

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)
MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2007

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mr. Paukovitz	Illinois Department of Transportation
Dr. Gingerich	Bradley
Mr. Piekarczyk	Kankakee County
Mr. McBurney	Bourbonnais
Mr. Tyson	Kankakee

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Van Mill, Mr. Lamme and Mr. Greenstreet, Kankakee County; Mr. Stack, Mr. Videgar, Mr. Lang, Mr. Nunes and Mr. Kelso, IDOT; Mr. DiPalma and Ms. Settles, FHWA; Mayor Grimsley, Aroma Park; Mayor Kent, Bradley; Mayor Green, Kankakee and Mr. Morgan, Journal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Piekarczyk called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Dr. Gingerich moved approval of the June 27, 2007 minutes. Mr. Paukovitz seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AGENDA

Mr. McBurney moved approval of the Agenda, and Mr. Tyson seconded. Unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Tyson moved that Mr. Piekarczyk be nominated for Chairman, and Dr. Gingerich seconded. Mr. Tyson moved that the nominations be closed, and Mr. McBurney seconded.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that he wanted to make sure that the members of the Technical Advisory Committee knew his feelings on the transportation planning process before they took action on his nomination. He stated that the beginning of the MPO process in the Kankakee area was in 1982, when the Deputy Director of IDOT's Central Bureau of OP&P, Kirk Brown appeared before the Mayors and County Board Chairman at that time. Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Mayors and County Board Chairman at that time were concerned about new federal requirements interfering with their existing cooperative method for utilization of funding.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the County Planning Department accepted the responsibility for the staff function of the MPO, and has also been responsible for the local share to match the transportation planning funds that have been made available to the area. He stated that the chief transportation planning function of the County Planning Department has been to insure the uninterrupted flow of federal transportation construction funding to the area.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the negative tone of the most recent MPO meetings has been troubling, and that the impression that the Kankakee Area Transportation Study was the only MPO in Illinois that had not met the requirements of the SAFETEA-LU bill that was presented at the last MPO meeting was disturbing, especially since he has since heard that this was not the case.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the Kankakee Area Transportation Study has accomplished a great deal through its program of transportation expenditures through the years since 1982, and that the area should be proud of the projects that have been supported. He stated that the projects were all important from a regional perspective, and that he believed that the proposed future projects, Cardinal Drive in Bradley, Burns Road in Bourbonnais, and the potential Brookmont Boulevard viaduct in Kankakee, were projects of regional importance, and would benefit the metropolitan area greatly.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that he did not believe that the Kankakee Area Transportation Study should “beat ourselves up” over the Long-Range Transportation Plan compliance amendments required by SAFETEA-LU, and that the prospect of meeting more frequently than ever before over this issue was troubling to him. He stated that the prospect of new member communities to the MPO in the future, namely Sammons Point, Limestone, and Sun River Terrace, held the prospect of more and more communities being forced to hire representatives to attend MPO meetings, and expend what little available funding they had for that activity.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that before the Technical Advisory Committee elected him Chairman of the group, he wanted them to be aware of the concerns that he had with the current process. He stated that the group might want to consider the election of someone who might be better able to lead the group.

Mr. Tyson stated that he had been involved in the MPO process as long as Mr. Piekarczyk, and that he seconded all of the concerns voiced by Mr. Piekarczyk. He stated his concern about the number of hours that have been devoted to meetings, particularly on the compliance amendments to the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the concept of “reasonable effort” for a small MPO to meet, but not necessarily exceed, increasingly difficult federal regulations is a high priority with him, and that he will continue to stress this concept.

Dr. Gingerich stated his concern on continuing to minimize the number of meetings, and stated that he supported Mr. Piekarczyk’s leadership and his concerns.

Mr. Piekarczyk stated that the election would be conditional, provided the reappointment of the

Technical Advisory Committee members by the Policy Committee. Mr. Piekarczyk called for a vote on the closure of the nominations, which was unanimous. Mr. Piekarczyk called for a vote on the nomination, which was also unanimous.

Mr. Lammey stated that the historical precedent for the Vice-Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee was the recipient of the next STPU project. He stated that the letting for the Aroma Park Lowe Road project had been held, and that the next project was the Cardinal Drive for the Village of Bradley. Mr. Tyson moved that Dr. Gingerich be elected Vice-Chairman, and Mr. McBurney seconded the motion. Mr. Tyson moved that the nominations be closed, and Mr. McBurney seconded the motion. The vote on closure was unanimous, as was the vote on Dr. Gingerich as Vice-Chairman.

STPU TIMELINES

Mr. Videgar stated that the Environmental Survey Request can be filed on line as of August 20, and that anyone interested in doing so should contact him. He stated that the STPU project timeline for the Cardinal Drive project was fine. Dr. Gingerich stated that he wanted to find out if the timelines were useful to the Policy Committee members, and how the report should be discussed at the MPO meetings.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the 45 day public comment period for the Public Participation Plan has been completed, and that no public comments were received. Dr. Gingerich moved that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend approval of the Public Participation Plan to the Policy Committee. Mr. Tyson seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN COMPLIANCE AMENDMENT

Chairman Piekarczyk asked Mr. Lammey to review the content of the SAFETEA-LU compliance amendment. Mr. Lammey stated that the legislation required four sections be added to the current Long-Range Transportation Plan, in order to be compliant. He stated that the material is being added to the plan as a compliance amendment. He reviewed the four sections as follows:

- Stand-alone Safety section
- Stand-alone Security section
- Management & Operation section
- Environmental Mitigation section

Mr. Lammey also stated that there was a requirement for an Obligated Projects report, that the time period for the projects included in that report would be October 1, 2006 through September 30, 2007, and asked IDOT if the report needed to be approved by the Policy Committee. Mr. Nunes stated that the report could be submitted by staff, and did not have to be approved by the Policy Committee.

Chairman Piekarczyk asked if the report was revenue neutral, and Mr. Lammey stated that it

was. Mr. Paukovitz stated that the emergency plans referred to in the Security section needed to reference already adopted plans, not to be reinvented. Mr. Nunes stated that the incorporation of existing plans was the goal of the section. Mayor Grimsley agreed, stating that the plans have been the result of a great deal of work, and should be referenced. Chairman Piekarczyk stated that if the work is done, it should be documented and referenced. Mr. Lammey stated that the language would be altered, and that staff would coordinate with ESDA and Sheriff's staff to document the existing plan. Mr. DiPalma stated that the intent was not to reinvent the wheel, but to document what was already in place. Chairman Piekarczyk stated that the new language of the Security section should emphasize that the transportation planning function should "do nothing" that conflicts with the existing plan.

Mr. McBurney moved that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Policy Committee place the compliance amendment into the 45 day public comment phase. Mr. Tyson seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gingerich moved that the Technical Advisory Committee recommend that the Policy Committee forward the compliance amendment to the Transportation Subcommittee for a public hearing on September 6. Mr. Tyson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Piekarczyk stated that the next meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee would be on October 24, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Tyson moved adjournment, and Dr. Gingerich seconded. Chairman Piekarczyk adjourned the meeting at 11:00 A.M.