

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
MAY 18, 2006

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Frank Koehler, Dave Bergdahl, Ralph Paarlberg, Chad Miller and Mel Blanchette

Others:

Mike Lammey, Kankakee County; Steve Husak, EDA

CALL TO ORDER

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

MINUTES

Mr. Bergdahl moved approval of the January 19, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Paarlberg seconded. Unanimous vote.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE UPDATE

Chairman Koehler referenced the Access Justification conditional approval letter from the Federal Highway Administration, and stated that this was good news, after many years of waiting. He stated that more work had to be done.

Mr. Husak stated that he was receiving numerous calls asking him when the Interchange would be built, and that he was in some cases being given estimates of around one year. Chairman Koehler stated that three studies had to be completed before final approval was given, and that the estimated timetable for these three studies would be 5-7 years, provided everything went perfect. Mr. Lammey stated that each of the studies takes 18-24 months, and that the authorization process for the funds for the next study had to fall perfect to have the 5-7 year timetable work.

Chairman Koehler and Mr. Lammey stated that the technical studies in the future was not the issue most pressing. Both stated that the raising of public/private money in the amount of \$12-\$15 million would be the hardest part of the project approval process. Chairman Koehler stated the actions that the Village of Bourbonnais was undertaking, with their TIF district, and stated that his community would be willing to lead in such a public/private fund raising undertaking. A number of questions were raised about the details of the TIF district.

Mr. Lammey stated that the AJR study had at two separate points almost faltered, and if it had

not been for local intervention, the AJR would not have been successful. He stated that Kankakee County had concerns about the management of the Preliminary Engineering I study, and was discussing methods by which Kankakee County could become far more involved in the PE I study. He stated that some of the methods mentioned had been: (1) participating in the consultant interview and selection process; (2) having all project meetings be held in Kankakee County, and having representation at those meetings; and (3) requesting that Kankakee County be the managing agency for the PE I study. He stated that the Subcommittee would be advised of the course of these requests.

I-57 CORRIDOR STUDIES

Mr. Husak stated that a group of five counties along Interstate 57 from Will County to Champaign County are joining together to apply to DCEO for a grant to perform planning along the corridor. He stated that the \$2,000 in Kankakee County has been raised by contributions from local governmental units, and that participation from the private sector is being sought, as well.

6000 N. ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN

Chairman Koehler stated that a meeting of the Tri-Village group was held on November 11, and that a number of viewpoints were voiced. He stated that the exact location of the 6000 N. Road Corridor east of 2000 E. Road will be a matter for the Villages of Bradley and Manteno to discuss, with the assistance of Kankakee County.

AIRPORT

Chairman Koehler stated that he does not foresee any significant activity in the Airport area until the election, where the outcome of the governor's race could have a significant impact on the direction of the Airport issue in the future.

COMMUTER RAIL

Mr. Lammey stated that the funding for the study had been approved by IDOT, and that the contract with the selected consultant, Earth Tech, cannot be signed until the contract with IDOT is official. He stated that will not occur until sometime in July, and that the contract with Earth Tech would probably be signed in late July. He stated that the June 20 Commuter Rail Task Force meeting would be cancelled, since the consultant would not be under contract.

ILLIANA DISCUSSION

Mr. Lammey stated that meetings had been held between Will County and the States of Indiana and Illinois Transportation Departments, and that the State of Indiana now seems to be the driving force behind the meetings. He stated that Kankakee County will continue to coordinate activities of this study group, through information from Will County. He also stated that the grant request for an east-west roadway at the northern Kankakee County line was still being reviewed by IDOT.

WORK PROGRAM

No action was taken to modify the work program.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date would be July 20, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paarlberg moved adjournment, and Mr. Blanchette seconded. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 11:25 A.M.