

POLICY COMMITTEE
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)
MINUTES
JANUARY 28, 2009

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Grimsley	Aroma Park
Mr. Tyson	Representing Kankakee
Mayor Kent	Bradley
Mr. Paukovitz	Representing Illinois Department of Transportation
Mr. Bossert	Kankakee County
Mr. Spathis	Bourbonnais
Ms. Jaclyn Dugan-Roof	River Valley METRO Mass Transit District

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Piekarczyk, Mr. Van Mill, Mr. Lammey and Mr. Greenstreet, Kankakee County; Mr. Lang, Mr. Nunes, and Mr. Stack, IDOT; Mr. Morgan; Dr. Gingerich, Bradley; Mr. Ligas; Mr. Stevenson, Mr. Kohler, and Mr. Donovan, FHWA; Mr. McBurney, Bourbonnais; Mr. Hoffmann, METRO; Mr. Piggush, Aroma Park; Ms. McSparin, Herald; and Mr. Allen, Congressman Halvorson's Office

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kent called the meeting to order at 11:01 A.M., and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mayor Grimsley moved approval of the October 22, 2008 minutes. Mr. Paukovitz seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AGENDA

Mr. Lammey asked that Mr. Nunes be placed under "Other Business" to discuss the Economic Stimulus issue. Mr. Bossert moved approval of the Agenda, and Mayor Grimsley seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey reported that the Cardinal Drive amendment passed through an email vote.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Chairman Kent stated that members of the policy Committee were present at the Technical Advisory Committee to hear the discussion of the Long-Range Transportation Plan Goals, and thanked Mr. Ligas for that presentation. Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends the adoption of the Goals section, and stated the belief of Technical Advisory Committee members that the work was on track. Mayor Grimsley moved adoption of the Goals section for the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Mr. Spathis seconded. Unanimous vote. Mr. Nunes offered the assistance of IDOT to Mr. Ligas for any data that might be needed, and Mr. Lammey asked that Mr. Ligas be given access to the Share Point data site.

PLANNING PROCESS REVIEW

Mr. Stevenson stated that a joint FHWA/IDOT Planning Process Review of the Kankakee MPO will take place this afternoon and the morning of January 29. He explained the general purpose of the Review, and invited Policy Committee members to participate.

CARDINAL DRIVE

Dr. Gingerich stated that the Cardinal Drive project was on the January letting, with a bid price of \$2.1 million. He stated his belief that there would be an award on the project in 30-60 days.

6000 N. ROAD

Mr. McBurney stated that a public information meeting will be held in February, and that the project report would be submitted soon after.

BROOKMONT BOULEVARD VIADUCT

Mr. McBurney stated that coordination with the Canadian National Railroad is still an issue, and that the project report would be submitted yet this year.

RIVERFRONT TRAIL

Mr. McBurney stated that the project report has been submitted to IDOT, and that summer construction is envisioned.

BURNS ROAD

Mr. McBurney stated that the plans had previously been approved, and now need only minor changes based on new standards and specifications. Mr. Tyson stated that the project will be "shovel ready".

IDOT REPORT

Mr. Paukovitz gave the report attached to these minutes.

UPDATE ON METRO

Ms. Dugan-Roof stated that METRO was working on completion of the transfer center at the METRO Centre location. She stated that METRO was working on Economic Stimulus projects, and trying to get a letter from IDOT confirming contract amount issues.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – BRADLEY (BROADWAY & SCHUYLER)

AND BROADWAY UNDERPASS)

Dr. Gingerich stated that the engineering agreement had been approved, and that the Intersection Design Study (IDS) was in progress.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – AROMA PARK

Mr. McBurney stated that the engineering agreement has been authorized, and that plans were in progress.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL – KANKAKEE COUNTY

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the mobile radar signs have been delivered this week.

ILLINOIS PLANNING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Mr. Lammey stated that two of the initial IPAG grant projects have been completed, and distributed copies of the Airport Study. Chairman Kent discussed the completed Freedom Drive study, and the next steps to be taken.

Mr. Lammey stated that additional funding was available for additional projects, and encouraged members to apply.

