



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 17, 2014

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Frank Hodina, Winnebago County Highway; Patrick Zuroske, Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford Public Works; Dan Long, City of Loves Park Public Works; Carrie Houston, Village of Machesney Park; Jim Johnson, RMTD; Andrew Quintinella, City of Loves Park Community Development; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; Rob Wilhelmi, Village of Winnebago; Dana Carroll, RRWRD; Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Dan Kane, 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, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Department, City of Belvidere Public Works, Boone County Highway Department, Village of Roscoe, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District, Village of Poplar Grove.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jon Paul Diipla, Steve Ernst, Michael Hren, Colleen Hoesly, Colin Belle, Christina Washington, RMAP Staff; Bunny Anderson, Illinois Tollway; Doug Delille, IDOT Division of Urban Program Planning; T.J. Nee, SLATS; John Donovan, FHWA; Mark Rice, McClure Engineering; Matt Cerutti, Citizen.

With a quorum present Mr. Diipla called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 23, 2014 AND FEBRUARY 20, 2014 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the January 23, 2014 and February 20, 2014 Technical Committee minutes as amended. First motion made to approve Mr. Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works, second motion made by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford. Motion carried.

2. AGENCY REPORTS:

2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:

Mr. Long reported that US-20 over the Rock River, bridge reconstruction temporary widening and crossovers are under construction. The eastbound structure will be the first one to be built which will probably be a two (2) year project.

IL-173 Alpine to Rock Cut State Park is underway as of March. Currently utility work is being done and temporary widening is going on also.

IL-2 Elmwood to Latham is pretty much done. There is some seeding and trees to be planted which will take place next month.

I-90 has some seeding and trees to be planted scheduled for next month.

IL-2 Roscoe Road is being pushed back but not sure on how far due to some environmental problems going on. IL-2 South Main Beltline to Harrison which is half done from Beltline to US-20 the other half will start up May 1, 2014.

IL-2 Pond to Cedar is underway. The south half of the north half is underway.

BUS-20 Fairview to American Drive had some traffic control concerns so work will be done during the night with polymer and it will have to wait for warmer temperatures. It is anticipated to start in June and will probably go all summer.

Alpine Road Harrison to American Road intermittent milling and resurfacing is scheduled for a May 6, 2014 startup and will last fifteen (15) working days.

I-39 southbound ramp over US-20 that is milling and resurfacing and has the pre-con scheduled for the end of April. The field engineer is aware of the Airport's Air Show event in June and has it on his calendar.

A couple of other resurfacing projects and is scheduled for a June letting.

Boone County US BUS-20 Bonus Avenue to Lawrenceville Road is underway and is slated for a mid-summer completion.

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP received a notice from IDOT regarding a Public Informational Open House for the Proposed Reconstruction of IL Route 2 from IL-72 in Byron, IL to Beltline Road south of Rockford which is scheduled for Wednesday, May 7, 2014 from 1:00-6:00p and held at Saint Mary Catholic Church (226 E. Second Street) Byron, Illinois.

2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:

Mr. Vlk reported that the County's southeast connection bike path will be continuing with anticipation to be completed this year.

Township Bridge and Tipple Road Bridge over Rock Creek is starting up late spring.

Perryville Road Bridge over the UP Railroad has been delayed a year due to lack of funding.

Telegraph Road Bridge over Coolidge Creek has been awarded and the pre-con meeting has already taken place.

The Perryville Road shoulder resurfacing project starts on April 28 and it will be from Charles Road to north where the asphalt ends by Mill Road. It will be predominately night work.

The two (2) parking lots downtown are progressing. The purchasing department advertised the Memorial Parking lot yesterday.

Work is being done at the Bell School Guilford Road intersection. The signal phasing has been changed. The traffic signal related changes have been fully implemented.

Baxter Road/Harrisville project has been postponed for a year.

Baxter and Linden Road intersection is anticipated to go sometime later this year. They are currently working though some issues with ComEd in regards to some relocation work. The planning activity in that area for the waterway system roadway improvement second well is progressing.

2.03 City of Rockford, Public Works Department:

Mr. Zuroske reported that the City of Rockford's CIP is underway. Projects have already been identified and bid and getting close to construction in our neighborhood program. There are two (2) packages that have already been sent out.

