

**MINUTES**  
**KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING**  
**COMMISSION**  
**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**JULY 15, 2004**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Members:

Frank Koehler, Dave Bergdahl, Rich Howell, Dennis Peters, and Ralph Paarlberg

Others:

Mike Van Mill and Mike Lammey, Kankakee County

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:07 A.M.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Paarlberg moved approval of the May 20, 2004 Minutes, and Mr. Howell seconded. Unanimous vote.

**AIRPORT UPDATE**

Mr. Lammey reported that two planning sessions had been held by the Airport group at Governors State University in the past few months, and that the results of those sessions would be announced at a meeting scheduled for sometime in August. Mr. Bergdahl reported on his experience at the planning sessions. Mr. Van Mill stated that there is a July 28 meeting that has not been announced, that may be only for the Policy maker group.

Mr. Van Mill stated that the Phase II Environmental Impact Statement is supposed to be acted upon sometime in the next eighteen months, and that this announcement would be the starting point for action on the airport.

Mr. Paarlberg stated that he had shown pictures of flooded areas in the northern part of Kankakee County to the IDOT officials at the last meeting. Mr. Lammey stated that the summary of activity of the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Task Force had also been shown to the same IDOT officials, so that the viewpoint of the local area had been made.

Chairman Koehler stated that the Illiana Expressway should be tracked by the Subcommittee. Mr. Van Mill stated that the Will County Executive had met with the Governor of Indiana on the topic, and that Will County had shown staff from Kankakee County what their latest thoughts are on the project, but that the project had not progressed much beyond that initial discussion. Chairman Koehler stated that the connection of I-65 and I-57 is far more important than the

connection of I-80 and I-57. Mr. Bergdahl stated that the construction work on I-80 would raise the issue in importance in everyone's mind.

## **LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE**

Mr. Van Mill stated that there had been issues with how the existing land use data would be assigned to the GIS data base, and that this issue had been complicated by the late delivery of the GIS data base. He stated that these problems had been resolved, and that the study timeline and progress would be presented to the Land Use Subcommittee at their meeting later today.

## **COMMUTER RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY UPDATE**

Mr. Lammey reported that the next meeting of the Commuter Rail Task Force would be held on Tuesday, July 20, in the Second Floor Conference Room, and that all were invited. He stated that the main subject of the meeting would be the projected ridership for the extension of commuter rail service to Kankakee County. Mr. Lammey stated that an earlier idea floated by Mr. Koehler about a transit district to cover Kankakee County, rather than trying to join the RTA, has received renewed interest.

## **POTENTIAL ILLINOIS TOMORROW GRANT APPLICATION**

Mr. Van Mill stated that last round of applications for the Illinois Tomorrow program are coming up, and stated that IDOT has strongly suggested that Kankakee County apply during this round of applications. He stated that one of the topics that has been discussed at length is Chairman Koehler's Tri-Village concept, and asked the Subcommittee if that concept still appeals to the group for an application. The consensus of the Subcommittee was that the concept had merit for an application.

Mr. Van Mill stated that an application will also be made for the area around the Exit 308 interchange, with the economic development potential of the area, coupled with the proposed increased access from the 6000 N Road Corridor Study. Mr. Van Mill stated that letters of support for the potential applications will be a priority issue.

## **LONG-RANGE PLAN UPDATE**

Mr. Lammey presented the Urbanized Area map for the Long-Range Plan, based upon the 2000 Census, and modified by the Policy Committee of the Kankakee Area Transportation Study (MPO). Mr. Bergdahl asked about the map and the boundary agreements between communities. Mr. Lammey replied that the map includes those areas that were requested by the Village Engineers for Bourbonnais, Kankakee, Aroma Park, and Bradley.

## **WORK PROGRAM FOR 2005**

The Subcommittee discussed issues for 2005, with the following result:

1. Add the Illiana Expressway as a special emphasis area, with continued update.
2. Add consideration of truck traffic throughout the county as a special emphasis area, particularly in cooperation with the Highway Department, Township Commissioners, and the Sheriff's Department.
3. State that the Subcommittee will participate in the Land Use/Transportation Study, and will

assist in the Public Hearing process with the Land Use Subcommittee.

4. Continue to state that the Subcommittee will work on Illinois Tomorrow and subsequent programs of study, and to work with other Subcommittees on matters of joint interest.
5. Continue with the implementation of the 6000 N Road/Warner Bridge Road/Exit 308 Corridor Study, in the form of identification of two or three specific implementation measures during 2005.
6. Continue with the adoption of the Corridor Preservation Study as a goal.
7. Continue with the same goals in the Airport area of the work program.

Mr. Van Mill stated that the Work Program is important in that the County Board approves the Work Program of the Regional Planning Commission in total, and this is the authority for the various Subcommittees to perform that work and to present the results to the County Board.

## **METRO RIDERSHIP**

Mr. Lammey reported that the first five years of ridership are in, and reveal a continuing pattern of increasing ridership on the system, culminating in 189,000 riders in the fiscal year culminating in June, 2004. He discussed each of the existing routes, with the headways of service, and the major generator of ridership.

Mr. Lammey stated that there is a current bill in the State Senate that would raise the amount of State subsidy for transit from the current \$1.1 million to \$2.3 million, which is still a small percentage of what is sent to the State Public Transportation fund from the Kankakee area. He stated that he was uncertain what the end result of the funding cycle in Springfield would be.

## **FY 2005 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Lammey presented the **FY 2005 Transportation Improvement Program**, and pointed out the annual element of the transit portion, which budgets a downtown transfer center and an administration and garage facility for the METRO system. He also pointed out that the funding for projects on the IDOT system is way down from recent years.

## **6000 N ROAD CORRIDOR STUDY**

Mr. Lammey distributed the final report for the study to Subcommittee members, and presented the existing Land Use map for the greengrass corridors in the concept.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date will be September 16, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Howell moved adjournment, Mr. Paarlberg seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 11:44 A.M.