

MINUTES

COMMUTER RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 18, 2005

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – Mike Grimsley
Bourbonnais – no attendee
Bradley – Mayor Kent
Illinois Department of Transportation – Sharon Durbin
Kankakee – Tim Schmidt
Kankakee County – Kelly McLaren
Manteno – Jeff Jarvis, Paul Nicholson
Monee – Henry May
Peotone – George Gray
Will County – Colin Duesing

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Lammey and Dave Bergdahl, Kankakee County; Mary Baskerville, Daily Journal; David Hinderliter, Kankakee River Valley Chamber of Commerce; and Laura McElroy, Herald.

WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kent welcomed the group to the Village of Bradley, and Acting Chairman Lammey called the meeting to order at 2:35 P.M. Acting Chairman Lammey had everyone introduce themselves.

MINUTES

Mr. Nicholson moved that the Minutes of the August 16, 2005 meeting be approved, and Mr. Gray seconded. Unanimous vote.

PHASE II APPLICATION

Acting Chairman Lammey stated that a Legislative Briefing was held on October 14 for Senator Halverson and staff for Congressman Weller, and asked Mr. Hinderliter to give his impression of the meeting. Mr. Hinderliter stated that he thought the meeting went well, and that a Letter of Support for the project would be forthcoming from both of the participants. He stated that the presentation was well received, and to the point. He stated that efforts were underway to make the same presentation to the remainder of the

legislative group (Representatives Dugan and Gordon) for the area, and that Senator Dahl had already agreed to give a Letter of Support for the project.

Mr. Lammey distributed a copy of the presentation to all Task Force members, and stated that staff was available to make the same presentation to any Task Force member agency. He stated that the goal was to submit an application to the IDOT Office of Planning and Programming with a Letter of Support from every member of the local legislative group, and with a Letter of Support from every member agency of the Task Force.

Task Force members asked for a sample Letter of Support and for a sample Resolution. Mr. Duesing stated that he would forward the Will County Resolution for distribution, and Mr. Lammey stated that he would forward a sample Letter of Support as soon as possible.

Mr. May asked about the source of funding for the Phase II Study, and Ms. Durbin stated that a funding category had been set aside to assist Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) with special planning activities, and that this project would qualify for that funding.

In terms of the Scope of Services, Mr. Lammey stated that action was being taken on a number of fronts:

- In terms of ridership projections, the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) had agreed to participate in this effort, pending a request through their appropriate Will County group. Mr. Duesing stated that this request was underway. Mr. Lammey stated that CATS made the request that the consultant selected for the Phase II Study would be made responsible for obtaining agreement on the socio-economic forecasts for the areas along the proposed line extension.
- Mr. Lammey stated that contact had been made with the Canadian National Railway, and discussions were being held on how to obtain the Computer Line Simulations of rail traffic on the future commuter rail line extension. He stated that some railroads want to perform their own simulations, but that the Canadian National currently prefers selecting a consultant firm to perform this function. He stated that it is likely that the firm selected to perform the Phase II Study will have to have a subcontract with the firm selected by the Canadian National to perform this simulation.
- Mr. Lammey stated that elements regarding the institutional issues are being added to the draft Scope of Services, and that this Scope would be available after review by the States' Attorneys Office of Kankakee County. In response to questions by Mr. Gray and Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Lammey stated that the Scope of Services would likely not be complete by the time the request for funding for the Phase II Study would be forwarded to IDOT.

Mr. Lammey stated that letters had been sent to the 19 firms that IDOT has prequalified for this type of study, and that 12 firms had expressed interest. He stated that the closure date for the expression of interest would be November 1. He stated that the intent was to send a Request for Proposal (RFP) out to this group sometime in late November, and to select a successful candidate firm for the Phase II Study on a concurrent basis with the funding approval process. He stated that the final contract would be on the basis of negotiations with the successful firm, once the Scope of Services had been finalized. He stated that this process would save a great deal of time over the Phase I Study.

METRO UNIVERSITY PARK COMMUTER BUS SERVICE

Mr. Grimsley, a Board member of the River Valley METRO Mass Transit District announced that the METRO Commuter Bus Service was on the verge of being instituted, and that the current target date for the start of service would be October 31. He stated that a great deal of work had gone into this service institution, and that METRO was hopeful that it would prove to be beneficial to the citizens of Kankakee County.

A number of questions were asked about service hours, service days, fares, and stops, which Mr. Grimsley answered, and stated that an announcement would be made in the Journal in the form of a press release detailing how to purchase tickets for the service.

Mr. Nicholson stated that the Village of Manteno is exploring their options to become involved in the Commuter Bus Service. Mr. Bergdahl asked if Manteno still had to become a member agency of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to be part of the service, and Mr. Lammey stated that the legislation that established METRO had a provision for the annexation of territory, and that Manteno and METRO were working through those provisions currently.

NEXT MEETING

Acting Chairman Lammey stated that the next meeting would be on December 20, 2005, at 2:30 P.M., and that a tentative meeting schedule for 2006 had been distributed to Task Force members.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Kent moved adjournment, and Mr. Nicholson seconded. Unanimous vote. Acting Chairman Lammey adjourned the meeting at 3:15 P.M.