The Railroad Avenue Bridge is on the State's letting.

There are a host of stormwater/streetscape projects.

Mr. Carter stated that the City has looked for the potential for removal of the traffic signals at the intersection of Christina/15th Avenue and 11th Street/Columbia. The signals have been darkened and the side streets stop control have put up signs and have alerted the public that the City was in the process of studying that area. The responses received have been very favorable reviews with the exception of a few people who were not happy about the idea. The Alderman of the ward is very happy and also received positive reviews and last week those signals were removed. The infrastructure is being left in place for a year per the FHWA guidelines just in case something happens and the signals are needed to be re-installed.

Mr. Zuroske stated that the Harrison Avenue Bridge deck has been bid and officially awarded and will be done consistently with the South Main/Harrison reconstruction project.

The City is moving forward with the Sandy Hollow resurfacing project which is an HSIP project. It is a road diet going down to three (3) lanes all the way from Alpine to 20th Street.

The City is moving forward with the Amerock Ziock Downtown Hotel project that will require the development of a significant parking deck as well as the reconfiguration of South Main where we will be removing the Wyman swerve. That project still has a ways to go and the City has been working with IDOT on the entire reconfiguration of our route to downtown. Also on the docket is the improvement of the Chestnut Street bridge to make it more pedestrian friendly as part of that project.

2.04 City of Loves Park, Public Works Department:

Mr. Jacobson reported that the EDP project has fired up again and they are installing signals at Perryville/Zenith Parkway should go active by the end of this month. The Harlem/Woodward Way is anticipated to go active around the middle of May. The Forest Hills/Zenith Park way is anticipated to go active by Memorial Day.

The City of Loves Park was successful with the Road Referendum and they are in the process of gearing up for that. They are working with their City Council on priority list of projects and have already started on some design efforts on Alpine Road. The first segment of that road will be reconstructed from Riverside to Rivington Road. The City of Loves Park will be partnering with the Winnebago County Highway to rehab the bridge over Forest Hills Road as part of that project.

2.05 Village of Machesney Park:

Ms. Houston reported that there are some IL-173 improvements currently and there will be some temporary road closures. Mitchell Road is closed due to this project (north of IL-173/south of Anjali) until mid-July.

The Village of Machesney Park was awarded an Illinois DNR grant for a boat launch that they hope to start construction this year. It was a \$200,000 grant and will be at the Old Harlem at Shore Drive.

2.06 Chicago/Rockford International Airport:

Not present.

2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:

Mr. Johnson reported that RMTD has a couple small projects; they are building a small three (3) bus storage building out at the Eastside Transfer Center and an access path from the east.

An upgrade is being done on the elevator at the RMTD main building and is currently in the contractors hands getting the various components lined up.

2.08 City of Loves Park, Community Development Department:

Mr. Jacobson reported that the State of Illinois has opened applications for Enterprise Zones through the end of this year. There is a collaborative effort by several communities here as well as the county to consider a joint application. We can do up to fifteen (15) square miles if we have a minimum of four communities on one application.

Mark Williams, City of Rockford Economic Development Manager is also the Vice President of the Illinois Enterprise Zone Association and Mr. Williams has been able to decipher the regulations for our group which has been very helpful. There is also a state conference the first week of May that many of us will be attending in that regard. Mr. Jacobson stated that one the first questions that is asked from site selectors is “Is there an enterprise zone in place?” so it is very important that we get this many designations as possible.

The City of Loves Park is in the process of adopting a new TIF district. The Joint Review Board meeting has been held and was recommended by the board and will encompass the area of Riverside, Forest Hills, Alpine Road and north and south area which takes in a lot of vacant older retail commercial space.

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:

No report.

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:

Mr. Carroll reported that their only major work is in cooperation with the City of Rockford and IDOT.

2.18 Winnebago County Forest Preserve District:

No report.

2.19 Boone County Conservation District:

No report.

2.20 Rockford Park District:

Mr. Bragg reported that in addition to the States ITEP announcement for Willow Creek within the last two (2) weeks the Rockford Park District has received an Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources for Sabrooke Playground which is in the southeast quadrant. It will be relocated immediately north to property owned by RHA.

