



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, September 18, 2014**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dan Long, IDOT District #2; Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway; Jeremy Carter, City of Rockford 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; Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development; Stacy Bernardi, Winnebago County Planning & Economic Development Department; Kathy Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; Brent Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works; Emily Roen, Village of Roscoe; Tom Hartley, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District; Michael Peterson, Boone County Conservation District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** City of Loves Park Public Works, Village of Cherry Valley, Boone County Highway Department, Village of Winnebago, RRWRD, 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; T.J. Nee, SLATS; Pankaj Mahajan, First Rockford Group; 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 AUGUST 21, 2014 RMAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**  
Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the August 21, 2014 Technical Committee minutes as amended. Ms. Washington stated that Mr. Vlk’s requested a correction regarding Baxter/Lindenwood intersection has been made and are reflected in the printed copies that are available for today’s Technical Committee meeting. First motion made to approve by Mr. Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford Community Development, second motion made by Mr. Wayne Vlk, Winnebago County Highway Department. Motion carried.

**2. AGENCY REPORTS:  
2.01 Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2:**

Mr. Long reported that US-20 over the Rock River has the deck pour scheduled for tomorrow. Continue to use alternate routes. IL-173 from Alpine to Rock Cut has switched traffic over to Stage II. The eastbound work is underway but they are still a month behind.

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Chairman Scott H. Christiansen Winnebago County, RMAP Chair	Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg City of Loves Park	Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey City of Rockford	Gary L. Marzorati, Board Chair Rockford Mass Transit District
Mayor Mike Chamberlain City of Belvidere, RMAP Vice-Chair	Mayor Jerry Bolin Village of Machesney Park	Chairman Bob Walberg Boone County	Deputy Director Paul Loete Illinois Department of Transportation Region 2

US-20 Westbound under Perryville Road for pavement patching has been completed.

IL-2 at Roscoe Road is scheduled to start on November 1, 2014 with tree removal. They hope to get the temporary widening done before the season is over.

West State Street is pretty much done aside from some punch list items.

IL-2 South Main has switched to Stage II and the traffic is on the new pavement.

BUS-20 from Fairview to American Drive has ten (10) days left of surface course and about a week of pavement marking left.

I-39 Southbound ramp over US-20 still has one (1) patch left to do. Traffic control layout is under review for the one night pavement patch operation.

IL-75 culvert near Winslow Road has been completed.

IL-251 Harrison Avenue to Kishwaukee Street resurfacing has the east/west legs underway and should be completed this fall. The north/south legs will be done next spring.

BUS-20 Springfield to Day Avenue surface course should be completed this week with pavement markings starting the following week.

IL-251 project is milling and resurfacing; that section is underway from Forest Hills to IL-173. The other half of the project which is Harlem Road and that goes to Perryville to McFarland and that should be starting up in the next couple of weeks.

#### **2.02 Winnebago County Highway Department:**

Mr. Vlk reported that they have gone out to bid for their traffic signal maintenance and only received one (1) bidder which was too high so they were rejected. They intend to rebid in late October.

Baxter/Lindenwood Road intersection also went out to bid and the one bidder they received was also rejected. They are intending to package this intersection improvement with Harrisville/Baxter intersection improvement and with their Baxter Road from Route 39 to Mulford Road; three (3) lane expansion as one (1) contractual package next year.

The 911 Memorial Parking lot construction project continues.

The Perryville Path southeast connection paving is anticipated to be completed by the end of this week.

They are continuing to look at the Bell School Road/Guilford Road intersection traffic signals to see if they can do any tweaking.

Next year they are anticipating on replacing the Cunningham Road Bridge over the south branch of Kent Creek. The large Bell School Road project, essentially from north of Mill Road to Argus through the State Street intersection at Phase I work continues.

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

Mr. Carter reported that the Auburn Road resurfacing is anticipated to start next week.

The neighborhood programs are winding down for the year.

Next week they anticipate on starting the removal of six (6) traffic signals throughout the city. Warrant analysis has been completed and they no longer warrant these six (6) signals. They have put signs up, shut the signals down and put stop signs up for about the last sixty (60) days and have monitored them and have had no accidents so they are moving forward with removing signals that are no longer warranted.

#### **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:**

Mr. Lindberg thanked everyone involved in the Falcon Road project which is finally underway.

Mr. Lindberg stated that they were fortunate to get the final phase funding for the repaving of the north south runway which was going to be carried over into the next construction season but they were able to obtain the funding. It is anticipated to have the project completed by mid-November.

A month ago it was announced that AR Corporation will be building a large maintenance facility at the airport. The demolition of the two (2) hangers on that present site will begin this fall with the side work and construction to start next spring.

