

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

April 18, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Chairman Chad Miller, Presiding; Loretto Cowhig; Ralph Paarlberg; Craig Blanchette; David Bergdahl; George Washington; Jeff Jarvis, Bill Bukowski, Samuel Payton, Mel Blanchette, David Stejkowski and Craig Bayston.

Others:

Terry Johnston, Kankakee County Historical Preservation Commission; Phillip Roth and Jamy Lyne, Parsons Brinkerhoff; David Tyson, Tyson Engineering, Inc.; Lee Provost, The Daily Journal; Laura McElroy, The Herald; Jim Piekarczyk, Hutchison Engineering, Inc.; Steve Schilke, IDOT; Ralph J. Bailey, Village of Sun River Terrace; Michael Bossert, Kankakee County Board Chairman; Bill Olthoff, Kankakee County Board and Economic Alliance; Mike Van Mill, Economic Alliance; Del Skimerhorn, Mike Lammey, and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Washington made a motion to accept the minutes from February 21, 2013 as presented, seconded by Mr. M. Blanchette. Motion carried.

ILLIANA PRESENTATION

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Steve Schilke, IDOT Illiana Project Manager, to the Committee to present on the current status and future planning process steps for the project. Mr. Washington asked if the facility will have provision for animals such as badgers to cross safely over or under the new highway. Mr. Schilke explained that provisions will be made for different species that are identified as crossing the footprint of the facility. Mr. Provost inquired as to the time-line for this portion of the study, which is expected to last until early 2014.

Mr. Van Mill asked why there is a build and a no-build planning effort being considered. Mr. Schilke explained that the no-build option will stay active until the record of decision is finalized

as the preferred resolution. The no-build scenario shows all the data that justifies the need for the Illiana to be built.

Mr. Jarvis asked about the relief to I-80 traffic congestion and local truck traffic congestion that will be expected from building the Illiana. Mr. Schilke explained that while the new facility will relieve truck traffic congestion on I-80 and on local roads, that fact will attract users. The good news is that local roads will attract economic development which will provide local use increases in traffic. Mr. Jarvis asked about extending from I-55 northwest to I-80 and from I-65 northeast to I-80. Mr. Schilke stated extensions from I-55 northwest to I-80 would have higher environmental and economic impacts, as might extending from I-65 northeast to I-80. Those extensions are not part of this study.

Mr. Van Mill inquired as to why CMAP has not been supportive of the B-3 alignment. Mr. Schilke explained that early on, CMAP members thought the best benefit would come by placing the Illiana in the highest populated areas to the north. Because the northern areas are more highly populated with residences and businesses, and the route would be much longer to build, the adverse factors of building in the north was too great with a lower benefit in traffic flow.

Meetings are on-going with CMAP and the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning (NIRPC) organizations. The intent of the Illiana is to complement the existing roadway plans, not to compete with them. The current planning process will be also begin focusing on land use along the corridor as well and the actual route mapping.

Mr. Lammey asked what we can do now, since Kankakee County has supported the B-3 alignment before it was identified as the B-3 alignment. Mr. Schilke stated that continued documented support is always a good thing. Positive public comment from communities affected, from businesses and farm interests alike are needed to further this process.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey reported that the process for contracting a consultant for the Long Range Transportation Plan is on-going. Mr. Schilke asked if the Illiana is in the Long Range Plan. Mr. Lammey stated that it will be.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bayston moved for adjournment, and Mr. C. Blanchette seconded. Motion passed. Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:02 AM.