

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 15, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Mel Blanchette, Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, Craig Blanchette, Bill Bukowski, Chad Miller and Dave Bergdahl

Others:

Mike Lammey and Sarah Billadeau, Kankakee County

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl called the meeting to order at 10:05 A.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved approval of the November 16, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded. Unanimous vote.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Ms. Billadeau made a presentation explaining the Safe Routes to Schools program, and on the recent actions of Kankakee County to form a Task Force to address this issue. She stated that a number of the municipalities in the County and all of the School Districts attended the January 31, 2007 kickoff meeting for the project, and that the second meeting of the group is scheduled for February 20, 2007. She further stated that a training session will be held by IDOT at the Quality Inn on February 28, 2007, and that any member who wants to be involved needs to sign up on the IDOT website.

Mr. Craig Blanchette stated that there is some concern about whether the funding will actually be allocated and spent, and Ms. Billadeau stated her belief that the funding must be allocated for this program and spent. Mr. Paarlberg raised an issue of liability relating to school bus transportation for children, and Ms. Billadeau stated that she would research this issue. Mr. Mel Blanchette asked if the program had application for rural schools, since very few of the students live close enough to either walk or bike to school, and staff acknowledged that the applications would be more limited for rural schools. Mr. Jarvis stated that the prevailing mood of parents in the recent past would be concern for the safety of their children on the way to schools, and staff acknowledged that this is indeed a concern.

The Subcommittee held an extended discussion about the distracted driver issue, indicating that it is of concern to them. Mr. Lammey stated that staff will be working on this issue during the upcoming year. Concern about the continuing problems of rural schools and young drivers was also expressed.

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING

Mr. Lammey stated that a joint program on this issue is being pursued by the Planning and Highway Departments of Kankakee County. Ms. Billadeau showed an accident location map that the Highway Department had prepared, as a model of what was intended by the program. She stated that traffic crash data was being collected from every police jurisdiction in the County.

PROJECT MAP

Mr. Lammey distributed a map showing a number of potential transportation projects from Kankakee County north to the Chicago area, and stated that the map was suggested by the Transportation Subcommittee at their last meeting, and that staff had made efforts to develop the map since that time. A general discussion was held on the numerous potential transportation projects listed on the map.

CRITICAL COMMERCE AND COMMUNICATIONS CORRIDOR

Mr. Lammey referred to the Project Map for the area along the 12000 N Road corridor in Kankakee County, for the proposed expressway labeled the Critical Commerce and Communications Corridor. He gave a brief history of the project thus far, and detailed some of the meetings that had been held with adjacent jurisdictions, and with local and state lawmakers.

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING BROCHURE

Ms. Billadeau distributed a draft copy of a brochure meant to detail all of the current and proposed transportation planning activity being done by the Planning Department. She stated that the brochure is in draft form, and that a number of changes might still be performed. The Subcommittee asked a number of questions, and in general favored the brochure project.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE AND CORRIDOR STUDY

Mr. Lammey stated that a public meeting on the Interchange Study was held on January 30, 2007, and that attendance was excellent. He stated that as soon as the consultant for the project is under contract, IDOT and the consultant would be invited to the Kankakee County area for a discussion of the issues. He stated that the Villages of Manteno and Bradley had met to discuss alternatives favorable to both communities, and that the final approved local alternative is likely to be a form acceptable to, and proposed by those two communities. Mr. Craig Blanchette stated that the meetings had been productive, and that there is general agreement on a concept.

COMMUTER TRANSIT

Mr. Lammey reported that the Phase II study is underway, and that the next Task Force meeting will be held on February 20 at 2:30 P.M. at the Kankakee City Hall. He stated that the website for the project would go active in late February. He stated that a great deal of effort was being

done to obtain citizen input from groups that are typically not involved in transportation projects, and that a citizen group in Kankakee is now meeting regularly to assist in any lobbying efforts for the project.

AIRPORT

Mr. Lammey stated that IDOT has presented the FAA with two plans – Will County’s and Congressman Jackson’s, and has asked the FAA to choose. Vice-Chairman Bergdahl stated his understanding that the FAA is requiring IDOT to choose their preferred alternative first.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Mr. Lammey stated that the staff were on hold, waiting for the consultant hired by the Highway Department. He stated that Mr. Piekarczyk had informed the Highway Committee that the results of the consultant effort were close to completion, and stated that the Planning Department would meet with the Highway Department to discuss those results in the near future. Vice-Chairman Bergdahl stated that the new members of the Subcommittee had no knowledge of the concept, and probably should be brought up to date at a future meeting.

ITS

Ms. Billadeau stated that the interviews had been conducted. She stated that staff has learned that the earmarked funding for this program has been exhausted, and that staff is waiting to prepare the ITS Architecture for Kankakee County, until further funding is authorized.

WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey reviewed the 2007 Work Program and stated that current conditions called for some modifications to be made.

NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl stated that the next meeting date would be April 19, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paarlberg moved adjournment, and Mr. Miller seconded. Vice-Chairman Bergdahl adjourned the meeting at 11:43 A.M.