

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
APRIL 30, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rich Howell, Chad Miller, Mel Blanchette, Loretto Cowhig, Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, Bill Bukowski, Craig Blanchette, Dave Bergdahl, Craig Bayston and Chris Tholen

Others:

Mike Lammey, Del Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County; Joe Ligas, Amy McSparrin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:32 A.M. Chairman Howell introduced Mr. Tholen as a new member of the Subcommittee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved approval of the March 12, 2009 Minutes. Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the draft plan had been submitted to members of the Subcommittee, and that a number of comments had also been received from Mr. Van Mill, as well. He stated that comments would also be received at a Greenways and Trails Committee meeting at noon. He asked if members of the Subcommittee had comments.

Mr. Paarlberg stated that he had seen combined walking/biking trails with public roads in Lowell, Indiana, and wondered about bikepaths on roadway right-of-way. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that there would be a section dealing with facilities along existing roadways.

Mr. Jarvis asked about the concept of waterway trails, and Mr. Skimerhorn explained that waterway trails were being proposed for non-motorized water vehicles at two locations in the County. There were comments about extending the waterway trail from Sun River Terrace to Momence. There were some comments about extending the waterway trail to the Indiana state line.

Ms. Cowhig asked about city streets being identified as “connections”. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that streets were identified to connect bikepaths based on traffic counts and widths of pavement.

Chairman Howell stated that the majority of the ways that bikepaths and waterways became operational were passive in nature, in that the developers would be required to build the paths when they wanted to build their development. He asked if there were any plans to take a more “active” role in building paths. Mr. Jarvis mentioned the county-wide Forest Preserve as a method of providing an active role.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (ARRA)

Mr. Lammey presented the final ARRA projects that have been approved within the Kankakee Urbanized Area, in the categories of transit, local and state highway projects. The Subcommittee asked about the parameters of the METRO resurfacing project, in terms of acreage and number of parking spaces for the \$922,000 project. A question was also asked about the availability of public restroom facilities at METRO for early morning and late afternoon transit riders.

TRUCK ISSUES

Mr. Lammey presented a freight and truck issue presentation that had been given at the Intermodal workshop on April 13. Significant discussion about the issues in the presentation was held. Mr. Paarlberg stated that there is an issue with trucks leaving the Heritage FS Grain Elevator on St. George Road that should be investigated.

FY 2010 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey presented the **FY 2010 Unified Work Program**, highlighting the required products and timing, and highlighting the funding that will be received.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the ARRA issue had limited the amount of time spent on the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

INTERMODAL WORKSHOP

Ms. Cowhig and Mr. Mel Blanchette discussed their impressions of the workshop held on April 13 on intermodal facilities. Ms. Cowhig stated that intermodals were presented as being the answer to the employment issues in the current economy, but that the information presented was somewhat confusing.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Cowhig asked why some of the items in the Work Program that had not had action yet were not listed in that list. Mr. Lammey stated that she was right, and that this would be corrected.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that there was a need to have a meeting as late as possible in June to accommodate approval of the Greenways and Trails Plan. June 25 was proposed and accepted. Mr. Lammey stated that he still needed the June 4 meeting to accommodate public hearings on the Long-Range Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program. Chairman

Howell stated that the next meeting would be on June 4, at the County Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bayston moved adjournment, and Mr. Blanchette the younger seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 11:11 A.M.