173 that would start behind the apartments along Anjali Way and will go all the way down to IL-173. Both properties were owned by First Rockford Group. They had roadway called Wimbledon Road accessing IL-173 in a quarter mile interval. As a result of the IDOT taking it was necessary to relocate Wimbledon Road to the west by about a hundred fifty feet. Relocating Wimbledon Road, IDOT's feeling is that there would no longer be enough room between Wimbledon and Chandan Boulevard which is the next proposed full access point in order to maintain geometry for a right in and right out. The proposal changed to the corridor plan would be to relocate Wimbledon Road approximately 150 feet to the west and remove a right in and right out access point between Wimbledon Road and Chandan Boulevard.

Mr. Ernst stated that this geometry change actually accommodates a couple of factors; the damage to the creek and eliminates an access point so there is one less access point in the corridor. It also moves the Wimbledon Road access point to a relocation that is more suitable for development. Mr. Ernst stated that it sounds as though all the issues have been worked out and asked Mr. Dopkins if he has received feedback from IDOT.

Mr. Dopkins stated that they have worked with IDOT and they are supportive of the change. This change happened at no fault of any land owner along there and this is project is one of the first where the point system came into play that IDOT has dealt with. Mr. Dopkins commended IDOT for all the hard work and positive solution that has come about for this project.

Mr. Long stated that IDOT's geometrics has looked at it and it seems to work with the new access and the way it is configured. With a the removal of the right in right out, safety wise the new access seems to work as it is

configured. Mr. Long stated that a formal letter submitted to John McCormick, IDOT Geometrics Engineering should detail the elimination of the right in right out so that something is on paper.

Mr. Dopkins indicated that he has not submitted anything formally to IDOT only to RMAP back in February 2013. Mr. Dopkins indicated that Mr. Masood Ahmad from IDOT did email him last week indicating to please send a letter requesting the same directly to IDOT.

Mr. Ernst stated that he felt it would be good to have some direction directly from RMAP itself and the Technical Committee to make a recommendation today supporting the changes.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the changes to Wimbledon Road.

Mr. Ernst stated that he would like to get a recommendation from the Technical Committee today but it would not be in a resolution form. We will create a resolution that both Technical and Policy can approve in July since there is no Policy Committee meeting in June. Mr. Ernst indicated to Mr. Dopkins that he can use today's vote as impetus to go ahead and send the letter and get that process started.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the proposal of relocating Wimbledon Road and the changes in access points.

Mr. Jacobson made the first motion; second motion was made by Ms. Miller. Mr. Diipla stated that recommendation has been motioned and seconded; all those in favor signify by saying ay. Motion carried. Recommendation has been made.

6. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Diipla stated that at last month's meeting the Village of Poplar Grove submitted a formal letter to RMAP requesting membership. RMAP has reviewed the cooperative agreement to see determine at what level Poplar Grove would qualify for. It has been determined that the Village of Poplar Grove would qualify for voting membership on the Technical Committee. Since there is no Policy Committee this month we will wait until next month for a formal resolution to go through RMAP's Technical Committee and Policy Committee. Mr. Diipla asked the Technical Committee members if there were any questions or concerns regarding the Village of Poplar Grove membership request.

Mr. Ernst stated that the Village of Poplar Grove meets the criteria for Technical Committee membership but population wise falls short for Policy Committee membership. Because the way that transit is fund in Boone County you are unable to make a direct relationship between the amount of funding that goes into the Boone County Council on Aging and the Village of Poplar Grove. RMAP has indicated to them that in the future if they are interested in Policy Committee membership as they grow they would have to establish some formal relationship with the transit agency there and provide funding. Mr. Ernst stated that there may be some discussions with some of the smaller villages; Winnebago, Cherry Valley, Roscoe on the Winnebago County side and Poplar Grove, Timberlane on the Boone County side may want to consider a Chicago model of having a suburban mayor's caucus where they would get one vote on the Policy Committee and might be a palpable solution. RMAP will continue the discussions with the villages and elected officials.

Mr. Diipla asked members if there were any questions or concerns. None given.

7. TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM:

Mr. Diipla stated that there are two (2) programs available in the region; one is the IDOT state call for projects which is running from May 20 to August 20 and also since we are a TMA, we have a direct allocation of funds, roughly 310 thousand dollars each year. We've discussed putting a call for projects out for both years of funding (FY13 and FY14). Technical members have reviewed the draft selection criterion that has been developed. RMAP has received some comments and made the necessary modifications. This was presented at the May Policy Committee meeting at which time the Policy Committee asked to have more input regarding the qualifications and criteria.

Mr. Ernst provided Technical members some details regarding the Policy committee's concerns.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP will be extending the applications period from July 4 to the end of the calendar year and RMAP will get some direction for Policy members on what the priorities will be for awards. RMAP will wait until we know what IDOT will have in their program and the RMAP will subsequently make awards. Mr. Ernst stated it is a longer timeframe then he would like to have for the call for projects open but hopefully it will solve some potential problems down the road.

A brief discussion took place among members on the possible projects that might be eligible to submit an application for ITEP funds for the state as well as locally.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

8.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:

No report.

8.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:

Mr. Ernst reported that RMTD has received the signed agreement to accept the funds for the train station design. Mr. Ernst stated that he feels it is the intent of both the City of Rockford and RMTD to get the design contract started and then start the public process input.

8.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

Mr. Diipla stated that at last month's meeting updates regarding the completion rates within the region were discussed. Progress is still moving forward for overall completion.

Mr. Ernst stated that he had a discussion with Mr. Lewis and it is the intent to have all the fiber lit in Winnebago County by the end of July and they anticipate for Boone County to be lit by the end of June. All of the anchor institution should have service soon. The I-Fiber Board has negotiated several vendors to actually provide services on I-fiber.

8.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Diipla reported that the next RMAP Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2013 at 10:00a and held at the RMTD East Side Transfer Center. The Mobility Subcommittee will be beginning the review of the current HSTP. There has been some discussion on possibly making some amendments in correlation to the completion of RMTD's Route Study.

8.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):

Mr. Diipla reported that a meeting is scheduled for July 25, 2013 to discuss how the CEDs Plan can be folded into the Economic Diversification Plan.

Mr. Ernst reported that Boone County and Winnebago County Chairs have been working to interview candidates as replacement of Patricia Diduch.

8.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

No report.

8.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Mr. Diipla reported that the Environment Report is being wrapped up and an Our Vital Signs Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for June 26, 2013 at 5:30p at the Regional Design Center.

Mr. Ernst reported that this Steering Committee meeting will bring that whole phase of the project to a close. The Steering Team will accept the deliverables as they are at this point in time and will essentially dissolve. Mr. Ernst stated that this puts us in the final phase of the project is the public involvement phase and final plan writing and this will occur between July and December. The main focus of the public involvement phase will be the use of Topic Teams (which are folks who are interested in particular topic areas of Sustainability). These teams will be basically confirming some of the long range goals which will be on the plan and then agreeing on tactics and strategies to accomplish that in 1-5 year time frame and then 5-10 year time frame and then 10-20 year time frame. At the June 26 meeting Our Vital Signs will announce participating on the Topic Teams will be open. The teams will meet once a month and they will go for three months which will take us into September. At the end of September we will come back to the community at large with those recommendations from the Topic Teams. We will then use an e-commerce tool (Mindmixer) for anyone to weigh in the goals, tactics and strategies. At the end of November or early December the plan writing will commence and be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Ernst stated that HUD and their Office of General Council has disallowed a portion of the local matching funds that we used on the project and RMAP has had to submit a corrective action plan. HUD has approved RMAP's corrective action plan.

8.08 Regional School Planning:

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP has received the entire roster for District #205 and RMAP has been tasked to look at geographic densities of student grade levels. We are nearing completion of this mapping exercise. District #205 is looking to match up program development where schools and students are located. Mr. Diipla stated RMAP will be meeting with District #205 to present the results of the mapping as well receive direction on other planning tasks they might want completed.

8.09 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:

No report.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Painter, Village of Winnebago and seconded by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.