

POLICY COMMITTEE
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)
MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2008

POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Grimsley	Aroma Park
Mayor Green	Kankakee
Mayor Kent	Bradley
Mr. Paukovitz	Representing Illinois Department of Transportation
Mr. Kruse	Kankakee County
Mr. Hoffmann	Representing River Valley METRO Mass Transit District
Mr. McBurney	Representing Bourbonnais

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Washington, Mr. Yates, Mr. Piekarczyk, Mr. Van Mill, Mr. Lammey and Mr. Greenstreet, Kankakee County; Mr. Kelso and Mr. Lang, IDOT; Mr. Morgan; Mr. Mayes, Bradley; Mr. Brooks, Aroma Park; Ms. Clumpner and Mr. Koning, Robinson Engineering; Mr. Tyson, Kankakee, and Ms. Marcotte

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Kent called the meeting to order at 11:00 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Kruse moved approval of the January 23, 2008 minutes. Mayor Grimsley seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AGENDA

Mr. Paukovitz moved approval of the proposed Agenda. Mayor Grimsley seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

AMENDMENT TO THE FY 2008 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey stated that two separate issues from METRO have led to potential amendment to the **FY 2008 Transportation Improvement Program**. He stated that the first issue is the need to additional rolling stock to provide service if the increased funding for operations is realized. He stated that the amendment is for a 4 bus purchase in FY 08 and a 4 bus purchase in FY 09 instead of the 6 bus purchase in FY 09 in the current **FY 08 TIP**. Mr. Hoffmann stated that there

is no replacement for the axles that are breaking in the current fleet, and that some of the additional buses will be replacements for current fleet. Mr. Lammey stated that the second issue is federal legislation containing earmarks for METRO, and the need to have those earmarks added to the FY 08 program year.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends passage of the amendment to the **FY 2008 Transportation Improvement Program**. Mr. Kruse seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Lammey stated that the amendment to the **FY 2008 TIP** passed at the last Policy Committee meeting had been approved by the FHWA, and that this approval means that the SAFETEA-LU Compliance Amendment passed last year by the Policy Committee had also been approved.

STATE OF ILLINOIS TRANSIT FUNDING ISSUES

Mayor Green expressed his frustration at the situation where funding can be provided in a billed that passed the Illinois General Assembly, but where the supplemental funding is not being provided to River Valley METRO. He stated that the end result of this is that needed service in the southern section of Kankakee, particularly in the developing areas around the Wal-Mart, cannot receive transit service.

Mayor Green stated that he has had discussions on the issue with Mr. Hoffmann, and he understands that the current ridership on the KCC route from METRO is heavily utilized, and is standing room only for portions of the day, making it difficult for the route to deviate to other destinations in the south part of Kankakee. He stated that he understands that the METRO Board has difficult decisions to make, and that he empathized with them in these difficult decisions. He stated that other existing service needs to be examined, to determine if the service in southern Kankakee is more important. He stated that his frustration is with the State of Illinois, not with the METRO Board.

Mayor Green stated that if IDOT and the State of Illinois continue in this lack of delivery of funding, that Mayors need to get together and make some noise about the delivery of a “fair share” of funding in the Kankakee Urbanized Area. Mayor Kent suggested that a letter to the Governor from the combined Mayors would be a way to raise the level of public concern, and asked Mr. Hoffmann to draft such a letter.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that IDOT was invited to the Policy Committee and declined. He stated that Representative Dugan has been very active on this issue, and that as of last night, the Secretary of Transportation for the State of Illinois and the Governor’s budget office had been involved in the issue. He stated that the latest attempt at resolution he heard was a small increase over last years’ allocation, far short of the funding passed by the General Assembly.

Mayor Green stated that this is an important issue, particularly in the face of rising fuel costs, and one that needs and deserves to get attention at the local level. He stated that the citizens who use the METRO service have come to rely on it for their daily lives, and that they need to be able to rely on increased METRO service in the future.

Mayor Kent stated that this issue would be presented to the Mayor's Association for their information and possible action.

DRAFT FY 2009 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey stated that the contract with the Illinois Department of Transportation requires that a draft **FY 2009 UWP** be presented to the Policy Committee at their March meeting. He stated that this year's document has one major change, the inclusion of much more staff time and the possible hiring of a consultant to assist in the Long-Range Plan, due to be adopted by October, 2009. Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends the passage of the draft **FY 2009 Unified Work** Program.

REQUEST FOR PROJECTS FOR FY 2009 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey stated that letters requesting projects for the **FY 2009 TIP** would be sent on March 27, and that phone calls would be made in mid-April. He stated that the draft **FY 2009 TIP** is required to be presented at the May 7, 2008 MPO meetings.

CARDINAL DRIVE

Mr. Mayes stated that the project is on schedule for a June, 2008 letting.

6000 N. ROAD

Mr. McBurney stated that the project is on schedule for a June, 2009 letting, and that a meeting with the FHWA is being arranged.

BROOKMONT BOULEVARD VIADUCT

Mr. McBurney stated that the consultant on the project is arranging a coordination meeting with the Canadian National Railroad.

RIVERFRONT TRAIL

Mr. McBurney stated that the project report has been submitted, and that a coordination meeting with IDOT District 3 is tentatively scheduled for April 10.

IDOT REPORT

Mr. Paukovitz gave the report attached to these minutes.

UPDATE ON METRO

Mr. Hoffmann stated that ridership continues 23% above last year. He stated that the system is on schedule to have provided 500,000 rides this year. He stated that they are working on a RFP for the Park and Ride lot in Bourbonnais, and that funding is budgeted for a Transfer Center in Kankakee, once a location is selected. He stated that the METRO system received a Federal Transit Administration award for excellence for their summer pass program.

MPO PLANNING FUNDS (ILLINOIS PLANNING ASSISTANCE GRANTS)

Mr. Lammey stated that a new name for the program is being solicited, and the Committee suggested the Illinois Planning Assistance Grants (IPAG). Mr. Lammey also stated that a

summary of the program will be printed on the back page of the Policy Committee Agenda from now on, for ease of reference among Policy Committee members.

Mr. Van Mill reported that the Airport Study Task Force met on February 28, and will meet again on March 27. He stated that the 6 members of the Task Force have been established, and that the Study Area and the Scope of Work had been discussed.

Mr. Van Mill gave a presentation on the proposed IPAG grant for the Location One Information System (LOIS) program, and asked for \$2,500 from the IPAG program. Mayor Green moved approval, and Mayor Grimsley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the grant was approved.

Mayor Kent gave a presentation on the proposed IPAG grant for the Intersection Design Study for the Freedom Drive project, and asked for \$9,000 from the IPAG program. Mayor Green moved approval, and Mayor Grimsley seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, and the grant was approved.

Mayor Kent asked Mr. Lammey to redo the Tracking Sheet for the IPAG program, and to send it out to the Policy Committee members as soon as possible.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey congratulated the members of the Policy Committee who were awarded Safe Routes to Schools funding, and invited all to a Safe Routes to Schools Committee meeting on April 15, at 10:00 A.M., in the 2nd floor conference room. He stated that Megan Holt, the IDOT staff person responsible for the program, would be making a presentation at the meeting. Mr. Greenstreet that IDOT Local Roads would also be at the meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Kent stated that the next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2008 at 11:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Grimsley moved adjournment, and Mr. Paukovitz seconded. Chairman Kent adjourned the meeting at 11:45 A.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. Two or three different at-grade railroad crossing designs will be presented to the ICC this spring.

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.

3. IL 17 & US 45/52:

Was on the August letting, traffic signals are to be 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. Signal hardware has been ordered. Actual signal work will begin this spring.