

Meeting Notes

KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Kankakee County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

February 27, 2014

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rich Howell, Presiding; Ralph Paarlberg; Jeff Jarvis, Mel Blanchette, Craig Bayston, Lisa Dugan, David Stejkowski and David Bergdahl.

Others:

Jim Meyer, URS; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet and Del Skimerhorn, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Howell called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM, with no quorum present, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were held for the next meeting for approval.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Howell asked the consultant for the Long Range Transportation Plan, Jim Meyer from URS, to proceed with his presentation. Mr. Meyer explained the document in the member's binders for their review and proceeded with a power point presentation on the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Meyer discussed the agenda for his presentation, goals for this meeting and updated the members on the status of the LRTP project. He then began to discuss major roadways and railways centered on Kankakee.

Mr. Bergdahl asked about the issues of IL Rt. 114 East of Momence and IL Rt. 17 East of Grant Park, with their high truck traffic counts. Mr. Howell explained to Mr. Meyer that even though the LRTP focuses on the urbanized area Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA), this committee is concerned with whole county issues. Mr. Meyer assured the members that the LRTP project is considering the entire county and the regional influences to include the proposed Illiana

Expressway and the proposed South Suburban Airport, both of which are in Will County.

Mr. Howell pointed out the need to coordinate the traffic signals on U.S. Rts. 45 -52 from Court Street all the way through Bourbonnais, including the IL Rt. 102 intersection. Mr. Meyer stated there is in progress at IDOT, including some other counties, ITS architecture improvement planning. Kankakee County may be able to join in to that discussion. Cameras could be placed along I-57, message boards have been installed on I-57, signal timing and adjustments based on camera views along major highways and blue-tooth technology for data gathering are all in the future.

Mr. Howell suggested another bridge over the Kankakee River between Court Street and Warner Bridge Road is a necessity, especially since Warner Bridge is currently closed due to ice jams and possible structural damage.

Mr. Meyer discussed the current status of east - west connectivity and the current north - south connectivity issues. The pending construction of the I-57 Interchange at 6000 N Road should lead to improved roadways to the east and west to provide additional east - west connectivity. Alternative north - south connectivity by improving 4000 E Road from IL Rt. 17 to 9000 N Road would ease traffic along Cardinal Drive through Bradley. Ms. Dugan stated there are a large number of trucks using Cardinal Drive from North Street every day.

Funding is still being sought to replace the Brookmont Blvd. Canadian National railroad underpass, which will reduce a bottleneck situation and provide an alternative truck route. Rebuilding I-57 at Court Street / IL Rt. 17 interchange is a high priority, as well.

For the LRTP, there are four bridges identified by IDOT as needing repair or replacement on local roads. Freight issues are another concern, with two areas identified as potentially suitable for intermodal facilities. There will need to be discussion concerning the desire of the communities involved to have such facilities located in their areas. Things to consider will need to include the cost of improving roadways to accommodate the heavy truck traffic and the location of those intended truck routes, along with ease of access to I-57 and the proposed Illiana Expressway, and the South Suburban Airport.

Public Transportation was discussed next, with the new routes to Midway Airport and the City of Momence by River Valley METRO being identified. The need to better serve low-income, zero vehicle and persons with disabilities areas within the urbanized area was identified as an issue. Unmet needs or gaps identified in the Human Services Transportation Plan were discussed.

Mr. Meyer pointed out the document in the member's binders having a matrix of Issues, Goals and Performance Measures for them to review. They were given a copy to take with them. They were asked to forward comments to Mr. Lammey. There will also be a public survey on the transportation issues beginning in April of this year.

Mr. Meyer stated the LRTP will be discussed in the March MPO meeting and again at the next Land Use Transportation Subcommittee meeting in April.

ILLIANA UPDATE

Mr. Lammey stated there were public meetings February 18 & 19, 2014. The public comment period is open until March 10th. He asked members to file their public comments right away. The Federal Record of Decision is due May 30, 2014. If favorable, land acquisition could begin June 1, 2014. June 1, 2014 is also the deadline for Public Private Partnership bids to the States of Illinois and Indiana.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Howell stated that two County Board members have put forward an idea to make a change in the Zoning Ordinance to require a larger lot size for a property to be buildable for a residence in the county jurisdiction, to possibly a 5 or 6 acre minimum lot size. Members might expect to need to discuss this issue in future meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 10:30 AM, with the **Long-Range Transportation Plan** session #4 being the primary topic of discussion.

The following meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2014 at 10:30 AM, with a **Public Hearing on the FY 2015 Transportation Improvement Program** and the **Long-Range Transportation Plan** session #5.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell announced adjournment of the meeting at 11:53 AM.