



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 18, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Chris Dopkins, Village of Machesney Park; Jim Johnson, RMTD (arrived at 10:42a); Wayne Dust, City of Rockford Community Development; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning; Rich Lundin, Boone County Highway; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago; Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: City of Loves Park Public Works, Chicago/Rockford International Airport, City of Loves Park Community Development, Village of Cherry Valley, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development, Village of Roscoe, RRWRD, Boone County Conservation 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; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Bob Soltau, SLATS; John Donovan, FHWA; Mark Lynch, Village of Poplar Grove; Brian Leaf, Rockford Register Star.

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

1. APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 20, 2013 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

With a quorum present, Mr. Diipla formally calls the July 18, 2013 meeting to order and entertains a motion to approve the June 20, 2013 Technical Committee. First motion made to approve Mark Painter, Village of Winnebago, second motion made by Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Long reported that IL-2 from Elmwood to Latham is anticipated to re-open the east leg of Latham on July 24, 2013.

West State Street project has some utility conflicts, coordination problems and plan re-designs that are inherent with urban reconstruction project.

I-90 project is still on track for completion by the end of the year. The paving should start up again next week.

South Main US-20 ramps are open and they are still working on the south bound lanes.

The resurfacing of US20 from Fairview to American Drive is scheduled to start August 5, 2013.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that the Rockton Road project continues.

The Allworth Road project starts Monday, July 15, 2013.

The sign upgrade project is anticipated to start in a month or so.

The southeast connection bike path is waiting on award and is anticipated to start later this summer.

Tipple Road Bridge over Rock Creek is anticipated to start late summer/early fall.

Baxter Road/Lindenwood Road intersection; the landfill indicated they wanted to start on this project soon but ROW is still being acquired. Mr. Vlk stated that optimistically starting in a month.

Mr. Vlk stated that they are still progressing on design projects for next year.

The functional classification for the non-urban roads has been brought through the Winnebago County Board with the recommended changes and will be forwarded to IDOT and RMAP.

The Pecatonica Prairie Path is near completion and they are anticipating an official opening in August.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Zuroske reported that the Morgan Street Bridge has hit the 75% completion range and is anticipated for a November opening.

Mr. Zuroske stated that for the West State Street project as a city most of the work they needed done has been completed but there is some utility conflicts.

There are some minor improvements being done around the South Main Corridor. They are doing some demos for the State and working on some path projects. The City has been informed by IDOT that the vast majority of the work will happen in 2014. There is still some utility work being done.

The North Main/Auburn Roundabout is at the 50% mark and all the underground utility work is being done.

There is a fairly significant arterial program this year. 20th Street is well on its way to being completed. Landstrom is ready to go out to bid. Summit has been redone and the second final layer will be happening. They will be doing East State Street from the river to roughly 1st Street and one block of West State Street from the river to Wyman will be done in the next couple of weeks.

The Harrison Avenue project is making good progress and some of the amendments have been done that are needed with the Phase I report. The Phase II will be looking at probably going to RFP for the final design engineering for Harrison.

There are seven (7) neighborhood packages and they have completed five (5) of the neighborhood packages already.

There will be no local bridges done this year. Railroad Avenue Bridge over Keith Creek is under design but will not go to construction until next year.

Tuesday, July 16, 2013 IDOT's Bridge Office was in town working with the City of Rockford and that audit went very well.

Harrison Avenue Bridge is scheduled for the bridge deck to be replaced next year.

Jefferson Street Bridge will have the engineering started early next year and it will be a total replacement of the bridge.

The Whitman interchange project has had all of the baseline data collection and will be starting some community engagement process to reconfigure the Whitman Interchange. It is anticipated to start in early August.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Not present.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park:

No report.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Not present.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

No report.

2.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

Not present.

2.09 Village of Cherry Valley:

Not present.

2.10 City of Rockford, Community Development Department:

No report.

2.11 Winnebago County Planning and Economic Development Department:

Not present.

2.12 Belvidere/Boone County Planning and Economic Development Department:

No report.

2.13 Boone County Highway Department:

Mr. Lundin reported that they have completed the county and Belvidere Township project except for the striping.

Last night at the Board meeting, the board awarded seven (7) township projects to various contractors and they also passed the functional classification and urban map.