The Park District is gathering citizen input to facilitate major improvements to Highland Park.

Work continues on renovations at Sinnissippi Park.

The Rockford Park District is hosting a Sustainable Facilities Tool presentation scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014 from 9:00-11:00a and held at Webbs Norman Center RPDEd Training Room, 3rd Floor.

2.21 Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District:

Not present.

2.22 Village of Poplar Grove:

Not present.

2.23 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency:

Not present.

2.24 Illinois Tollway:

Ms. Anderson referred to the 2014 Illinois Tollway Capital Program where they will be investing 1.2 billion dollars of construction work system wide. It is the largest investment in monies in one year for the Tollway agency. Half of this 1.2 billion dollars will have been invested along the I-90 Corridor. Ms. Anderson referred to the I-90 overview sheets for the Western Segment. The Eastern Segment is complete and focus is now on the 37 mile of the Western Segment from Elgin Toll Plaza to I-39. By the end of this year that entire corridor from Elgin Toll Plaza to I-39 (37 miles) will be completed. Coincide with the work being done on the western segment of I-90 they will also start on the eastern segment from the Elgin Toll Plaza to the Kennedy which is a 25 mile segment of roadway. Ms. Anderson also drew attention to the Genoa Road and Irene Road Interchange Projects and provided a brief summary of these two interchange projects.

Ms. Anderson stated that the Illinois Tollway will also be introducing Smart Corridor which will feature active traffic management (ATM) through the use of high-tech gantries placed every half mile that provide real-time information to drivers.

Ms. Anderson stated by the end of this year the re-construction for this region will be completed.

2.25 IDOT, Division of Public Transportation:

Not present.

2.26 IDOT, Division of Urban Program Planning:

Mr. DeLille reported that the Illinois Bike Summit was held on Tuesday, April 15, 2014 and the State's Bike Plan has been officially released.

The 2014 IDOT Fall Planning Conference is scheduled for October 9-10, 2014 and will be held in Bloomington, Illinois.

2.27 Ogle County Highway Department:

Not present.

2.28 Boone County Council of Aging:

Not present.

2.29 State Line Area Transportation Study:

Mr. T.J. Nee introduced himself as the new Executive Director of SLATS and also introduced Jason Dupree, SLATS Planner.

2.30 Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division:

Mr. Donovan reported that MAP-21 is scheduled to expire at the end of this fiscal year which is the end of September-2014. Mr. Donovan stated that there was a bi-partisan group going around last week implicating that there had been an agreement with the principal of re-authorization but it does not include the funding aspect. It is the funding aspect which is critical.

Mr. Donovan stated that Secretary Fox has been on tour indicating that the funding amounts coming into the Highway Trust Fund does not look like it will be able to support the program through the end of September. Right now it looks like it will be the end of August where the bills will begin to exceed revenues. You can expect that policy will be put in place to slow down reimbursements which obviously has some impact on construction programs. Without action we can anticipate meaningful impact on our construction programs. As MAP-21 was being debated there was a lot of congressional concerns regarding inactive obligations which is over 5% of the nation's projects.

Mr. Donovan stated the FHWA FIRE program (Fiscal Integrity Review and Evaluation) has been able to reduce the 5% markets to 2% which has met their national goal. Bad news is Illinois' percentage is higher than that and the ugly news is that the dollars tied to those projects Illinois is worst in the nation. The ramifications of that is the Illinois FHWA division is partnering with IDOT will be much more aggressive before they target these inactive projects.

2.31 Rockford Area Economic Development Council:

Not present.

2.32 Growth Dimensions:

Not present.

2.33 Stateline Mass Transit District:

Not present.

