



ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES / Tuesday, April 17, 2018
(Regional Design Center, 315 N. Main Street, Rockford)

Attendees: Carm Herman, Barbara Olson Center for Hope; Mark Pentecost, Belvidere Park District; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department; Jessica Irons, I Bike Rockford; DJ Wilson, Rockford Fur Bandits/I Bike Rockford; Bill Grahn, Milestone, Inc.; Kim Zimmerman, NCICG; Nathan Hamman, OSF Healthcare; Ed Barsotti Ride Illinois; Michael Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District; Mike Mapes, Rockford Road Runners; Sharon Hecox, Stateline Mass Transit District; Don Daniels, Swedish American; John Strandin, The Workforce Connection; Meredith Stoll, Wesley Willows; Julie Sterling, Winnebago County Health Department; Alan Zais, Winnebago County Housing Authority; Kay Telander, Davita Dialysis Services; Colin Belle, Jon Paul Diipla, Brandon Geber, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

1. INTRODUCTIONS:

Attendees introduced themselves.

2. PURPOSE & ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE:

Mr. Diipla introduced the Regional Planning Council structure and functions within the organization, as well as the function of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The MPO is an entity that carries out the federally-required short- and long-term transportation planning for the adjusted urbanized portions of Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago Counties. He briefly mentioned the funding sources received by the MPO to carry out transportation planning.

Ms. Turner discussed the role/purpose of the Alternative Transportation Committee; how this committee fits into the MPO committee structure. She went on to discuss the development of the committee including the types of agencies that would hopefully serve on the committee, as well as the intended number of the members on the committee (10-20).

Working groups under the Alternative Transportation Committee were also discussed. The model for the working group is structured similarly to how Region 1 Planning Council's Environmental Committee, which has been working well. Three working groups would be initial formed: Active Transportation, Access Advisory, and Mobility. The active transportation working group would focus on projects, plans, and funding related to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan for the Rockford Metropolitan Area, initiatives related to bicycle and pedestrian planning and facilities, and the evaluation and recommendation of Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside eligible projects. The Access Advisory working group would provide advice and recommendations to improve accessibility, and identify accessibility needs and issues to new and existing transportation programs and plans as it relates to ADA.

Mr. Diipla lead a discussion on the history of the Mobility Subcommittee and its role in the development and implementation of the Coordinated Public Transit - Human Surface Transportation Plan (HSTP), the federally required document that addresses these issues. Moving forward the Mobility Subcommittee will be folded into Alternative Transportation Committee. The Mobility working group will address public transportation issues, new projects that may have not been pursued in the past, examine projects as outlined in the HSTP, and work towards the implementation of the goals of the HSTP.

Ms. Turner explained the expectations of the members of the Alternative Transportation Committee, including attendance at quarterly meetings and serving on one of the working groups. More information was provided in the presentation.

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3. QUESTIONS:

A question was asked about which of the working groups have met so far and what can we expect out of each of them? Ms. Turner reply: Only the mobility subcommittee has met thus far. The Access Advisory Working Group will focus on ADA components. While the Active Transportation Working Group will focus bicycle and pedestrian issues. There are federally required topic areas and funding sources that will be discussed by specific working groups. However, other topics may be brought to the working groups and the committee-of-the-whole to be researched by this group or the Alternative Transportation Committee can make a request to the Policy committee to include additional topic into the MPO's planning process.

A question was asked about if an existing structure or form this committee will follow? Mr. Diipala replied that, yes, we will follow the recommendation as outline in the HSTP and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Once the committee is formally adopted by the Policy Committee, we can decide the topics we want to focus on and as needs are identified by the ATC they would be discussed as a group and see how they may be incorporated into the overall planning process moving forward. Ms. Turner added that one of the goals of forming this Committee is to identify additional issues and concerns in the community and how as a region they can be addressed.

Mr. Stubbe added that this group and the previous Mobility Subcommittee meetings have been invaluable to help with the coordination of addressing public transportation issues and has been very beneficial to Rockford Mass Transit District. These meeting help to align everyone on the same page and increases the regions efficiency. A balance of bike, transit, and vehicular trips in the area is important to an equitable transportation system.

A question was asked if this group would assist in the review of upcoming road projects, through the Surface Transportation Program or Capital Improvement Programs, to identify if alternative transportation elements/complete streets have been addressed. Ms. Turner replied that in the long term, that could be a role of this committee, if implementing partner agencies and the MPO Policy and Technical Committees are supportive of the idea.

A question was asked about how members would join the working groups. Ms. Turner replied that members would get to choose the working groups they would like to serve on.

4. NEXT STEPS:

Ms. Turner explained that for the Alternative Transportation Committee to be officially formed as a committee of the MPO there will need to be a recommendation from our the MPO Technical Committee, and then adopted by MPO Policy Committee. Once the committee has been adopted into the structure of the MPO, the Alternative Transportation will then need to adopt a chair and vice-chair, as well as bylaws.

Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.

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