Rock Valley broke ground a month and half ago and their new \$5 million facility is underway. They anticipate the building to be erected and closed in before the winter season. The first classes are scheduled to begin next fall.

They are wrapping a fencing project which replaced eight (8) miles of ten (10) foot fencing around the airport and is almost completed.

Spring 2015 the construction for the first phase of the terminal expansion project will begin.

**2.07 Rockford Mass Transit District:**

Mr. Johnson reported that in the beginning of September-2014 RMTD hosted the Illinois Public Transportation Association conference. It was a very successful event.

Beginning October 4, 2014 the Eastside Transfer Center will be open Saturdays from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

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

Mr. Bruck reported that they are working on a couple of plans; their Comprehensive Plan and the City Beautification Plan which is both anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

**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:**

No report.

**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:**

No report.

**2.15 Village of Roscoe:**

No report.

**2.16 Village of Winnebago:**

Not present.

**2.17 Rock River Water Reclamation District:**

Not present.

**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 they continue to look at the proposed School District #205 school sites, the ones slated for closure and how those will impact the neighborhood parks.

The Rockford Park District will hold a grand opening at Alpine Hills Adventure Park on September 24, 2014 at 4:00pm for their Zip Line Tours.

**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:**

Not present.

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

Not present.

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

Not present.

**2.27 Ogle County Highway Department:**

Not present.

**2.28 Boone County Council of Aging:**

Not present.

**2.29 State Line Area Transportation Study:**

No report.

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

Not present.

**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:**

Mr. Diipla reported that the notice of proposed rule-making for planning was released from USDOT; RMAP has provided comments.

RMAP sent out a news release on August 28, 2014 announcing that the Village of Machesney Park was awarded the regionally allocated TAP funds to implement the North Alpine Road Shared-Use Path.

RMAP will be holding Public Open Houses for the RMAP 2040 Long Range Transportation Plan as follows:

- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from 11:00a-2:00p and held at the Village of Machesney Park Village Hall.
- Tuesday, September 23, 2014 from 4:00p-7:00p and held at the Boone County Administration building.
- Wednesday, September 24, 2014 from 11:00a-5:00p and held at the Regional Design Center.

Mr. Hren reported that there have been several Administrative Modifications to the TIP. The advance construction status on three (3) projects have been removed; Railroad Avenue Bridge #3-14-38, US BUS-20 from Springfield to Day #1-14-14, IL-251 resurfacing from Kishwaukee Street just east of 9th Street #1-14-12.

Not regarding advance construction there is another Administrative Modification to the TIP regarding project #2-15-1 De Garmo Trailhead at the intersection of US-20 and Hoisington Road. The project was initially listed at \$160,000 in recreational trail program funding, that number is now correctly listed at \$151,600. The total of the project has not changed so the remainder has been made up by the local allocation to that project.

Mr. Ernst reported that it was announced this morning that HUD released a NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for a billion dollar competitive program for the 2014 National Disaster Resilience Competition. Only communities that were declared national disasters in the last three (3) years are eligible. In many cases the allocation will come through the state. In Illinois the City of Chicago, Cook County and Dupage County can apply separately. Any other community's in Illinois has to apply through the state of Illinois for that competition. Mr. Ernst stated that he thinks that this is implementation funds and not planning funds but he will continue to research.

### **3. REQUEST FROM THE CITY OF ROCKFORD TO AMEND THE US BUS-20 (E. STATE ST.) ACCESS MANAGEMENT PLAN – RESOLUTION 2014-10:**

Mr. Diipla stated that this item was requested by the City of Rockford and asked Mr. Jeremy Carter to provide more details.

Mr. Carter stated that the City of Rockford has been working with the First Rockford Group and IDOT on access to a vacant parcel on the southeast corner of US BUS-20 and Mulford Road. The City of Rockford has submitted a letter to IDOT of their support for the access. The requested access is no different than the access that was granted to the retail store on the northwest corner. Mr. Carter stated that it is relatively the same type of access and layout and that there has been no accident history at this location. Because there has been a previously adopted access management plan, IDOT asked that RMAP lend its support on this request. Mr. Carter asked Mr. Pankaj Mahajan from First Rockford Group to provide more details on the access request and answer any questions members may have.

