

MINUTES

COMMUTER TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

APRIL 17, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – Mike Grimsley

Bourbonnais – Frank Koehler

Bradley – Mayor Kent

Illinois Department of Transportation – Norm Johnson, Amy Welk

Kankakee – Tim Schmidt

Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos

Manteno – Craig Blanchette

Monee – Henry May

Peotone – no attendee

Will County – Colin Duesing

OTHERS PRESENT

Nickey Yates, 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); Suhail Al-Chalabi, The al Chalibi Group (sub to Earth Tech); Laura McElroy, Herald; and Mary Baskerville, Journal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Nicholos called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Koehler moved approval of the February 20, 2007 Minutes, and Mayor Kent seconded. Unanimous vote.

CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

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

- History of Project
- 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, those that are in low level support or on hold, and possible tasks to be done in the future. He reviewed the budget for the project.

- New Task Order – Task 10.1, Final Report
Mr. Gary reported that funds have been approved for the Final Report, and showed an outline of the Final Report.
- Task 1.2, Socio-Economic & Ridership Forecasts
Mr. Al-Chalabi reviewed the population forecasts being prepared for the study, and recommended that the forecast for the year 2030 be revised from 145,000 to 150,000. He showed the zone structure to be used for the model that CMAP will be running for the study, and reported that development information had been received from all communities in Kankakee County for those forecasts.

Mr. Koehler asked how the study would deal with the dispersion of employment for Kankakee County residents within Cook, Will and DuPage County. Mr. Al-Chalabi stated that the model being run by CMAP has the STAR line as part of the network, so that trips to various parts of Cook, Will and DuPage Counties are possible.

Mr. Gary reviewed the rules of the next phase of the studies, the Alternatives Analysis, and informed the Task Force that work was being performed to ready the Task Force for the application for the next phase.

- Task 3.5, Independent Rail Alternative
Mr. Gary stated that the documentation (and field check) 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. He stated that the review of those improvements with the CN would be scheduled.
- Task 8.2, Public Education/Outreach, and 8.3, Web Site Technical Support
Mr. McClellan stated that planning for the May 31 Kankakee County “Town Meeting” was underway, and distributed literature to use when inviting participants for that meeting. (Each Kankakee County municipal representative on the Task Force was provided 100 copies each of the 3 pieces being used to broadcast the meeting to the community.) He stated that another event in Will County is being planned for a mid-June time period. He stated that two newsletters are planned. Mr. Gary stated that the website was active. Ms. Welk asked if any indication of usage was available, and Mr. Gary stated that staff would check for a counter on the usage.

Mr. Schmidt stated that Rick Harnish of the Midwest Highspeed Rail Association is interested in participating in the May 31st Town Hall meeting, or at a KACOT subsequent event. It was stated that Mr. Harnish could be provided exhibitor space at the May 31st meeting.

- Completed Tasks
Mr. Gary reviewed completed tasks, including the Transit Supportive Land Use Task Order, completed in the workshop of December 15. He reviewed the Institutional Issues work element, which is currently on hold. He also reviewed the Project

Management work element, which has produced a tri-fold brochure and project map, both of which are available on the project website.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Nicholas stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on June 19. The meeting location will be announced by Mr. Lammey in the near future.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kent moved adjournment, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Chairman Nicholas adjourned the meeting at 3:53 P.M.