IDOT has let and awarded the Centerville Road Bridge for Poplar Grove Township and the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for the end of July. They are anticipated to start mid-August.

2.14 City of Belvidere, Public Works Department:

Mr. Anderson reported that the City of Belvidere's resurfacing program is underway and is anticipated to be completed next week.

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:

No report.

2.19 Boone County Conservation District:

Not present.

2.20 Rockford Park District:

No report.

2.21 Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:

Not present.

2.22 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

2.23 Illinois Tollway:

Ms. Anderson drew the member's attention to the fact sheets she provided. Ms. Anderson stated they are now at the center of the construction along the I-90 corridor specifically from the Elgin toll plaza to Rockford which approximately 37 miles of work. Ms. Anderson brought to attention the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway (I-90) – 2013 Construction Traffic Configuration which is very important for drivers to understand. The major construction, re-construction and re-widening is well underway and by the end of this year the eastbound construction will be done. Starting next spring they will start on the west bound section from the Rockford to Elgin. By the end of 2014 there will be a widened roadway from the Elgin Toll Plaza to Rockford.

Ms. Anderson stated that of particular interest for this region are two (2) areas of construction are local cross road bridges and then BUS US-20. US Business Route 20 will have the four (4) ramps rebuilt at that location on I-90 and will start late this summer. The notice to proceed is scheduled for the end of August and it is anticipated for that work to begin immediately. Work is anticipated to be completed by the end of this year. With regards to the local roads/cross road bridges a lot of conversations have been taking place with Boone and Winnebago Counties. That bridge work is also anticipated to start in August. Four bridges in Boone County; Irene Road, Genoa Road and Stone Prairie Road and the Johnson Road Bridge will start in the spring of 2014. There are ongoing discussions with the local farmers and the Tollway engineering department. In Winnebago County the Mill Road Bridge will also be reconstructed and widened.

Ms. Anderson stated that between Rockford to the Kennedy Expressway they will be widening and including bus transit options. This entire 67 mile corridor will be rebuilt.

Ms. Anderson stated by the numbers there is currently 294 lane miles and when construction is completed there will be 418. In transit there will be three (3) park and ride locations between Elgin and Kennedy. There will be four (4) new Pace Bus Routes. Dynamic message signs will be displayed to give good information to drivers travelling the Tollway station. Currently in this corridor there are seven and when construction is all done there will be 36. There are traffic sensors in the pavement that tell maintenance and traffic operations traffic flow and when the weather turns bad and what needs to be addressed; currently there are 47 sensors and when construction is all done there will be 95.

Ms. Anderson stated that currently for roadway cameras which help monitor traffic flow there are currently 45 cameras and when construction is done there will be 88. In terms of jobs during the entire reconstruction project there will have been 23, 900 construction jobs to help rebuild the I-90 corridor.

2.24 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

2.25 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Mr. DeLille reported that the 2013 IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for September 25-27, 2013 and held the Four Points Sheraton in Fairview Heights.

Mr. DeLille stated that on Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 3:00-5:00p IDOT will hold an Illinois Bicycle Transportation Plan meeting for transportation professionals and a Public Outreach meeting is scheduled from 6:30-8:00p and held at the Regional Design Center (315 North Main Street, Rockford).

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 held a Technical/Policy Committee meeting on July 15, 2013 which addressed a TIP amendment which had 22 amendments.

The next Technical/Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for September 30, 2013 and the agenda will be the draft UWP and TIP.

Sometime in August there will be a Technical Committee meeting to re-prioritize our recommendation for HSTP Urban funds.

2.29 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:

Mr. Donovan reported that Anthony Foxx is the new Secretary for the Department of Transportation and was sworn in a couple of weeks ago.

There is a new Illinois Division FHWA Administrator and her name is Ms. Kay Batey.

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 introduced Mr. Mark Lynch who is the Village Administrator for the Village of Poplar Grove. Mr. Diipla asked Mr. Lynch if he had anything to report for the Village of Poplar Grove. Mr. Lynch stated no report. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has posted an RFP for the REMI Economic Development software which would be integrated within our Transportation model. The RFP has been posted on RMAP's website as well as the Illinois Chapter APA's website. Proposals are due back to RMAP by September 5, 2013.