Mr. Pankaj Mahajan stated that Mulford and E. State Street is a very important intersection for commercial development for the Rockford community. This previous parcel was occupied by the Royal Dragon which has been shut down for 6-8 years now and was acquired by First Rockford Group several years ago. First Rockford Group contacted the neighboring commercial parcel owned by Simon Property Group and asked if they would grant them access to the shopping center. Simon Property Group denied the request and First Rockford Group would have to go to every tenant to receive the cross access along with a \$600,000 fee and Simon Property Group would possibly consider the request. Mr. Mahajan stated without this access into the shopping center it was commercially non-feasible to do anything. After the development of the retail stores at the northwest property of Mulford/E. State Street, First Rockford decided to begin the discussion with the City of Rockford and IDOT on the request for a right in/right out access off of E. State Street. This is a prime intersection but unfortunately they are not able to get any tenants with just the access off of Mulford Road. Mr. Mahajan stated that the City of Rockford is supporting this request and would also like the support of RMAP.

Mr. Diipla stated that in response to the request RMAP has drafted Resolution 2014-10 which provides a letter of support from the City of Rockford and a little history regarding the Access Management Plan along US BUS-20 as well as the request that has been submitted on behalf of the City of Rockford and First Rockford Group.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the right in/right out access request.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of RMAP Resolution 2014-10. The first motion was made by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport; second motion was made by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere. Let the record reflect that there were thirteen (13)-Aye, Winnebago County Forest Preserve District-Nay and IDOT-Abstained. Motion carries.

**4. TIP AMENDMENT – RESOLUTION 2014-11:**

Mr. Hren stated that IDOT requested this TIP amendment for project #1-15-3 which is an I-39 resurfacing project from Lee County line to 0.4 miles north of Baxter Road. The funding totals need to be updated to thirty (30) million which is twenty seven (27) million in NHPP funds and three (3) million of state funds. The funding amounts are being changed to increase the resurfacing thickness, update the mix design and add a guard rail to the project.

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to approve the recommendation of Resolution 2014-4. The first motion was made by Ms. Miller, Belvidere/Boone County Regional Planning Department; second motion was made by Mr. Anderson, City of Belvidere Public Works. Motion carries.

**5. 2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (LRTP):**

Mr. Diipla stated that as part of the ongoing process of updating the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), RMAP is bringing forward different topics each month to discuss and review with the Technical members. Last month Performance Measures was discussed and this month is Passenger Rail, Freight, Urban Goods Movement and Linkages to the airport. Mr. Diipla asked Mr. Ernst to proceed with his presentation.

Mr. Ernst stated that there are several studies currently in the region

- Rail Planning & Engineering Study
- Great Lakes Basin Belt Railroad
- IDOT Rail Plan
- Union Station Master Plan
- Super Commuter Study
- O'Hare Western Access
- CONRAC
- New Amtrak Route on UP (\$223 million)
- Cross Rail Chicago
- Star Line
- Nippon Sharyo – Rochelle
- FHWA Primary Freight Network
- IDOT Freight Mobility Plan
- RMAP Freight Plan
- State Transportation Plan

Mr. Ernst provided a presentation which focused on the passenger rail, freight, urban goods movement and linkages to the airport.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding rail to the region and connectivity solutions needed to access O'Hare Airport which is a key component for rail to succeed in the region.

**6. RMAP REGIONAL MAP:**

Mr. Diipla stated that RMAP has been working on developing a RMAP Regional Transportation Map. This shows all the transportation facilities within the two county area as well as smaller inset maps for the individual municipalities. Mr. Diipla asked Mr. Colin Belle to provide more details.

Mr. Belle stated that this map is similar to the Greenways Map in plan but was more focused on transportation, truck routes and functional classification. Mr. Belle stated that RMAP had noticed that there was not a good two county map that was easy to understand and use. This is the reason for the creation of the RMAP Regional Transportation Map. Mr. Belle provided a brief summary on the aspects of the RMAP Regional Transportation Map. Mr. Belle stated that RMAP will be producing these maps in house and is looking for comments and suggestions.

**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 the next RMAP Mobility meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 14, 2014 at 10:00a and held at the RMTD Eastside Transfer Center.

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

No report.

**7.06 Regional School Planning:**

No report.

**7.07 Strategic Highway Safety Plan:**

Mr. Diipla reported that RMAP is waiting for the link to the updated strategic plan for Boone & Winnebago Counties which the IDOT Bureau of Safety Engineering presented on August 19, 2014.

**7.08 Boone & Winnebago Greenways Plan:**

No report.

**8. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Diipla stated that October is National Planning Month and he, Mr. Nathan Bruck and Mr. David Sidney are currently working on a meet and greet planning event for the last week of October. Mr. Diipla will provide more details as they arise.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Long stated that IDOT is holding a Public Meeting for their Multi-Year Program on Monday, September 22, 2014 from 4:00-6:00p and held at IDOT District #2 Office located at 819 Depot Avenue, Dixon, IL.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Diipla entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Mr. Lindberg, Chicago/Rockford International Airport and seconded by Mr. Capovilla. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m. with a unanimous voice vote.