

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
OCTOBER 16, 2008

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Ralph Paarlberg, Rich Howell, Chad Miller, Dave Bergdahl, Mel Blanchette, Bill Bukowski, Loretto Cowhig, George Washington, Jeff Jarvis, Craig Blanchette and Craig Bayston

Others:

Mike Lammey, Del Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:30 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Paarlberg stated that his name was misspelled in the August 28 Minutes. Mr. Miller moved approval of the Minutes, with the correction noted. Mr. Paarlberg seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Ms. Cowhig nominated the current slate of officers for another term (Chairman Howell and Vice-Chairman Bergdahl). Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the federal guidelines under which transportation planning is done require an update of the Long-Range Transportation Plan every five years. He stated that the last plan was approved in October, 2004, so the next plan needs to be in development now. He stated that the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is one of the citizen committees being used in development of this Plan. He introduced Mr. Joe Ligas, the consultant hired by Kankakee County to assist in the development of the Plan.

Mr. Ligas discussed the need for a long-range vision for the future, and discussed some of the influences on that vision:

- South Suburban Airport influence

- I-65 Prairie Parkway connection
- Federal mandates and changing conditions
- Inventory of existing conditions
- Demographics (2005 adoption of the Comprehensive Plan)
- Lack of a traffic model

Mr. Ligas stated that the federal legislation details eight (8) goals for the Long-Range Transportation Plan to emphasize, and discussed each of the eight, and the strategies used to meet that goal from the 2007 Compliance Amendment to the Long-Range Transportation Plan:

- Emphasize Preservation of the Existing Transportation System
 - Mr. Jarvis suggested that some mention be made of protection and enhancement of the existing Interstate 57 Interchanges.
 - Mr. Jarvis suggested that preservation of the existing rail structure, especially for commuter rail, be added.
- Support for the Economic Vitality of the Area, Especially in the Areas of Global Competitiveness, Productivity, and Efficiency
 - Ms. Cowhig suggested that the Airport Study should be mentioned in this area.
 - Mr. Miller suggested that the flow of grain to global markets, and the resultant challenges to the local roadway network to grain elevators should be mentioned.
 - The Subcommittee had a discussion on the network of 80,000 pound roadways and truck routes.
 - Ms. Cowhig suggested that High Speed Rail should be added to this area, and perhaps to others.
- Enhance the Integration and Connectivity of the Transportation System, Across and Between Modes, for People and Freight
 - The Subcommittee had a discussion on the impact of intermodal facilities, and requested that that impact be added to this area, and perhaps to others.
 - The Subcommittee had a discussion about coordination between METRO and PACE for transit service outside Kankakee County.
 - Mr. Washington stated that 250 car trains will cause some issues that should be discussed.
 - The Subcommittee had a discussion on better coordination of all modes with the increase in freight by rail.
- Increase Accessibility and Mobility Options for Freight and People
 - Some issues raised in other areas also need to be added to this goal.
- Protect and Enhance the Environment, Promote Energy Conservation, and Improve Quality of Life
 - A number of Subcommittee members mentioned issues related to the Kankakee River.
 - Alternative Fuels were mentioned.
 - Wind Farms were mentioned.
 - Mr. Paarlberg stated that the European model of transit should be mentioned at some point.

- Mr. Bukowski stated that fuel conservation should be an important area for discussion.
- Mr. Washington stated that alternative fuels will require coordinated efforts for “stations” to supply those fuels, and that some mention of this should be made in this section.
- Promote Efficient System Management and Operation
 - The Subcommittee stated that the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) should have some role in the 80,000 pound network of roads.
 - The Subcommittee stated that the role of agriculture has changed regarding size and weight of truck movements, and that this should be discussed.
 - Mr. Washington stated that a fundamental change in funding for roadways needs to be discussed.
- Increase the Safety of the Transportation System for Motorized and Non Motorized Users
 - Mr. Ligas stated that data is being collected, but that some insight should be given on how that data is to be used.
 - Mr. Ligas stated that there is a tendency of governmental agencies to be reluctant to publish crash data.
 - Mr. Ligas stated that pedestrian and bicycle issues need to be discussed.
- Increase the Security of the Transportation System for All Users
 - Mr. Ligas stated that local efforts in the Sheriff’s Department have already been expended in the development of a Plan, and that this needs to be documented.
 - Mr. Ligas stated that simulated exercises needed to be documented, and that public works coordination needs to be discussed.
 - Mr. Washington stated that the 2016 Olympics and their impact on Kankakee County need to be discussed.
 - Mr. Ligas stated that a great deal of work has been done at the state level, and that coordination needs to be developed with that work.
 - Mr. Paarlberg stated that increased traffic has had an impact on the condition of the local roadways.

Mr. Ligas and Mr. Lammey thanked the Subcommittee for their efforts, and stated that this is a continuing effort through October of 2009.

ZONING REDUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Skimerhorn distributed a draft request to the States Attorneys’ Office on the issue raised in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan of reducing the oversupply of residential, commercial, and industrial zoned property in Kankakee County. He asked the members of the Subcommittee to read the questions he has asked the SAO to review, and to forward suggestions to him for either refinement of those questions, or further questions. Mr. Miller asked about the “takings issue” and Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the loss of zoning from a property could be viewed as such.

TRI-VILLAGE REGULATIONS

Chairman Howell stated that an endorsement of the Tri-Village Study regulations and recommendations has been requested. Mr. Skimerhorn gave a brief history of the project, and

stated that a number of comments had been received from the Villages of Manteno, Bourbonnais, and Bradley, and that all but one of those comments had been incorporated into the final report. Mr. Washington moved that the report be moved to the PZA Committee with the endorsement of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee, and Mr. Bayston seconded. The vote was unanimous.

SUBDIVISION AND CONSERVATION DESIGN ORDINANCE

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the review by the States Attorneys' Office was complete, and that he was taking the issue to the PZA for action. Chairman Howell asked what had been removed from the Ordinance as a result of the review, and Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the establishment of the special service districts and the requirement for homeowners associations has been removed.

Chairman Howell stated his concern that those districts should be in the Ordinance, and Mr. Washington agreed. The Subcommittee strongly stated that the SAO should be at the PZA meeting at which this issue will be discussed. Mr. Washington stated that he would voice the concern of the Subcommittee on this issue at the PZA.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PLAN

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that word had not yet been received from IDNR on this grant application.

JOINT LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE PLAN ADOPTIONS

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that a presentation had been made to the Village of Bourbonnais but that no action had been taken. The Subcommittee suggested that the issue be taken to the Village Board or Village staff for action.

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING

Mr. Lammey stated that all crash reports for 2004 had been coded, and were now being scanned, so that they could be displayed on GIS layers.

WIND FARM ISSUE

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that an application was expected. He reported that Iroquois and Ford County had taken some action on the issue. He stated that there was an Open House in Herscher on the afternoons of October 22 and 29, and invited Subcommittee members to attend.

AIRPORT STUDY

Ms. Cowhig reported that a Public Meeting was held on September 25, and that 167 attended. She stated some concern about the format of that Public Hearing. She stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be October 27 at 3:30 P.M., and that there would be another Public Meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was general discussion about the legal status of the County challenge to the Town and Country landfill.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next meeting would be December 18, 2008, and that the

location would be the County Administration Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bayston moved adjournment, and Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 11:22 A.M.