

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL
PLANNING COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Kankakee County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

August 22, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Chairman Chad Miller, Presiding; Ralph Paarlberg; David Bergdahl; George Washington; Jeff Jarvis, Bill Bukowski, Mel Blanchette, Craig Bayston, Rich Howell, Lisa Dugan, and Loretto Cowhig.

Others:

Michael Dobrow, State Representative Kate Cloonen's Office; Mark Fenton, The Herald; Jim Vickery, County Board; Mike Lammey, Del Skimerhorn and Ashley Skimerhorn, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 10:27 AM, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lammey stated that a change had been made to the 13th line of page 2 of the minutes to "providing". Mr. Bergdahl made a motion to accept the minutes from June 6, 2013 as amended, seconded by Ms. Dugan. Motion carried.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Skimerhorn made a presentation on the land use impacts of the Illiana project. He presented demographic data (population and employment) for the four townships in Will County and the four townships in Kankakee County that were in the study area, and discussed those trends. Comments were made to check the data again for percentage changes.

Mr. Skimerhorn then presented the population and employment additions derived by the consultants for the Illiana Study, concluding that these additions were smaller than what staff expected. He showed the Land Use Plans for the four communities in the study area, along with the two counties, and stated that the current Land Use Plans had plenty of area to accommodate

the future growth in population. He stated the assumption that commercial and industrial growth would be tied to the proposed interchanges on the Illiana, mainly at Illinois Route 50 and U.S. Route 1, as these areas were close to existing sewer and water utilities. He stated that development at the U.S. Route 45 interchange is currently outside any area of water and sewer coverage.

Mr. Skimerhorn and Mr. Lammey stated that the major interchange benefitting development in Kankakee County would be the proposed interchange at Illinois Route 50, and that successive plans for the Illiana had shown the interchange on the plan one time, and off the plan the next time. Mr. Lammey stated that Kankakee County has made it clear that this interchange is critical to Kankakee County, and would continue to do so. Ms. Dugan asked why this interchange bounces on and off, and Mr. Lammey replied that it is a difficult interchange to build, and represents a challenge.

Mr. Bergdahl stated his concern that the areas around the proposed interchanges not develop into a repeat of Diversatec, with large volumes of truck traffic and no roadways planned to accommodate those volumes. Mr. Washington stated that we currently have a truck situation that we are trying to solve with the Illiana, and was concerned with making the situation even worse.

Mr. Skimerhorn also presented some historical data on projections for population and employment as a result of the South Suburban Airport, and showed the Land Use Plans that had been developed as a part of those previous studies.

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the major impact of the study was the consideration of potential industrial growth in Kankakee County to match up with the interchanges at Illinois Route 50 and U.S. Route 1. He stated that the degree of access to the Illiana, the existence of railroads, and the fact that utilities could cover the areas meant that industrial growth should be considered.

Mr. Skimerhorn and Mr. Lammey stated that intermodal development around these two interchanges was a possibility, and wanted to get some feeling from the Subcommittee about the prospect of intermodal development. Mr. Howell stated that the opinion of Manteno and Grant Park should be sought on these issues, since most of the affected areas would be parts of those villages, rather than in the unincorporated county.

Mr. Bergdahl stated that this is an issue much like that faced by the Tri-Village Plan of some years ago, in that multiple jurisdictions would be involved in the planning effort. He encouraged staff to consider a similar kind of study. Mr. Washington stated that the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee should consider the possibilities that would eventually be discussed with the villages of Manteno and Grant Park.

Mr. Vickery stated the truck issues in Momence are growing worse, and that the Illiana has a chance to make that situation better. He stated that the County should attempt to influence the affected municipalities with the facts of the situation, should the Illiana be built.

ILLIANA UPDATE

Mr. Lammey discussed the current situation where the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for

Planning (CMAP) has to include the Illiana in their approved Long-Range Transportation Plan for the Illiana to move forward. He stated some of the issues involved, and stated that Kankakee County would continue to press for the project to be built.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bayston stated that it might be a good idea to invite Mr. Craig Blanchette to discuss some of the AQUA plans for expansion, since the provision of water to a number of areas seems to be a topic of concern.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2013 at 10:30 AM.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell moved for adjournment, and Ms. Dugan seconded. Motion carried. Chairman Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.