

MINUTES

COMMUTER TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

AUGUST 21, 2007

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – Mike Grimsley
Bourbonnais – no attendee
Bradley – Mayor Kent
Illinois Department of Transportation – no attendee
Kankakee – Mayor Green, Cliff Cross
Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos, Mike Van Mill
Manteno – no attendee
Monee – no attendee
Peotone – George Gray
Will County – Colin Duesing

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet, and Dave Bergdahl, Kankakee County; Dennis Gary, Earth Tech; Daniel Clark, South of Chicago (sub to Earth Tech), Laura McElroy, Herald; and Rob Hoffmann, METRO

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lammey called the meeting to order at 2:34 P.M.

INTRODUCTION

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Cross, the new member for the City of Kankakee, and asked the rest of the attendees to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mayor Kent moved approval of the June 19, 2007 Minutes, and Mr. Duesing seconded. Unanimous vote.

CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

Chairman Nicholos introduced Mr. Gary from Earth Tech, who made a presentation including the following items:

- **Project Overview**
Mr. Gary reviewed the schedule for the project and the issues that would be dealt with at the meeting. He showed the status of current Task Orders, and reviewed the Task Orders that are in low level support or on hold. He reviewed the budget for the project.
- **Task 1.2, Updating Socio-Economic & Ridership Forecasts**
Mr. Gary stated that the initial computer run for ridership was performed by CMAP. He stated that the results were counter-intuitive, and that CMAP was working on how to make the information more reliable. He stated that a meeting of Kankakee County and Will County personnel with CMAP personnel should occur in the very near future to determine what can be expected from CMAP for the remainder of the study.

Mr. Hoffmann asked if there were plans in place to perform ridership estimates if the CMAP model option proves not to be effective, and Mr. Lammey stated that this process needed to be investigated.
- **Task 3.5, Independent Rail Alternative**
Mr. Gary stated that a letter from CN on the use of the railroad yard property at Brookmont, and the bridge at Court Street effectively stopping the rail possibility for the project at Broadway Street in Bradley. He stated that the project would now propose a Minimum Operable Segment (MOS) for the project ending at Broadway, with Full Build Out (FBO) at Exit 308. He stated that the City of Kankakee had been consulted about the CN letter, and the options for the portion of the study area from Broadway south have been presented to the City of Kankakee.

Mr. Gary stated that the City of Kankakee has asked the CN to reconsider their position in a letter of August 13, and that the letter was strongly worded asking the CN to consider alternatives for trade-offs from the City. Mayor Green stated that the CN also needs consideration from the City of Kankakee to perform its activities within the City, and that the City encouraged the CN to consider this fact.

Mr. Gary further stated that a number of alternatives were still open for additional service in the area, and that all options were being left open.
- **Task 8.2, Public Education/Outreach**
Mr. Gary stated that a “town hall” meeting was held in eastern Will County on June 28. He stated that a second project newsletter would be published at an appropriate date.
- **Task 10.1, Final Report**
Mr. Gary stated that two sections of the Final Report had not yet been written (Ridership and Public Education/Outreach), and that the Final Report would be written and published when these sections were complete.
- **Low Level Support Technical Tasks**

Mr. Gary reviewed a number of tasks that are currently in low level support status. He reviewed the response to the project website, noting the number of visitor visits and hits.

Mr. Gary stated that there were four (4) potential speakers that could be invited to make presentations to the Task Force after the publication and adoption of the Final Report, and that these speakers were:

- Amtrak
- Midwest High Speed Rail Association
- FTA- New Starts Program
- Rockford AA Experience

Mayor Kent asked the process from this point in the process. Mr. Gary stated that the next step in the process is an Alternatives Analysis study through the Federal Transit Administration (a \$3 million study covering at least two years). He stated that the next step after that would be Preliminary Engineering (a \$3 million study covering at least two years). He stated that the final step in the study process would be Final Engineering (\$3 million over a two year period). He then stated that the Construction phase would be next.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Nicholos stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on October 16, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kent moved adjournment, and Mr. Grimsley seconded. Chairman Nicholos adjourned the meeting at 3:28 P.M.