2004 CRASH DATA

Mr. Lammey stated that the 2004 crash data was completely coded and scanned, and had been turned over to the Highway and GIS Departments for their actions. Mayor Grimsley asked if the issue of multiple crashes in the same location had been resolved, and Mr. Lammey indicated that when a dot on the GIS map is clicked, a table showing all crashes will be revealed.

LETTER FROM MAYOR SCHORE

Mr. Lammey read a portion of a letter from Mayor Schore stating his approval of the Cardinal Drive amendment to the **FY 2009 Transportation Improvement Program**, and that “The Village of Bourbonnais requests the same consideration on any upcoming projects that involves funds from the Transportation Improvement Program.” Chairman Piekarczyk stated his belief that the Cardinal Drive amendment had indicated a willingness to fund valid projects (those with logical termini and that had demonstrated need) at the 80% level. Chairman Kent stated that those were his beliefs, as well.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. Nunes stated that a House version of the Economic Stimulus package was voted on today, and contains \$825 billion. He stated that \$43 billion was in the bill for transportation, and that Illinois believes it will receive about \$1 billion from the bill. He stated that the bill requires 55% for the state, and 45% for local governments, and that if the STPU allocation formula is used for distribution, that would mean around \$900,000 to \$1,000,000 for projects in the Kankakee Urbanized Area. He stated that these funds would be 100% federal.

Mr. Nunes further stated that the Senate was acting on a similar bill, but with differing funding levels, and with a different split between state and local. He stated that the bill is being programmed for a Presidents’ Day signing, and that there was a mandate for extremely quick

turn around for the funding to be available, and that some projects in Illinois will be on an April 3 letting.

Mr. Nunes stated that there is a current \$9 billion in the bill for transit, but that the Senate version is much different on that funding amount. He stated that the transit yield for Illinois would likely be \$545 million. He stated that there is a much higher transparency of expenditures in both bills than had been the case in the past.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that METRO already had projects to be amended to the **FY 2009 Transportation Improvement Program**, and Chairman Kent stated that MPO meetings will be needed during the last week of February. Mr. Lamme stated that he will arrange for such a meeting.

The Committee held discussions about the Burns Road project, a “shovel ready” project that is next on the STPU schedule, but with a \$4 million estimate, and discussed strategies in the light of only \$1 million in new revenues. Mr. Ligas and Mr. Piekarczyk stated that MPOs might be in positions to trade early money for later money in this situation.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Kent stated that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for March 25, 2009, but that it is likely a meeting will be required in February.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Grimsley moved adjournment, and Mr. Tyson seconded. Chairman Kent adjourned the meeting at 12:01 P.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

The FHWA found the Access Justification Report satisfactory and thereby on April 19, 2006 granted concept approval for an interchange. Concept approval constitutes the FHWA's determination that the proposal is operationally acceptable. The FHWA's final approval of the access revision will be considered after approval of the Phase I engineering report and completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The firm T.Y. Lyn International is the consultant selected to begin the phase I engineering study. Phase I engineering will take an estimated 18 to 24 months to complete. IDOT held a public information meeting on January 30, 2007. IDOT met with local planners and public officials on May 28, 2008 to review and discuss the three different at-grade railroad crossing designs that were presented to the ICC last spring. Work on the Environmental Assessment continues. EA needs to be done before public hearing can be held.

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

The Phase II study for this project has been completed. This project cannot proceed until funding for land acquisition and construction becomes available. The village of Bourbonnais has given consideration in assuming jurisdiction of the road upon its improvement. This project is a candidate for the Federal Economic Stimulus Program. If funds become available a contract letting could occur this summer. If not, it may remain on hold until funding is found. IDOT staff met with village of Bourbonnais officials to discuss the scope of work and the possibilities of the village assuming jurisdiction of the highway.

3. IL 17 & US 45/52:

Was on the August 2007 letting. Traffic signals were improved at 17 different locations along state routes in the city of Kankakee. The modernization of signals includes new fiber optic, controllers, LED lighting, emergency pre-emption units, etc. The project is 90 percent complete.

4. Interstate 57 at the Kankakee River:

Replacement of this structure remains on the multiyear program.