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has hosted two (2) of the Our Vital Signs Topic Team meetings have been held (Social & Environmental) and tonight the Economic Team will be held at 5:30p and held at the Regional Design Center. The Topic Team meeting will convene for a total of three (3) meetings and work is intended to be finished by the end of September at which point the results from that work will be presented to the public and then that information will be integrated into the plan which is due by January 1, 2014.

Mr. Ernst stated that all three (3) of the documents (Social, Environmental and Economic Report) are available for public consumption and essentially concludes that grant deliverable for HUD. The Topic Teams which are meeting over the course of the next 2-3 months will be using those documents as a backdrop to those discussions.

3. RMAP FY 2014-2017 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (TIP) – RESOLUTION 2013-7:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has been working on the draft TIP document and all members have made their submissions. The draft was posted last month and has been finished up and is available on RMAP's website for review. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP will be asking the Technical Committee for action to recommend for adoption at next week's Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Hren passed around copies of the draft FY14-17 TIP for members to review and provided a brief description of the contents of the document. There is a list of changes on the second to last page of the document; there were a number of changes that was made to various projects. Mr. Hren thanked members for their input and assistance in submitting their projects into the TIP.

Mr. Hren stated that an administrative modification for the advance construction projects and there has been a third one added which is in table 12 which is awarded and initiated and completed projects. The new project added is IL-173 West Lane Road which is project 11017 on page 37.

Mr. Zuroske thanked RMAP staff for a job well done on the FY14-17 TIP Document.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-7. First motion was made by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; second motion was made by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department. Motion carries.

4. RMAP HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP) AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2013-8:

Mr. Diipla stated that the Mobility meets to analyze and determine transportation gaps and needs within the region. As part of the ongoing RMTD Route Study it has been determined that a future route connecting the RMTD East Side Transfer Center as well as the Belvidere Fixed Route running along the east side of Rockford is necessary to place within the HSTP. This has been discussed at the Mobility Subcommittee meetings and the committee felt it necessary to include this potential project within the HSTP. In doing so a resolution has been drafted by RMAP. The resolution went through the July 9, 2013 Mobility Subcommittee meeting and it was unanimously endorsed and the resolution has been forwarded to the Technical Committee. RMAP is looking for recommendation action today regarding this resolution. Mr. Diipla stated that the specific route has not yet been determined. This has been identified as a need for service within the region that could potentially use JARC/New Freedom funds in the future.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the route and the potential JARC/New Freedom funds that would be used.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-8. First motion was made by Mr. Johnson, RMTD; second motion was made by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public works. Motion carries.

5. TECHNICAL COMMITTEE VOTING MEMBERSHIP – RESOLUTION 2013-9:

Mr. Diipla stated that a few months ago the Village of Poplar Grove submitted a letter of request for membership on the RMAP Technical Committee. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has reviewed the Cooperative Agreement and it has been determined due to population size as well developmental functions the Village of Poplar Grove qualifies as a voting member on RMAP's Technical Committee. RMAP has drafted a resolution for this recommendation which is before RMAP's Technical Committee for action today.

Mr. Ernst stated that his initial conversations with the Village of Poplar Grove they were actually looking at what the possibility would be for Policy Committee membership. Mr. Ernst stated that the way RMAP's bylaws are written, which is encapsulated within the cooperative agreement, there are thresholds which the Village of Poplar Grove does not meet yet. Mr. Ernst stated this does raise an interesting question. Several of the small villages are non-voting members in the region could potentially come together and have one vote between them on the Policy Committee and rotate their membership among the villages. Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP will ask the Policy Committee for some guidance on this proposal.

Mr. Lynch stated that he would like to discuss further with Mr. Ernst for the future the possibility of a conglomerate of small villages counting as one vote on the Policy Committee. Mr. Lynch stated that he appreciates the opportunity for the Village of Poplar Grove to participate on RMAP's Technical Committee and looks forward to participating in the process.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the Village of Poplar Grove history and what their boundaries entailed.

Mr. Lynch stated that he would be happy to provide a presentation of the Village of Poplar Grove's history and future at the next Technical Committee meeting.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-9. First motion was made by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway Department; second motion was made by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works. Motion carries.

