

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Dave Bergdahl, Mel Blanchette, George Washington, Bud Bates and Jeff Jarvis

Others:

Craig Blanchette, Bill Bukowski, Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey and Sarah Billadeau, Kankakee County

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

INTRODUCTIONS

All members of the Subcommittee and staff introduced themselves.

MINUTES

Mr. Washington moved approval of the July 20, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Bates seconded. Unanimous vote.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE

Mr. Lammey stated that the consultant for the Preliminary Engineering Phase I project will be selected by IDOT on October 4. He stated that the County Planning Department staff would be more involved in this phase of the study than had been the case for the Access Justification Report.

Mr. Van Mill gave a summary of a meeting that had occurred between Vulcan Materials, IDOT, and Planning Department staff on the alternatives for 6000 N. Road east of the proposed interchange.

Mr. Lammey stated that IDOT had requested that a planning meeting among all jurisdictions on the project be held sometime in November, and that the Regional Planning Commission be the inviting agency. He further stated that a Congressional Hearing on the interchange had been held in New Lenox, and referred to the testimony of Mr. Koehler at that hearing. Mr. Craig Blanchette stated that he would forward a copy of his testimony at the hearing, as well.

Mr. Van Mill gave a summary of the Tri-Village study discussing land use and transportation in

the area of the proposed interchange, and stated that a preliminary draft of the plan was due in the near future.

The Subcommittee held general discussions on the east – west project to connect I-57 and I-65 at the northern Kankakee County line. Mr. Bates stated that right-of-way should be preserved for this alignment, and Mr. Van Mill stated that a private concern had expressed interest in building the facility, and that he and Mr. Piekarczyk were meeting with that private concern in the near future.

6000 N. ROAD CORRIDOR PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the first priority project in the corridor is the approval and funding of the interchange, and the associated roadways between U.S. Route 45 and Illinois Route 50. A general discussion about truck issues followed, with Mr. Van Mill stating that the various jurisdictions involved will have to agree on an alignment between 6000 N. Road and 7000 N. Road.

GROWTH OPTIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. Lammey stated that he was invited by County Board members Whitten and Martin to a presentation from this organization, with the purpose of a County Board Resolution of Support for the concept of additional funding for the infrastructure of freight railroads. Mr. Lammey stated that it would be in the interest of Kankakee County to support such a Resolution, and stated that this subject would be brought up for action at the November Transportation Subcommittee meeting.

Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Washington stated that the combination of east – west roadway corridors and increased emphasis on rail freight leads to a discussion of intermodal facilities, and where these facilities might be located in Kankakee County. Mr. Bergdahl stated that the potential relocation of Illinois Route 50 to 2000 E. Road and into Manteno would leave an area north of the quarry at 6000 N. Road to be considered.

Mr. Mel Blanchette asked about the potential size of such a facility, and Mr. Jarvis stated that the facility around Elwood is in the neighborhood of 4 square miles. Mr. Crain Blanchette stated that the Comp Plan for Manteno, now being developed, might need to reflect this discussion.

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl stated that a speaker on this subject at the full Regional Planning Commission meeting in November should be explored.

AIRPORT

Mr. Bates asked about the level of house demolition in the airport footprint. Mr. Lammey stated that he did not know, but would try to find out.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl asked Mr. Lammey to give a historical perspective on this issue. Mr. Lammey reviewed the process followed in 1999-2001, culminating in a recommendation, but being withdrawn when the IDOT Manual on roadway standards was scheduled for a redraft. Mr. Lammey stated that the new Manual is in place, and the Highway and Planning Departments are

meeting to draft new Corridor Preservation standards.

COMMUTER TRANSIT

Mr. Lammey stated that the consultant (Earth Tech) is under contract. He stated that the next Task Force meeting will be on October 17 in Aroma Park, and that members of the Subcommittee are invited.

ITS

Mr. Lammey stated that the workshop for this issue would be held on September 22.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS

Mr. Lammey stated that IDOT has just hired their coordinator for this program, and that the program details have not yet been issued.

WORK PROGRAM

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl presented the 2007 Work Program for the Subcommittee. Mr. Washington moved approval, and Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded. Unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

Vice-Chairman Bergdahl stated that the next meeting date would be November 16, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Washington moved adjournment, and Mr. Bates seconded. Vice-Chairman Bergdahl adjourned the meeting at 11:37 A.M.