

**POLICY COMMITTEE**  
**KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)**  
**METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)**  
**MINUTES**  
**JANUARY 25, 2006**

**POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Mayor Grimsley	Aroma Park
Mayor Latham	Bourbonnais
Mayor Green	Kankakee
Mayor Kent	Bradley
Mr. Paukovitz	Representing Illinois Department of Transportation
Chairman Kruse	Kankakee County
Mr. Regel	River Valley METRO Mass Transit District

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mr. Piekarczyk, Mr. Van Mill, Mr. Skimerhorn and Mr. Lammey, Kankakee County; Ms. Durbin, Mr. Mestelle and Mr. Lang, IDOT; Mr. Brooks, Aroma Park and Kankakee; Mr. McBurney, Bourbonnais; Mr. Boehmer, Journal; Mr. Hoffmann, METRO; Mr. DiPalma, FHWA, and Mr. Thomas, ROC Net

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Grimsley called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

**MINUTES**

Mayor Green moved approval of the October 26, 2005 minutes. Mayor Kent seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

**AGENDA**

Mayor Kent moved approval of the Agenda. Mayor Green seconded. Unanimous vote.

**FY 2006 TIP AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Lammey stated that there were no amendments.

**FY 2006 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENTS**

Mr. Lammey stated that a staff person left Kankakee County in November, and that this has required some reallocation of resources in the FY 2006 UWP. He stated that the amendment proposed is revenue neutral. Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval of the amendment. Mayor Green moved approval, and Mayor Kent seconded.

## **MPO – TRANSIT AGREEMENT**

Mr. Lamme reported that the most recent review of METRO by the Federal Transit Administration required that an agreement exist between METRO and the MPO. Mr. Lamme stated that an agreement had been drafted, modeled on the agreement between the transit agencies in the Chicago area and their MPO (CATS). Mr. Lamme stated that the By-Laws of the MPO need to be rewritten to cover the inclusion of METRO. Mayor Green asked about the voting status of METRO as a member of the MPO, and Mr. Piekarczyk responded.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval of the agreement. Mayor Kent moved approval of the agreement, and Mayor Green seconded. The vote was unanimous.

## **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

Mr. DiPalma of FHWA reported that the new federal transportation legislation created an earmarked category for a program named "Safe Routes to Schools". A program flier prepared by the League of Illinois Bicyclists was distributed. Mayor Kent asked when an appropriate time to prepare applications would be, and Mr. DiPalma stated that the State of Illinois was responsible for a contact person for the program and for program details. Mr. Lamme stated that those details would be distributed to member agencies as soon as they would be received.

## **IDOT STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Paukovitz introduced Mr. Mestelle, Bureau Chief of Program Development, and Mr. Lang, Bureau Chief of Local Roads to the Policy Committee.

## **UPDATE ON LOWE ROAD**

Mr. Brooks reported: Final Project Development Report was submitted to IDOT and was approved last week. Storm sewer layout and calculations are 90% complete. Plan and profiles are 80% complete. Right-of-way plans and plats are begun. The acquisition proves will begin shortly. We will attempt to have final plans ready by July 2006. This project will require a full construction season. Construction should begin in spring 2007 to avoid a winter shut down.

## **UPDATE ON BURNS ROAD**

Mr. McBurney reported: Storm sewer layout and calculations are 80% complete. Profile is 70% complete. The draft Project Development Report is 95% complete. The draft Project Development Report will be submitted to IDOT shortly. A public open house will be scheduled for spring 2006. The final Project Development Report will be submitted to IDOT 1 month after the open house. FHWA approval of the Project Development Report will be approximately 3 months after submitted to IDOT. It would be very aggressive to have plans ready by July 2006. We will attempt to have plans ready by September 2006.

## **UPDATE ON METRO**

Mr. Hoffmann reported that METRO had the best ridership month in history in December, with over 30,000 rides provided. He stated that on January 9, the Eastgate and KCC routes doubled in service, to 30 minute headway. He stated that the increase service has seen ridership increase on those two routes, with over 400 combined extra riders per week.

## **IDOT REPORT**

Mr. Paukovitz gave the report attached to these minutes.

## **UPDATE ON THE LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION STUDY**

Mr. Van Mill reported that the Comprehensive Plan had been approved by the Kankakee County Board on November 8, 2005. He stated that staff was preparing for the implementation phase of the process.

## **UPDATE ON THE COMMUTER RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Mr. Lammey reported that the application for funding for the Phase II Study had been submitted to IDOT. He stated that Requests for Qualifications had been distributed, and that five firms had submitted by the January 23 deadline. He stated that interviews would be conducted by the Commuter Rail Task Force at their February 21 meeting.

## **WIRELESS INTERNET PRESENTATION**

Mr. Thomas of ROC Net gave a presentation on the issues regarding Wireless Internet service for the community. Mr. Regel explained the interest of METRO, beginning with the desire for internet capability on the commuter service to University Park, and including the possibility of providing wireless internet service to the Northfield Square – Exit 315 area.

Mr. Thomas stated that an announcement would be made in Rockford on January 30 that would be of interest to any community group discussion of wireless internet, and invited the group to watch for the news surrounding that announcement.

A discussion of the concept and the role of the Policy Committee in the wireless internet area was held.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee passed a motion recommending that the Policy Committee request a Phase I Engineering study for the Interstate 57 – Exit 312 area. Mayor Latham moved approval of the request, and Chairman Kruse seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

Chairman Grimsley stated that the next Policy Committee meeting is now scheduled for March 22, 2006 at 11:00 A.M.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Latham moved adjournment, and Mayor Kent seconded. Chairman Grimsley adjourned the meeting at 11:54 A.M.

## **IDOT PROJECT STATUS - KANKAKEE URBAN AREA**

**NOTE:**

**Targeted contract lettings of projects cited below are  
Contingent upon approval of the Governor and allocation  
Of funds by the General Assembly**

**1. Proposed I-57 interchange at 6000 N Road**

At the request of the FHWA revisions and/or additional information in Access Justification Report have been made. The revised report was submitted to the FHWA in mid December 2005 for additional review. If access is found to be justified, preliminary engineering I would follow.

**2. Illinois Route 113: Route 17 to Riverside Hospital**

All pavement work is completed. Some miscellaneous sidewalk work and landscaping is still pending.

**3. Illinois Route 113: From 0.30 mile south to 0.65 mile north of Tower Road**

Relating to curve correction to existing highway alignment. Vehicles are now utilizing the new alignment. Pavement surface work, removal of old pavement and landscaping will continue in the spring.

**4. Illinois Route 17 at Lowe Road –** Message boards have been placed on the east and west legs of Route 17 advising motorists of the operating traffic signals. Speed limit on Route 17 has been lowered to 50 mph. The advance flashing beacons are now operating.

**5. Armour Road: US Route 45/52 to CNIC RR Bridge**

Preliminary engineering I has been completed. Chamlin & Associates was selected to begin Phase II engineering in June 2005. This work continues.