6. IL ROUTE 173 ACCESS PLAN – RESOLUTION 2013-10:

Mr. Diipla stated that the Village of Machesney Park asked for this item on the agenda and previously provided a presentation regarding the changes to the IL Route 173 Access Plan at RMAP's June 20, 2013 meeting at which time it was determined that the Village of Machesney Park would submit a revised a letter to IDOT noting the access changes along IL Route 173. The Village of Machesney Park has transmitted that said letter to IDOT and accordingly RMAP Resolution 2013-10 has been drafted to amend IL-Route 173 Access Plan.

Mr. Dopkins stated that there was a need for IDOT to purchase quite a big area of property between Wimbledon and Mitchell Road that will be preserved as open space in order to secure EPA permit. The relocation of Wimbledon Road approximately 150 feet to the west will create an outlot on the east side of Wimbledon right of way, as well as to eliminate the previously proposed curve-linear alignment of Wimbledon Road. This will also remove the right-in/right-out access drive between Wimbledon Road and Chandan Blvd. from the corridor plan.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the concerns of future development to the area and what possible changes could affect the corridor plans, access plan, and open space along IL Route 173.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2013-10. First motion was made by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works; second motion was made by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department. Motion carries.

7. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM AND ADJUSTED UA BOUNDARIES:

Mr. Diipla stated that both Boone & Winnebago Counties were contacted by IDOT regarding functional classification outside of the urban area. That information has now passed both county boards. RMAP will integrate that into the regional GIS file which will give us one functional classification file for the three (3) county areas. RMAP has met with many of the Technical members and discussed functional classifications within the respective jurisdictions. That information has been compiled into a list and RMAP is currently updating the GIS file. RMAP and the City of Rockford met a few days ago to finalize some of the changes and recommendations they had. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP anticipates the process completed by September or October. RMAP will be bringing to the next Technical Committee meeting maps showing the previous functional classifications and the proposed functional classifications and then what the changes were. Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP will craft a list of changes that occurred within the counties. Mr. Diipla thanked members for all the cooperation and assistance through this process.

8. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

8.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:

Mr. Ernst reported that the CEO of METRA has resigned and currently there is no movement on this project.

8.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:

Mr. Zuroske reported that the City of Rockford had a conference call several months ago and is pursuing a couple of things. Mr. Zuroske stated that he did hear from IDOT and they have made some progress with the CN in terms of the review of the track upgrade issue.

Mr. Zuroske stated that they have been working with RMTD through the federal process and Mr. Jim Johnson, RMTD has been of great of assistance.

Mr. Zuroske stated they have been working with RMTD through the federal process.

8.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

No report.

8.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Diipla reported that there probably will not be an August Mobility Subcommittee meeting but when they do reconvene the Mobility Subcommittee will be looking at MAP-21 legislation and determine how that impacts the plan and how to move forward.

8.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):

Mr. Ernst reported that the RAEDC has hired Dana L. Hoefle as the new Executive Director for the Rockford Region Economic Development District (RREDD).

8.06 ComEd Smart Grid/Smart Meters:

No report.

8.07 HUD Sustainability Grant:

Mr. Diipla stated this item was covered under 2.33 RMAP agency reports.

8.08 Regional School Planning:

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP has received the entire roster of students and RMAP has used the spatial analyst feature to determine geographic densities of student populations and where they live compared to school site locations. RMAP is currently working with a Google Earth file where the GIS data can be inputted into Google Earth. RMAP will be presenting this information to District #205 to receive some feedback.

Mr. Belle stated that it is more of a viewing platform than just a way to manipulate the data and it is nice to do some low level analysis and be able to look up things up in Google Earth while viewing the data from GIS.

8.09 Chicago/Rockford International Airport Part 150 Noise Study:

No report.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bragg asked about the possibility of School District #205 as being a Technical member?

Mr. Ernst stated that School District #205 was given ex-officio member on the RMAP Policy Committee and they are also a non-voting member on the Technical Committee but they have chosen to not take advantage of that opportunity at this time.

Mr. Zuroske asked if RMAP could reach out to School District #205 to possibly provide RMAP a presentation with the school district's improvement program that has multiple school projects. Mr. Ernst stated he would make the request.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lundin, Boone County Highway Department and seconded by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.