

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
JANUARY 8, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Frank Koehler, Dave Bergdahl, Rich Howell, Ralph Paarlberg, Dennis Peters, Mike Spilsbury, and Lisa Dugan

Others:

Mike Lammey, Delbert Skimerhorn, and Eric Sadler, Kankakee County; Clay Evers, IDOT, Ed Barsotti, League of Illinois Bicyclists, John Haley, Kankakee Community College, and Keith Mulholland, Tyson Engineering.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. All attendees introduced themselves.

LEAGUE OF ILLINOIS BICYCLISTS PRESENTATION

Chairman Koehler announced that the order of the Agenda was being altered so that Mr. Barsotti could make his presentation at the beginning, and so that he and representatives from Kankakee Community College and Tyson Engineering could meet privately through the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Barsotti made a presentation on Bicycle and Pedestrian Level of Service Measures. He explained the purpose and goals of the League of Illinois Bicyclists, the concept of level of service for bicycles and pedestrians, and offered the assistance of the organization.

Chairman Koehler thanked Mr. Barsotti for his time, and explained the limited resources of the Kankakee MPO.

Mr. Paarlberg asked about accident data for bike facilities on their own right-of-way as opposed to those riding in traffic. Mr. Barsotti replied that the rate for riding in traffic is actually less, and stated his belief that cars from side streets and businesses are not used to having to stop once before they get to the street curb, and aren't ready for a conflict before that point.

Mr. Bergdahl asked about the fees for providing consulting assistance, and Mr. Barsotti stated

that it depended upon the amount of time invested, and that the organization had done some free work in the past.

Mr. Howell stated that the presentation should have been made to the MPO, and Chairman Koehler stated that he agreed, and would pass that view along to the MPO.

MINUTES

Mr. Howell moved approval of the November 13, 2003 Minutes, and Ms. Dugan seconded. Unanimous vote.

REORGANIZATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

Mr. Howell moved that the current slate of Chairman and Vice-Chairman (Mr. Koehler and Mr. Bergdahl, respectively) be nominated to serve another year. Ms. Dugan seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

CORRIDOR STUDY – 6000 N ROAD/WARNER BRIDGE ROAD/CORRIDOR PRESERVATION STUDY

Mr. Lammey stated that presentations have been made to all available Planning Commissions. He stated that for a number of reasons, the Planning Commissions of Rockville and Manteno Townships have not been available, but that staff will attend when there is an opportunity. He stated that there was support expressed at each meeting, but that the form of that support was the issue. He stated that Chairman Koehler had asked for a sample letter of support, but that staff had not yet put together such a letter. Chairman Koehler stated that he would meet with Mr. Van Mill and Mr. Lammey and develop such a sample letter of support.

EXTENSION OF CORRIDOR STUDY CONTRACT FOR RIGHT-OF-WAY PRESERVATION

Mr. Lammey stated that the reaction from the meeting in Bradley to the concept of right-of-way preservation has led the Planning Commission to request an opinion from the States Attorney's office on this issue.

AIRPORT UPDATE

Mr. Lammey stated that the November Regional Planning Commission which focused on the Airport issue was well received. He stated his concern that the merging of the Airport Subcommittee into the Transportation Subcommittee has not been completely successful. Chairman Koehler stated that he wanted to discuss this issue with Mr. Van Mill, as well.

Mr. Lammey stated that a number of Subcommittee members attended the Scoping meeting on December 3, and asked for their views on the meeting. Chairman Koehler stated that he made his individual views known at the evening session. Mr. Paarlberg stated that he had attended the evening session, as well. Mr. Lammey stated that the afternoon meeting was the first time he had heard the Peotone, Beecher and Crete groups state that they knew the airport was coming,

but they wanted to make sure that their individual issues were known and handled. Mr. Bergdahl agreed that the opinions have changed dramatically in the recent past.

Chairman Koehler stated that the intervention of the Congressman Jackson group into the airport issue has brought new life into the issue, and has led local individuals to conclude that two groups fighting to see who will build the airport makes continued opposition fruitless.

Ms. Dugan stated that she had attended a meeting for legislators, and that the plans presented by Congressman Jackson's group were very far along, and that she was surprised by how detailed those plans were. Mr. Evers stated that the airport issue was consuming a great deal of time by IDOT personnel.

METRA FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Lammey stated that a contract between IDOT and Kankakee County was signed in June. Since that time, the Task Force has selected a consultant to perform the study, and a draft contract has been developed. He stated that IDOT has determined that the two contracts need to be linked, and is rewriting the draft contract. He stated that the January meeting of the Task Force might need to be delayed until February, because he did not believe that IDOT will complete the rewrite of the contract.

WASHINGTON AVENUE CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Lammey invited the members to the Public Meeting for the study on January 22, from 4 to 8 P.M. to be held at Bradley Village Hall.

AMTRAK LETTER

Chairman Koehler stated that the letter from Pam Gurney was to the point and stated that Amtrak service to and from Chicago was not dependable enough to use for meetings in Chicago. Mr. Lammey stated that it was a view that many have come to, and thought that the Subcommittee should know that it exists.

6000 N ROAD INTERCHANGE

Mr. Lammey stated that a representative from IDOT informed staff of the progress of the application of the Interchange. He stated that we now have a name of a contact person from IDOT, and that we know the point we are in the process.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date will be March 18, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Spilsbury moved adjournment, Mr. Peters seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 11:11 A.M.