2.34 Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning:

SAFETY PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENTS & HSIP PROGRAMS

Mr. Diipla stated that USDOT has released two (2) notices of proposed rulemaking for the Safety Performance Measurements as well as the HSIP Programs. The Safety Performance Measures notice was released on March 11, 2014 and the HSIP Program was released on March 28, 2014. Mr. Diipla stated that the four (4) areas that are being examined for the Safety Performance Measures are 1) the number of fatalities 2) rate of fatalities 3) number of serious injuries 4) rate of serious injuries. Mr. Diipla stated that IDOT Strategic Highway Plan for the two counties will definitely come into play with monitoring types of accidents within our region. It is being proposed that the data be collected and presented in five year rolling averages. The first group reports will be due in 2017 using 2012-2016 data and taking a look at trends within the region. Performance Measures will be set on a statewide level with coordination with the MPO to determine what those targets will be. The local target will feed into the statewide targets and then the national target which will be presented to USDOT. Mr. Diipla provided a brief summary on Performance Measures and what will be discussed in the coming months. IDOT's Performance Management Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to meet on Tuesday, May 6, 2014 from 11:00-1:00p in Springfield, IL. Mr. Diipla stated that he's spoken to Ms. Priscilla Tobias, IDOT Bureau of Safety Engineering to attend the June 19, 2014 Technical Committee meeting to present the final draft documents of the Winnebago County and Boone County Strategic Highway Safety Plans.

RMTD TITLE VI & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE DOCUMENT

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP has been working with RMTD on rewriting their RMTD Title VI and Environmental Justice Document. The document has been adopted by RMTD's Board and has been forwarded to FTA for their approval.

TIP FY 2015-2018

Mr. Hren stated that he is working on the annual TIP update and RMAP will be looking for a recommendation/adoption for the TIP FY 2015-2018 in July-2014. If there are new projects or any projects that need updating that would go into the TIP and receives federal funds; Mr. Hren asked members to contact him. Mr. Ernst stated that the local shares are not increasing.

ITEP

Mr. Diipla stated that ITEP announcement were released over the weekend. Awards went to the City of Loves Park for \$240,130 (Willow Creek Extension), Rockford Park District for \$261,990 (Willow Creek Trail Extension) and the City of Rockford for \$740,000 (Rails-to-Trails Over the Rock).

TAP

RMAP is intending on moving quickly in making the final decision for the awards of the local TAP funds. Since the City of Loves Park received ITEP funds the TAP funds would only be available to the other two (2) applicants for TAP funds which are the Village of Machesney Park and the City of Rockford. A TAP Review Committee is being formed and will be meeting in the next few weeks to review the remaining applications and assisting in the final project recommendations. RMAP is anticipating on a recommendation by the May or June Technical/Policy Committee meetings.

BYRON URBAN LIMITS

RMAP has received word from IDOT who is interested in having RMAP look at a proposed urban area for Byron and Stillman Valley, Illinois urban clusters. Since Byron is included in RMAP MPA, IDOT would like to have concurrence from the MPO regarding the boundary. RMAP has been provided shape files of the proposed Byron UA (from IDOT) and will be submitting a letter of concurrence stating that there were no issues with the proposed Byron urban area limits.

FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

RMAP has received word from IDOT that there were adjustments made to the Functional Classification System update that RMAP submitted but there was nothing taken off the federal aid system. In most cases most of the roadways were upgraded to a higher classification than what RMAP has listed.

TRI-STATE ALLIANCE SUMMIT

Mr. Ernst stated that the 2014 Tri-State Alliance Summit is scheduled for Friday, May 16, 2014 from 7:30a-2:00p and held at the Chicago/Rockford International Airport. RMAP would like to extend an invitation for Policy Committee members or their representatives to attend and RMAP will cover the cost of registration. Please RSVP to Christina at RMAP.

RMAP 50TH ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION

Mr. Ernst stated that RMAP's 50th Anniversary Reception will be held directly after the May 22, 2014 Technical Committee meeting which will be held at the Regional Design Center (315 North Main Street).

ADMINISTRATIVE MODIFICATIONS

Mr. Hren made members aware of a number of Administrative Modifications that have occurred since the last Technical Committee meeting which are 1) Orth Road Project 2) US20 Bypass Bridge over the Rock River 3) IL-173 Westlane Road have all come out of advance construction status. The Railroad Avenue Bridge in the City of Rockford has been granted Advance Construction status.

