

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

June 7, 2012

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Chairman Chad Miller, Jeff Jarvis, Loretto Cowhig, Craig Bayston, Rich Howell, Ralph Paarlberg, George Washington, and Dave Bergdahl.

Others:

Mike Bossert, County Board Chairman; Dr. Peter Pagast, County Board Member; Beth M. Phelps, Eunice Sachs and Associates, Certified Court Reporters; Marc Wakat; Del Skimerhorn, Mike Lammey, Ashley Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were reviewed, but were tabled for lack of a quorum.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY 2013 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Chairman Miller opened the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Mr. Howell stated the watermark "Draft" on the copy he received was too faint to be clearly seen and recommended future draft documents be marked more boldly.

Mr. Lammey gave a presentation explaining the purpose and contents of the FY 2013 TIP. During the Transit portion of the presentation, Mr. Howell inquired as to why a fairly new Maintenance Shop building at METRO needed to be "rehabbed". Mr. Lammey stated he did not know the answer, only that METRO had submitted their TIP information showing this as an expenditure for FTA funds. Mr. Howell suggested the County Board Chairman be asked to ask the County's METRO representative, and report back to this Committee. Mr. Lammey stated that METRO is working on a site for the Kankakee Transfer Center, likely to be across Chestnut Street from where they now operate.

Mr. Lammey explained the Kankakee County rural transportation program, utilizing SHOW BUS as the operator of the system. Through a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Grant, the County is providing bus transportation for workers from Kankakee to jobs in Momence, leaving Kankakee at 4:00 AM and 5:00 AM. The 4:00 AM bus is full. It is a 14 passenger bus, so the County is applying for a 22 passenger bus for that service. Another program, under the New Freedom Grant, is to provide a voucher for an assistant to ride free with people who cannot ride the bus alone. This may be especially helpful for the elderly. This is working in McLean County.

Mr. Lammey then explained the Local Road Projects and the State Road Projects. Work is in the 4 year plan for a new interchange at I-57 and 6000 N Road, replacement of the Kankakee River Bridge on I-57, and replacing other bridges over I-57. IDOT has spread out construction on these bridges so as to not close them all at once. The Larry Power Road overpass construction has been pushed back beyond FY 2016.

Mr. Lammey explained the projects in the Bicycle and Pedestrian section of the TIP, including a multi-use path from Armour Road to the south entrance to Northfield Square Mall along the east side of Rte 50. This project will be connected in the middle with a portion being built by IDOT as part of the current I-57 bridge replacement. Mr. Howell asked if there is anything planned to help pedestrians and bicyclist cross Rte 50 from Northfield Square Mall to the Target Shopping Center across Rte 50. There is nothing in the TIP to use Federal funds for that intersection for crosswalks or installation of pedestrian signals on the existing signal system. It is unknown if Bradley and IDOT have any other pending plans utilizing other funding sources.

Chairman Miller opened the hearing up for public comment. Mr. Marc Wakat addressed the Committee. He inquired as to the need for the I-57/ 6000 N Road interchange and expressed concerns for attaining sustainability. He cited examples of the River Round Table meetings and the Green Drinks program in Kankakee. He suggested accessing a website, Green City Blue Lake, gcbl.org for sustainability information. (The entirety of his comments may be viewed in the transcript by the Court Reporter.)

Mr. Lammey explained the need for the interchange was recognized after the truck/passenger train accident at McKnight Road, to give trucks additional access to I-57. Mr. Howell stated the funding for the interchange is primarily money that would not have come to the County for other projects. Mr. Bergdahl cited the need to have alternative truck access to I-57 that does not require trucks to travel through downtown Manteno and thereby preserve the roadways in Manteno.

Mr. Miller closed the Public Hearing.

FY 2013 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey presented the FY 2013 Unified Work Program document for the information of this Committee.

URBANIZED AREA DISCUSSION

Mr. Lammey gave a presentation showing the current Urbanized Area and Urbanized Planning

Boundary, and the new proposed Urbanized Area set by the Census Bureau, based on the 2010 Census. Changes include removing Sun River Terrace from the Urbanized Area and adding Manteno into it.

The MPO has to make adjustments to include additional area beyond the Census provided minimums, primarily including property already annexed by the included municipalities. The MPO will make those changes and approve the final version later this year. This affects Manteno, who will stop receiving their allocation of IDOT funds directly. Those funds will roll into the MPO aggregate funds in future years. On the Transit side, Manteno Transit funds will go the River Valley METRO Mass Transit District in the future, and stop going to Kankakee County for rural transit services.

ILLIANA UPDATE

Mr. Lammey displayed a map showing the B3 route for the Illiana with the two latest alternates proposed. There was an Illiana meeting on June 6, 2012 where it was announced the two proposed alternates were being dropped from consideration, leaving the B3 route to stand as recommended, due to the projected usage for the three proposals. Mr. Lammey was asked when they might begin to break ground for this project. This is unknown, as the Phase II of the Illiana Study will not be completed until 2014.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Cowhig pointed out a math error in the Draft FY 2013 TIP on page II-11. That will be corrected.

Mr. Howell asked if there was any need or desire to have the scheduled July 24, 2012 meeting of the full Regional Planning Commission (RPC). He will be out of town that date and the Vice-Chairman would need to preside. Two other people stated they would not be available for that date, as well. The scheduled Annual Meeting for the RPC is September 25, 2012. There was discussion concerning the expiration of appointments to the RPC and thus the Land Use / Transportation Subcommittee, and attendance to both.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2012 at 10:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell moved for adjournment, and Mr. Bayston seconded. Motion passed. Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:47 AM.