

MINUTES

METRA FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

OCTOBER 21, 2003

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – Mike Grimsley

Bourbonnais – Frank Koehler

Bradley – no attendee

Illinois Department of Transportation – Chuck Abraham, Chuck Kadlec

Kankakee – Tim Schmidt

Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos, Karl Kruse

Manteno – Jeff Jarvis

Monee – no attendee

Peotone – no attendee

Will County – no attendee

OTHERS PRESENT

Pam Lee, Bill Olthoff, Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Delbert Skimerhorn, and Eric Sadler, Kankakee County; Dave Bergdahl, Kankakee County Regional Planning Commission; Lee Provost, Journal, Darrel Baxter, Baker and Taylor; Toby Olszewski, Herald; Justin Fox, Wilbur Smith; Nick Brand, SYSTRA; David Nelson, KKO and Associates; Mark Thompson, Hanson Professional Services; Ken Kinney, HNTB; and Dennis Gary and Lisa Maurath, Parsons Brinckerhoff.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Kruse called the meeting to order at 9:54 A.M., and welcomed the group to Kankakee County, and thanked the group for the willingness to be involved in the day's activities. He turned the meeting over to Chairman Nicholos.

MINUTES

Mr. Lammey stated that an amendment to change the first word on the fifth line of the second page of the draft Minutes from Thursday to Tuesday has been suggested. Mr. Koehler moved approval of the amendment, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Unanimous vote. Mr. Koehler moved that the amended Minutes of the September 16, 2003 Meeting be approved, and Mr. Grimsley seconded. Unanimous vote.

INTERVIEWS

Mr. Lammey discussed the materials that will be available from each consultant, and the general rules for presentation, including 25 minutes for consultant presentation, 15 minutes for questions, and 5 minutes for summation.

Presentations were made by Wilbur Smith, KKO and Associates, HNTB, and Parsons Brinckerhoff. Task Force members asked questions of each consultant.

At the conclusion of all interviews, Task Force members expressed their general impressions of the interviews. Mr. Grimsley stated that it was important to him that the successful Project Manager not be overburdened with other current studies, which favored HNTB and Parsons Brinckerhoff. He stated that Parsons Brinckerhoff bringing in alternative solutions was a plus from his standpoint.

Mr. Koehler stated that all of the consultants will be challenged by the difficulty of working with the Canadian National Railroad, and he saw no advantage of any on that issue. He stated that Parsons Brinckerhoff bringing the LaSalle Street Station into the mix was an enormous benefit to the study, as the most potential employment would be garnered by a connection with the LaSalle Street Station.

Mr. Schmidt stated that the LaSalle Street Station had been his priority since he had started working on the study, and that Parsons Brinckerhoff had made an impression on him with that suggestion. He further stated that the land use issues raised by HNTB were certainly a value added item, and worth considering. He stated that the Transit Oriented Development concept was a serious issue from his standpoint. Mr. Schmidt further stated that it was important to him that some of the consultants stated that the South Suburban Airport was not the only reason to extend the line past University Park.

Mr. Baxter stated that the Parsons Brinckerhoff proposal answered most of his concerns, particularly about the LaSalle Street Station connection to downtown Chicago, and with that location's ability to draw the most potential employment from areas south of University Park.

Chairman Nicholas stated that the Task Force members who would vote on the staff suggestion for the consultant for the project would be those who had been present for the entire interview process (Mr. Grimsley, Mr. Koehler, Mr. Schmidt, and Chairman Nicholas). Mr. Lammey stated that a staff recommendation would be written and distributed a week prior to the November 18, 2003 meeting, and that the Task Force would meet to make the consultant decision at that time.

Mr. Abraham and Mr. Kadlec stated that a written evaluation, with scoring of the consultants in a matrix format, would be required for their records, and Mr. Lammey stated that the staff recommendation would be written in that format.

Mr. Schmidt asked about the timing of the project consultant approval process, and Mr. Lammey replied that the plan was to obtain Task Force approval of consultant at the November 18, 2003 meeting, and to obtain County Board approval at the December County Board meeting, after obtaining PZA approval.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Nicholas stated that the next regular meeting of the Task Force will be at 2:00 P.M. on November 18, 2003.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schmidt moved adjournment, and Mr. Grimsley seconded. Chairman Nicholas adjourned the meeting at 3:27 P.M.