3. TIP AMENDMENT – RMAP RESOLUTION 2014-5:

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP Resolution 2014-5 is an amendment to the FY 2014-2017 TIP document for the City of Rockford Capital Improvements Program and items from the ITEP announcements from the State of Illinois.

Mr. Hren stated that the TIP amendment also includes ITEP projects for the City of Rockford Rails to Trails Bridge conversion over the Rock River; Willow Creek Trail extension which is a joint project between the City of Loves Park and the Rockford Park District which was awarded separately but is part of the same project out by the new Woodward facility. There is also an IDOT project on IL-76 resurfacing from the Wisconsin state line to US BUS-20 north of Belvidere and we are updating the Winnebago County Highway Department's Bell School Road funding total. The project itself is not changing its more updated cost analysis that has been recently received

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2014-5. The first motion was made by Mr. Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department; second motion was made by Mr. Carter, City of Rockford Public Works. Motion carries.

4. FTA 5307 URBANIZED AREA FORMULA PROGRAM – RMAP RESOLUTION 2014-6:

Mr. Diipla stated that as MAP-21 has been released a new circular has been put in place by FTA for the Urbanized Area Formula Program. In previous transportation bills the Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) has been listed as the designated recipient of those funds. As required by the new circular the entity that is the designated recipient for those funds must be a governmental organization that has legal capacity to disburse those funds throughout the region. Additionally a resolution stating concurrence with this selection of the designated recipient within the urbanized area is required. In following the circular getting all the documents prepared to be forwarded to IDOT and the Governor's office which will ultimately be then passed on to FTA for final approval; RMAP has prepared Resolution 2014-6 which outlines the requirements of MAP-21 for this particular funding source.

Mr. Diipla stated that this does not change how the process has taken place in the past. RMTD has always been designated recipient for the funds and has been able to allocate the monies in order to provide mass transit service within the area through capital purchases for vehicles, etc. In addition, the JARC Program which was a separate funding source has been folded in to 5307 category. This time around it has been requested that designated recipients reapply for the funds to make sure coordination is being disbursed at the local level.

Mr. Diipla stated that RMTD's Board will be putting together a letter stating their intent to apply as the designated recipient for the funds and that will be going through their board next week. The letter will then be sent down to IDOT and the Governor's Office requesting that it be included in the letter that the Governor sends to FTA.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2014-6. The first motion was made by Mr. Johnson, RMTD; second motion was made by Mr. Long, IDOT District #2. Motion carries.

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

Mr. Diipla briefly covered the FY2015 Unified Work Program and stated that RMAP will be looking for recommendation and approval of the FY2015 UWP in May-2015 and once approved it will be forwarded to IDOT/FHWA/FTA.

6. PROGRESS REPORTS ON:

6.01 NICTI Alternative Analysis:

See agenda item 6.02..

6.02 Amtrak Service to Rockford Metro Area:

Mr. Ernst reported that Governor Quinn announced a \$222 million initiative for Amtrak service from Chicago to Rockford with services to start in 2015 and construction to start this summer. A brief discussion took place regarding future Amtrak Service from Chicago to Boone & Winnebago region.

6.03 Regional Fiber Optic and Broadband:

No report.

6.04 RMAP Mobility Subcommittee:

Mr. Diipla reported that the next Mobility Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday May 13, 2014 and the discussion will be the recommendations for IDOT 5310 funding cycle. There is a statewide pool and RMAP also received local funds through MAP-21. Applications are due into IDOT by May 30, 2014. IDOT applications will be used for both funding sources.

6.05 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs):

Mr. Ernst stated that the Department of Commerce is investing in Manufacturing in Communities Partnership. Rockford has two entities that qualify and the RAEDC has been working on the applications for a four county application.

6.06 Regional School Planning:

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP continues to work with the Rockford School District #205 in providing mapping needs.

6.07 Strategic Highway Safety Plan:

Mr. Diipla asked that any and all comments regarding the Strategic Highway Safety Plan be submitted as soon as possible.

7. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Zuroske stated that the City of Rockford is required to update their Consolidated Plan and they will be hosting a series of Public Input Sessions from April 21-April 24 at various locations and times.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Zuroske, City of Rockford Public Works and seconded by Mr. Bragg, Rockford Park District. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.