

## **MINUTES**

### **COMMUTER TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE**

**JUNE 17, 2008**

#### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

#### **TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES**

Aroma Park – no attendee  
Bourbonnais – no attendee  
Bradley – Mayor Kent  
Illinois Department of Transportation – no attendee  
Kankakee – no attendee  
Kankakee County – Sam Nicholas  
Manteno – Mayor Nugent  
Monee – Henry May  
Peotone – no attendee  
Will County – no attendee

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Dave Bergdahl, Jim Greenstreet and Ryan DeYoung, Kankakee County; Tim Schmidt; Dennis Gary, Earth Tech; Mike Franke and Bruce Hillblom, Amtrak; Lee Provost, Journal; and Laura McElroy, Herald

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Nicholas called the meeting to order at 2:31 P.M.

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Chairman Nicholas asked the attendees to introduce themselves.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

#### **MINUTES**

Mayor Kent moved approval of the March 18, 2008 Minutes, and Mr. May seconded. Unanimous vote.

#### **PRESENTATION FROM AMTRAK**

Chairman Nicholas introduced Mr. Franke from Amtrak, who made a presentation including the following items:

- History of Amtrak.

- Core Network, including states requesting extra service above the core network. Illinois is second only to California in requests for additional service.
- Description of Service in Illinois, including extra service to Milwaukee, Carbondale, Quincy, and St. Louis from Chicago.
- Feasibility Studies for Service Completed for service from Chicago to Rockford and Quad Cities, and a Study Underway for Chicago to Peoria.

Mr. May asked about slow speed of trains, due to track condition, and commented that the tracks used to have a 100 mile per hour speed limit. Mr. Franke responded that other railroads on which Amtrak runs have a higher on time percentage than the route running through Kankakee.

Mr. Gary asked about speed limit issues around the United States. Mr. Franke stated that the speed limits in the Northeast Corridor allow for speeds of 150 miles per hour. He stated that most of the service is at 79 miles per hour.

Mr. Lammey asked about the impact of the Canadian National purchase of the EJ&E on Amtrak service to Chicago. Mr. Franke stated that the purchase would leave Amtrak as the only user of the current CN line into Chicago, and that there is some concern about the continued availability of that trackage to Amtrak.

Mayor Kent asked if Amtrak is a viable alternative for commuters into Chicago. Mr. Franke stated that Amtrak has limited options into Chicago, only from Kankakee, and for a higher cost than Metra has from University Park.

Mayor Kent asked about the importance of the Kankakee area and its' passengers to the Amtrak service. Mr. Franke stated that the service has to prove itself to be on time, and to be more frequent in order to be more useful to patrons from Kankakee.

Mr. Schmidt asked about the funding from Congress for Amtrak. Mr. Franke stated that the priority of Amtrak among Congressmen appears to be as high as it ever has been.

### **PEOTONE SERVICE**

Mr. Gary stated that no RFPs have been issued for the Peotone service issue.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Nicholos stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on September 16, 2008. Mr. Lammey stated that the experience of the City of Rockford is being researched as a possible topic for that meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Kent moved adjournment, and Mayor Nugent seconded. Chairman Nicholos adjourned the meeting at 3:35 P.M.