

MINUTES

COMMUTER TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

FEBRUARY 20, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – Mike Grimsley

Bourbonnais – Frank Koehler

Bradley – Kim Dickens

Illinois Department of Transportation – Chuck Abraham, Amy Welk

Kankakee – Mayor Green, Tim Schmidt

Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos

Manteno – no attendee

Monee – Tom Johnson

Peotone – George Gray

Will County – Colin Duesing

OTHERS PRESENT

Nickey Yates, Stan James, Jamey Boyd, Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Sarah Billadeau, and Dave Bergdahl, Kankakee County; Leatha Coleman, Kankakee; Dennis Gary and Gary Foyle, Earth Tech; Larry McClellan and Dan Clark, South of Chicago (sub to Earth Tech); Laura McElroy, Herald; and Mary Baskerville, Journal

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mayor Green welcomed the Task Force to the City of Kankakee, and stated how important the study was to the City of Kankakee and to Kankakee County. Chairman Nicholos called the meeting to order at 2:31 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Koehler moved approval of the December 12, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Unanimous vote.

CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

Mr. Gary from Earth Tech made a presentation including the following items:

- Project Overview
Mr. Gary reviewed the schedule for the project and the issues that would be dealt with at the meeting. He showed the status of current Task Orders, and reviewed the Task

Orders that have been completed or on hold, or to be done in the future. He reviewed the budget for the project.

- Task 1.2, Socio-Economic & Ridership Forecasts

Mr. Foyle reviewed a number of population forecasts for Kankakee County, and reviewed the methodology for the forecasts. He stated that the population forecast control total for the County in the year 2030 needs to be given to the sub-consultant to sub-allocate to the new zone structure. After general discussion, it was agreed that a forecast total of population of 145,000 could be defended. In the same manner, an employment forecast for Kankakee County for the year 2030 of 75,000 was agreed upon.

Mr. Foyle also presented a proposed zone structure for Kankakee County which increased the number of analysis zones from 20 to approximately 750 for the County. Areas near prospective stations have quarter-sections, while the balance of the County is divided into sections. Areas in Northeastern Illinois are uniformly divided into quarter-sections.

Mr. Foyle stated that the next step would be to allocate the population and employment totals into the new zone structure. As part of the allocation process, information on planned developments from corridor communities and the County would be useful input. Ultimately, the zones in the revised structure populated with forecasted population and employment would be forwarded to the CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning) to be run in their model to predict ridership.

- Task 3.5, Independent Rail Alternative

Mr. Gary stated that the documentation of the inventory of the existing CN alignment has been completed, and stated that work on the infrastructure improvements that might be needed was ongoing.

- Task 8.2, Public Education/Outreach

Mr. McClellan stated that names were continuing to be added to the database. He stated that the first Kankakee Community involvement meeting was held on February 1, and that a group of ambassadors for the project was being developed. He stated that a public meeting was being planned in Kankakee County for May 31, and stated that Task Force members would be contacted for assistance.

Mr. Gary reviewed the contents of the project website, which will be active on March 1. He also distributed a draft announcement that could be used to advertise the website.

- Review of Current Station Sites

Mr. Gary reviewed the current station sites with the Task Force. Generally, four station sites are unchanged from the KACOT-I, January 2005, report (Monee, Bourbonnais, Kankakee Amtrak Depot, and the Kankakee I-57 Exit 308). Three station sites have been relocated from the KACOT-I recommended sites (Peotone to North Peotone Road, Manteno to downtown, and Bradley to West Broadway).

Mr. Van Mill indicated that the new Kankakee County aerial photographs will not be available for new station layout drawings until later this year.

- **Completed Tasks**

Mr. Gary reviewed completed tasks, to include the Transit Supportive Land Use Task Order, completed in the workshop of December 15.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Nicholos stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on April 17. The meeting location will be announced by Mr. Lammey in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Koehler moved adjournment, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Chairman Nicholos adjourned the meeting at 3:54 P.M.