

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 17, 2005

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Frank Koehler, Dave Bergdahl, Ralph Paarlberg, Dennis Peters and Chad Miller

Others:

Mike Lammey, Kankakee County; Nancy Arndt, EDC; and Tim Schmidt, Kankakee

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller offered a correction in the weight limit issue, stating that the correct number was 73,280. With that correction, Mr. Bergdahl moved approval of the January 20, 2005 Minutes, and Mr. Paarlberg seconded. Unanimous vote.

AIRPORT UPDATE

Chairman Koehler stated that activity is progressing through the two groups that are proposing development of the airport, and that IDOT is continuing to purchase land in the initial footprint of the airport.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Mr. Lammey stated that some updating of the network is being done along with the update of the Comprehensive Plan, and that some additional criteria were being proposed and developed.

UPDATE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Lammey reported that the study has experienced a great deal of activity in the past month, with Town Hall meetings with all of the municipalities in the County, and a second round of meetings scheduled for the coming two weeks. A Public Meeting on the Plan is scheduled for the evening of April 13 at the Quality Inn from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Chairman Koehler stated that the attempt is to build consensus among communities about the Comprehensive Plan.

COMMUTER RAIL

Mr. Lammey stated that the Commuter Rail Task Force approved the Final Report at their February meeting, and that the PZA Committee had approved the Final Report at their March 9

meeting. He stated that the Final Report will be discussed by the County Board at their April 12 meeting. He stated that there have been comments from both IDOT and the Federal Transit Administration staff that a Phase II study may not be the next step in the process, and that a meeting is being scheduled in Chicago with both of those agencies to determine what the next step should be.

Mr. Paarlberg stated that the property along Illinois Route 50 between 10000 N. Road and 11000 N. Road has been sold. Mr. Bergdahl stated that there is an 18.5 acre area in the development plan for that area that has been left undeveloped. Chairman Koehler stated that the idea has been to get people thinking about possibilities for eventual commuter rail service, and that the study has accomplished that purpose.

INTERSTATE 57 CORRIDOR STUDIES

Ms. Arndt stated that corridor study meetings continue, with discussions centered around a marketing plan. Mr. Schmidt stated that industrial park locations and potential rail spurs were a topic of considerable concern, both off the CN tracks on the north-south line through Kankakee County, but also on the east-west Norfolk Southern line, particularly west of Kankakee along Illinois Route 17. He stated that east-west transportation issues, among them the widening of Illinois Route 17, should be brought to the attention of IDOT by some local group.

Chairman Koehler stated that the issue of how important transportation is to the establishment of industrial parks has been of significance in Will County for some time, and that an effort to investigate this issue in Kankakee County should be undertaken.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE STUDY

Mr. Lammey stated that the field data for the study have been collected, and that the only data item that IDOT is waiting on is the 2004 accident data. He went through the report that Planning Department staff forwarded to IDOT on the potential traffic that would utilize the 6000 N. Road Interchange. He stated that IDOT had agreed with the assumptions made in the report, and will submit the report as is to the FHWA with their Access Justification Report.

Mr. Lammey stated that staff will continue to monitor the progress of the study through to submission of the AJR report to FHWA, and that the reaction of the FHWA will also be monitored through contacts with FHWA. He stated that the report dovetails with the assumptions of the Comprehensive Plan, which has assumed a 50% development rate in the growth assumptions, and that the assumptions of the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study have been factored into the report as well.

ILLIANA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. Lammey stated that contacts have been made the Newton County in Indiana, and with the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission to determine their interest in the issue, and efforts are being made to have a joint meeting.

KANKAKEE COUNTY/WILL COUNTY JOINT ROADWAY ISSUES

Mr. Lammey stated that contacts have been made with Will County to have regular meetings on the transportation issues that exist at the borders of the two Counties. Efforts will continue to be

made to have regular meetings. He also stated that the County Engineers of both Will and Kankakee County have also had discussions on these issues.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date will be May 19, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bergdahl moved adjournment, Mr. Paarlberg seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 11:07 A.M.