

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

POLICY COMMITTEE

*Mayor Lawrence J. Morrissey, City of Rockford
Mayor Darryl F. Lindberg, City of Loves Park
Board Chairman Scott H. Christiansen, Winnebago County
President Linda M. Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park
Mayor Frederic C. Brereton, City of Belvidere
Board Chairman Susan L. Anderson, Boone County
Deputy Director Gregory L. Mounts, Illinois Department of
Transportation, Region 2*

RATS POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES January 26, 2006

MEMBERS PRESENT: Darryl Lindberg, City of Loves Park; Linda Vaughn, Village of Machesney Park; Fred Brereton, City of Belvidere; Susan Anderson, Boone County; Ross Monk, IDOT-District 2, William Bittner, City of Rockford; Steve Chapman, Winnebago County.

OTHERS PRESENT: Dave Taylor, County of Boone; Sharon Durbin, IDOT Springfield; Joe Vanderwerff Sr., Winnebago County Highway Department; Maria Hawley, HCCNI; Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park; Arianne Clarke, City of Rockford, RATS staff.

1. Call to order, roll call and representation:

With all agencies in attendance, Chairman Lindberg called the meeting to order at 1:24 p.m.

There were no minutes to approve, however Mr. Gary McIntyre indicated minutes for November 17, 2005 were on the City's website. A discussion ensued over what documents were expected in the mail and which were only posted on the website. Printed copies of September and November minutes will be mailed.

2. Communications:

Mr. Gary McIntyre discussed three grant applications sent to Springfield; Boone County submitted a grant for Popular Grove Road, Winnebago County submitted an application for a planner, and City of Rockford submitted one for ITS deployment.

Mr. McIntyre also distributed a guide for locating the RATS website.

3. Approval of minutes of the September 29, 2005 RATS Policy Committee meetings:

There were no minutes to approve.

4. RATS Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) for FY-2006 to FY-2008: RATS Resolution 2006-1:

Ms. Hayes Morrison discussed three changes in resolution 2006-1 that is a resolution to the TIP, indicated below.

- 1) \$1 million in fund 5339 to study the potential for commuter transportation between the Greater Chicagoland region and Rockford. This is a continuation of the feasibility study done in 2004 through NICRI.

- 2) 5307 apportionments for RMTD went from \$2.2 million to \$2.3 million through new safety legislation.
- 3) \$96,140 in 5309 funds to continue with the alternatives analysis for the Metro West line Extension from Elgin to Rockford.

Mayor Fred Brereton made a motion to adopt RATS Resolution 2006-1. The motion was seconded by Ms. Susan Anderson and approved unanimously without any changes or corrections.

5. RATS Surface Transportation Program-Urban (STU) Funds: RATS Resolution 2006-2

Mr. Steve Ernst presented a summary of MPO funding information researched for Illinois and surrounding states. Using this information, Mr. Ernst was able to explain the cause for lack of funding for Illinois MPO's, including resolution 92-4 passed by Illinois MPO's, and the State of Illinois not utilizing discretionary money afforded them by Federal Guidelines.

Mr. Ernst mentioned he presented his finding at the annual Fall Planning Conference held for MPO's in Chicago last fall, and has since had a meeting with CATS and has been asked to present his findings to the Peoria Technical Committee. Mr. Ernst continued to state he planned to send this presentation to other Illinois MPO's if this resolution passed.

Resolution 2006-2 rescinds resolution 92-4 and encourages Illinois MPO's to work together to determine a new funding formula. Ms. Susan Anderson made a motion to adopt RATS resolution 2006-2. The motion was seconded by Mr. William Bittner and approved unanimously without any changes or corrections.

6. IL 173 Corridor Plan: IL 251 to Boone County Line

Mr. Gary McIntyre summarized correspondence received from Mr. Ross Monk regarding access points primarily along 173 east of IL-251 and west of Burden Road. Mr. Monk plans to meet with Machesney Park to review the corridor plan before presenting a motion to this committee.

7. Progress Reports On:

7.1 - Winnebago County Smart Growth

Project is ongoing.

7.2 - Springfield Corridor Planning Study

The final report is in progress.

7.3 - NICRI Commuter Rail Alternative Analysis

Ms. Hayes Morrison stated that during the NICRI meeting on January 25th, the final draft of the RFQ was approved and sent to RMTD for review. Final comments from RMTD are due by February 6th, with the finalized RFQ approved by NICRI on February 10th.

7.4 - Expansion of RATS Technical Committee

Mr. Steve Ernst commented on the potential agency participation list presented to the Technical Committee. Rockford Area Economic Development Council (EDC) has already expressed interest in participating, and Mr. Ernst believed Growth Dimensions will also wish to participate. Technical Committee approved the list without alterations. RATS staff will begin sending invitations to the listed agencies for participation in RATS meetings. Mr. Ernst mentioned many of the agencies will participate in issue-oriented meetings rather than every meeting.

7.5 - RMTD East Side Transfer Center

No report.

7.6 - IL 173 Corridor Planning Study (by Machesney Park)

Project is ongoing.

7.7 - RATS 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan

Mr. Steve Ernst stated this plan is complete and offered printed and digital copies to those present. This item will be removed from the next agenda

7.8 – RATS Environmental Justice & Title VI DRAFT Report

The draft of this document was begun in September 2003, and has now been updated. This document will be available for public comment until the next Technical Committee meeting.

7.9 – RATS Bicycle – Pedestrian Study

A draft version of the scope of work was submitted to the Technical Committee for comments. Upon final approval, the RFQ bid will be opened around April 3rd. There are three phases to this project. The first is an inventory of our existing highway/street network system and come up with a recommended system for on-street bicycle lanes or bicycle routes, along with off-street shared use path facilities. This study looks at the on-street facilities we currently have and try to determine what we can have on the street if we connect the off-street paths.

The next phase looks at the current land use/subdivision ordinances and how to make those ordinances more bicycle user friendly from a development standpoint, which includes site plan review.

The final phase looks at integration with the busses and bicycle program. RMTD is strongly encouraging this merging. This final phase is a long-term phase. This may include critical stops for the bicycles, and bike racks on the front of the busses.

Mr. McIntyre suggested the first phase to be immediately implemented, from one to three years. The second phase lasting a little longer, 4-7 years, while the last phase to be long term.

8. Other Business

Mr. McIntyre stated he is in the early stages of developing the UWP. A draft will be available for review at the March meeting, with a final ready by May.

Mr. McIntyre mentioned STU allocations in the amount of \$1.78 million was received. This amount is slightly lower than last year.

Mr. Ernst discussed a request from a national organization dedicated to increasing freight rail investment. This organization requested the opportunity to make a presentation to this committee, however the agenda was already distributed. Instead Mr. Ernst passed around information from the organization which was requesting support, either personally or through committee members' agencies. Mr. Ernst stated RATS does not take a stand on this issue.

9. Adjournment

At 2:10 P.M., with no further business to conduct, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mayor Lindberg. The motion was seconded by Mayor Brereton and approved unanimously.