



**RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE**  
MEETING MINUTES / Wednesday, August 23, 2017  
(Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main Street, Rockford)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Chairman Frank Haney, Winnebago County; Mayor Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Greg Jury, City of Loves Park; Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County; Mr. Todd Cagnoni, City of Rockford; Mr. Ahmed Masood, IDOT District #2; Mr. Steve Ernst, RMTD.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** All present.

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael P. Dunn, Jr., Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Colin Belle, Sydney Turner, Anna Ma, Ben Rohr, Thomas Bona, Ivy Hood, Marlana Dokken, RIPC; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Department; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park; Dan Jacobson, Steve Thompson, City of Loves Park Public Works; Doug DeLille, IDOT Program & Planning; John Donahue, North Park Water; Dr. Jensen, Dave Costello, Rock Valley College.

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Chamberlain with a quorum present at 10:04 AM.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT & PETITIONS:**

Mayor Chamberlain thanked everyone for attending today's RMAP Policy Committee meeting and hopes that the new day, time change and permanent meeting location at the Regional Design Center for the monthly RMAP Policy Committee meetings work for all the member's schedule going forward.

Mayor Chamberlain stated that as we've assembled this idea of a Regional Planning Commission now is the time that we move in that direction as fast as we can and deliberately working together and finding out how we can push that agenda. Our personal and local economies can be driven forward by cooperation, better use of resources, asset sharing and by willing to take chances that we haven't taken in the past.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 20, 2017 RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion to approve the July 20, 2017 RMAP Policy Committee meeting minutes was made by the Village of Machesney Park seconded by the City of Loves Park. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).

**4. GENERAL PRESENTATIONS:**

**7-2-1 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PIPELINE PLANNING**

Dr. Doug Jensen, Rock Valley College President provided the RVC 7-2-1 Workforce Development Pipeline Planning presentation. Dr. Jensen stated that Rockford's current and future economic development success is dependent on the education and credentialing of the local workforce. We must aggressively and strategically help our workforce acquire the skills employers seek in order to expand and diversify the regional economy.

Fortunately, our region has a workforce development network with highly-engaged stakeholders committed to meeting these challenges.

The 7:2:1: Linking Talent with Opportunity Imperative addressed the role Rock Valley College plays in preparing the workforce so critical to the regional economy. This proposal provides data-supported recommendations and specific strategies designed to address workforce development needs. Rock Valley College stands ready to collaborate with political, education, and business leaders to meet the challenges of providing better jobs for citizens, developing talent for the business community, and improving economic development for the region.

If we want to have a strong community we need to have a strong workforce, and if we want a strong workforce we need to have a strong economy, and if we want to have a strong economy we need to have a strong community. RVC is uniquely positioned to help shape all three of those critical components for building sustainable communities.

### **Investing in our Workforce**

1. Cultivate partnerships
  - Implement a modified “talent supply chain” approach.
2. Create pathways to completion
  - Design program of study with:
    - 1) Clear and defined steps to completion.
    - 2) Student-centric services and support.
    - 3) College-readiness curriculum that attracts and engages K-12 students.
3. Build capacity
  - Focus on execution of a clear goal; reinforce a culture of commitment; acquire and provide resources to accomplish the mission.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

#### **#1: CULTIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

Much can be accomplished through this collaborative, systemic approach, including:

- Identifying and removing obstacles to increase flexibility and innovation, allowing for responsive and customizable results.
- Growing public awareness and support.
- Sharing costs as well as the responsibility for the outcome that will enable alignment of talent and opportunity to produce a graduates-to-jobs pipeline and widen the tunnel of students to programs, providing gainful employment in high-priority occupations.
- Collaborating on curriculum and pathway design that will provide alignment with real-world applications, ensuring a ready-to-work graduate.
- Creating “Earn and Learn” pathways through public/private partnerships (ex: apprenticeships, internships, etc.)
- Monitoring and sharing data that will provide a measureable evaluation of success and a basis on which future decisions can be made for continuous improvements and adjustments.
- Increasing skilled labor supply and demand equilibrium in critical occupations.

## #2: CREATE PATHWAYS TO COMPLETION

- Manage student expectations by clearly defining the program trajectory and requirements, and allowing for comprehensive planning for work/school/life balance, thus reducing attrition.
- Provide multiple delivery platforms suited to various learning styles.
- Provide industry-recognized, stackable credentials aligning with specific employment outcomes, providing encouragement to continue education.
- Partner with businesses to find creative solutions to financial barriers, including grants, scholarships, employment incentives, apprenticeships, and other “earn-while-you-learn” programs.
- Partner with regional K-12 institutions to design, develop, and implement career pathway educational delivery system.
- Partner with The Workforce Connection and other community-based organizations to provide additional support for other needs, reducing the distractions and barriers to completion (transportation, housing, daycare, etc.).
- Employ best practices in the retention/completion state and national agenda.

## #3. BUILD CAPACITY

- Aligning educational institutions to ensure access to all citizens and by creating a flagship community college and education network in our workforce region to provide local oversight and leadership responsive to economic influencers.
- Investing in updating facilities capable of delivering the required programs, classrooms, laboratories, equipment, and student support services in a way that is conducive to access and flexibility.
- Providing for a world-class advanced technology training center within commuting distance of every citizen in the RVC district.
- Investing in state-of-the-art equipment mirroring the real world applications to prepare ready-to-work employees.

The 7:2:1: Linking Talent with Opportunity Imperative is a multi-faceted approach that requires both financial and intellectual contributions from regional partners. Buy-in and support from leaders of business and industry, education, and government will be necessary to meet our goals of building strong, sustainable communities.

## RPC STRATEGIES FOR TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Mr. Bona provided a brief summary on CEDS and how it relates to the region. Mr. Bona provided a brief presentation regarding RPC Strategies for Technical Support and how this relates to the

## 5. PROGRESS REPORTS:

Mr. Dunn thanked Chairman Johnson and Haney for the resolution by state statute has been approved by Winnebago and Boone County which includes the bylaws of the RPC which includes WinGIS.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNER

Economic Development Planner has been hired; Jay Fieser and starts on September 11, 2017.

## METROPOLITAN PLANNING COUNCIL

Mr. Dunn and Chairman Haney attended the Transform Illinois meeting which was held by the Metropolitan Planning Council at CMAP last week.

**TIP**

FY2018-FY2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) adoption is scheduled to be on the September agenda for the Policy Committee to consideration and approval.

**STAFF UPDATE:**

- Colin Belle, is representing the RIPC on a national level at an upcoming REMI webinar
- Ben Rohr is holding a public participation event tonight at Boone County Fire station regarding the Boone County Comprehensive Plan.
- Marlana Dokken provided a brief summary on the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Agency (ICJIA) project and one of the focuses such as zero deterrence model.
- Jon Paul Diipla provided a brief summary of the current FY18-FY21 TIP which is in the Public comment stage and is anticipated for adoption at the September-2017 meeting. Mr. Diipla attended an FTA workshop last week which focused on Performance Measures and collaboratively working with RMTD.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**7. ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, Boone County made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Approved unanimously (8-0). The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 AM.