

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
AUGUST 19, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Frank Koehler, Lisa Dugan, John Meyer, Mel Blanchette, Rich Howell, Dennis Millirons and Dennis Peters

Others:

Sam Nicholos, Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Delbert Skimerhorn and Brian Billingsley, Kankakee County; Lori McElroy, Herald; Phil Hanegraaf, HNTB; Kay Pangle, Regional Board of Schools; and Kurt Knauth.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 5:23 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Howell moved approval of the July 15, 2004 Minutes, and Mr. Millirons seconded. Unanimous vote.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE

Chairman Koehler stated that the reason for today's meeting was to discuss the issue of the potential Interchange project at 6000 N. Road. He stated that the issue began when information from two sources was not in agreement. He stated that the change in personnel at Illinois Department of Transportation in Ottawa over the past three years has added to the uncertainty over the issue.

Chairman Koehler stated that Ms. Dugan had been in contact with IDOT personnel over the past few days, and asked her to give a report of her findings. Ms. Dugan stated that she has had contact with IDOT around 4:00 P.M. on Thursday, August 19 to confirm the status of the project. She stated that the Access Justification Report (AJR) was filed by IDOT with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and that it was returned by the FHWA with comments in 2003. She stated that the AJR was resubmitted by IDOT in 2004, and that comments had again been received from the FHWA on the report. These comments are now being reviewed by IDOT, and that the process is ongoing. She stated that the Preliminary Engineering Phase I for the project is still in the multi-year program for IDOT.

Chairman Koehler stated that this news is encouraging, and appreciated the effort that IDOT has

put forward on the issue. He stated that part of the problem is that a number of people are involved in the process, and proposed that a local point person for the project be designated, and suggested that Mr. Lammey be designated as that person. Chairman Koehler stated that a great deal of local planning effort has already been done, and that future land use decisions, both privately and publicly are being made with the assumption that the 6000 N. Road Interchange will be a certainty. Ms. Dugan stated that District Engineer Kos had informed her that any local agency or individual can approach his office for information on this project.

Mr. Van Mill states that a draft letter will be issued from Chairman Kruse of Kankakee County offering the Planning Department as assistance for the project, and offering a central point of contact. Chairman Koehler stated that a partnership between the local area and IDOT on this issue is the goal of all concerned.

LONG-RANGE PLAN PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPTEMBER 23

Mr. Lammey stated that the Long-Range Plan document will be brought in draft form to the Transportation Subcommittee at their September 23 (10:00 A.M.) meeting, and that a Public Meeting on the subject will be held after that Transportation Subcommittee meeting. He stated that the Public Meeting has been posted in the newspaper. He stated that the document will be posted on the Planning Department website on September 14, prior to that Public Meeting.

WORK PROGRAM FOR 2005

Mr. Lammey suggested that the 6000 N. Road Interchange be added as a work element to the 2005 Work Program for the Transportation Subcommittee. Mr. Millirons moved its inclusion to the Work Program for 2005, and Mr. Howell seconded. Unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date will be September 23, 2004 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Millirons moved adjournment, Mr. Peters seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 5:38 P.M.