

**MINUTES**  
**KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING**  
**COMMISSION**  
**TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE**  
**NOVEMBER 16, 2006**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Members:

Mel Blanchette, Bud Bates, Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, Craig Blanchette, Bill Bukowski, Rich Howell and Chad Miller

Others:

Kelly McLaren, Bob Scholl, Mike Lammey and Sarah Billadeau, Kankakee County

**CALL TO ORDER**

In the absence of a Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Acting Chairman Bukowski was selected through random selection. Acting Chairman Bukowski called the meeting to order at 10:12 A.M.

**MINUTES**

Mr. Bates moved approval of the September 21, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded. Unanimous vote.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Mr. Paarlberg moved that the existing officers of the Subcommittee (Chairman – Mr. Koehler and Vice-Chairman Mr. Bergdahl) be retained. Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

**2007 MEETING DATES**

Mr. Paarlberg moved that the 2007 meeting dates be established in the off-months from full Regional Planning Commission meetings. Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

**GROWTH OPTIONS FOR THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY**

Mr. Lammey stated that he had met with the non-profit group Growth Options for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and with County Board members Whitten and Martin, and that a request by the group had been forwarded to the Transportation Subcommittee for action. He stated that the request is for a Resolution of Support for a goal of an increase of funding for freight rail infrastructure. Mr. Lammey stated that it is entirely within the goals of Kankakee County to support this request, as historically, Kankakee County has grown with the growth of the railroads through the

County.

Acting Chairman Bukowski stated his position of support for the request, stating that Kankakee County came into being with the establishment of the Illinois Central Railroad, and that the success and growth of Kankakee County has mirrored the growth of those railroads. He stated that the increase in the number of trucks carrying freight through Kankakee County is causing problems in various areas of the County, particularly in Momence, and that any action that could provide alternate freight options to rail should be supported.

Mr. Bates moved support of the goals of increased infrastructure funding for freight railroads, and Mr. Paarlberg seconded. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Lammey stated that he would take the request to the States' Attorney's Office for the preparation of a resolution.

### **COMMUTER TRANSIT**

Mr. Lammey reported that the Phase II study is underway, and that the next Task Force meeting will be held on December 12 at 2:30 P.M. at the Bourbonnais Community Center. He stated that the Task Force will be holding a workshop on Transit Oriented Development on December 15 at the Manteno Community Center from 9:00 A.M. until noon, and that a field trip of suburban train stations will be conducted that afternoon. He stated that Subcommittee members are welcome at either event.

Mr. Lammey also stated that the ridership on the University Park METRO service was doing well. He stated that staff of METRO and the Planning Department were looking for ways to market the service to increase ridership. Mr. Jarvis suggested that perhaps the service could be marketed to agencies dealing with the unemployed, as a possible avenue to get to available jobs in either Will or Cook County. Mr. Lammey stated that he would explore this option.

### **6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE AND CORRIDOR STUDY**

Mr. Lammey reported that a kickoff meeting for the project for public officials will be held at the end of the month, and that a public meeting of landowners will be held during the month of January. He stated that the Village of Bradley had requested that the transition on the 6000 N. Road Corridor from 6000 N. Road to 7000 N. Road would be shifted to the east, and that a resolution to the request had not yet occurred. Mr. Bates requested that a map of the County with the projects being discussed be displayed during meetings, so that Subcommittee members can visualize the projects which are being discussed. The remainder of the Subcommittee members agreed that this was a good idea, and Mr. Lammey stated that he would investigate.

### **AIRPORT**

Mr. Lammey stated that he had no new information on the South Suburban Airport.

### **CORRIDOR PRESERVATION**

Mr. Lammey stated that the staff were working on the update to the Corridor Preservation project, and that the next step depends upon agreement between the Highway and Planning Departments, along with the consultant hired by the Highway Department. He stated that Mr. Piekarczyk had informed the Highway Committee that the results of the consultant effort were

close to completion, and stated that the Planning Department would meet with the Highway Department to discuss those results in the near future.

### **ILLIANA (CRITICAL COMMERCE CORRIDOR) DISCUSSION**

Acting Chairman Bukowski referred to an article in the Journal and stated again that something needs to be done to attempt to resolve the truck traffic issue in Kankakee County. Mr. Lammey stated that the east-west roadway at the northern County line would provide a connection between Interstates 57 and 65, and would resolve many of the issues facing Momence and Grant Park of trucks attempting to make that connection on their own.

Mr. Howell moved that the Transportation Subcommittee recommend to the full Regional Planning Commission to support the concept of an east-west expressway at 12000 N Road connecting I-57 with I-65 in Indiana. Mr. Blanchette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **ITS**

Ms. Billadeau stated that the workshop on the project was held on September 22, and that a number of interviews had been conducted, and that more were scheduled. She stated that staff has learned that the earmarked funding for this program has been exhausted, but that staff would prepare the ITS Architecture for Kankakee County, in case further funding is authorized.

### **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

Ms. Billadeau stated that she has been approached by Mr. Ed Barsotti, of the League of Illinois Bicyclist, who is making arrangements for a number of IDOT sponsored workshops on this subject around Illinois, and that a workshop is currently scheduled here for February 28, 2007.

### **TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORTING**

Mr. Lammey stated that the purpose of this effort is to obtain comprehensive accident data from all jurisdictions in Kankakee County, so that applications can be made for safety funding. He stated that meetings had been held with a number of Police agencies, and that all had been extremely cooperative in providing access to accident records.

### **SUBDIVISION ORDINANCE**

Mr. Howell stated that he has been doing field investigations in a number of current subdivisions in the County, and stated that there is a problem with the lack of space for parked cars on the subdivision streets. General discussion on the problem in the rural subdivisions was held. Mr. Howell moved that the Transportation Subcommittee recommend to the full Regional Planning Commission that the Subdivision Ordinance be amended to provide for a minimum of 33 feet of paved surface for subdivision streets. Mr. Jarvis seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

### **WORK PROGRAM**

Mr. Lammey reviewed the 2007 Work Program and asked for the Subcommittee members to place priorities on work elements.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Acting Chairman Bukowski stated that the next meeting date would be February 15, 2007 at 10:00 A.M.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Howell moved adjournment, and Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded. Acting Chairman Bukowski adjourned the meeting at 12:04 P.M.