

MINUTES

METRA FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

NOVEMBER 18, 2003

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park - Mike Grimsley
 Bourbonnais – Frank Koehler
 Bradley – Mayor Balthazor
 Illinois Department of Transportation – no attendee
 Kankakee – Tim Schmidt
 Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos
 Manteno – no attendee
 Monee – Mike Gruberman
 Peotone – George Gray
 Will County – no attendee

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Van Mill, Dave Bergdahl, Mike Lammey, Delbert Skimerhorn, and Eric Sadler, Kankakee County; Mayor Green, Kankakee; Lee Provost, Daily Journal; and Laura McElroy, Herald.

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Nicholos called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M., and recognized Mayor Balthazor, who welcomed the group to the Village of Bradley. Chairman Nicholos thanked everyone for attending, and asked for all in attendance to introduce themselves.

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Mr. Koehler moved that the Minutes of the September 16, 2003 Meeting be approved, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Unanimous vote.

CONSULTANT SELECTION

Mr. Lammey stated that the staff recommendation had been transmitted to all of the Task Force members, and that Mr. Abraham and he had discussed the format of the staff recommendation, but had not discussed individual firms or staff rankings of those firms. Mr. Van Mill stated that all four staff members who had participated in the interviews had ranked the firms on the factors noted in the recommendation.

Chairman Nicholos asked the members of the Task Force who had participated in the consultant interviews to express their opinions on the staff recommendation, and their

impressions of the interviews. Mr. Koehler stated that all four firms were qualified, and stated that Parsons Brinckerhoff had brought a couple of points to the discussion that had not been considered. The LaSalle Street Station discussion was a major point with him, as was Parsons discussing the fact that only half of the potential extension was outside the Metra service area. He also stated that the experience of the Parsons group with the Kendall-Kane study, which is perceived to be very close in scope.

Mr. Schmidt stated that HNTB had made a strong impression on him for the Transit Oriented Development discussion they had introduced. He stated that he would also favor Parsons for the study. He stated that he had been in favor of the LaSalle Street Station connection for some time, and that other studies were drawing that conclusion, as well.

Mr. Grimsley stated that all four firms were very qualified, and that he could support the staff recommendation for Parsons. He further stated that he had discussed the four firms under consideration with consultants familiar to *METRO*, of which he is the current Chairman, and the comments he received were very favorable to Parsons Brinckerhoff.

Chairman Nicholas stated that he was very impressed with both HNTB and Parsons Brinckerhoff, and stated that the fact an important issue to him was that some of the issues that HNTB brought up were beyond the scope of the study, and probably would not be funded. He favored Parsons Brinckerhoff, and could support the staff recommendation.

Mr. Koehler stated that he had a concern that only four of the members of the Task Force were making a decision, and wanted to somehow include the broader base of the Task Force membership. Mr. Gruberman and Mr. Gray stated that they understood the rules, and had a conflict with a Will County function. Mr. Gruberman stated that the better consultant will shine regardless of the group dynamics of the interview group.

Mr. Koehler suggested two motions, one dealing with concurring with the staff recommendations, and the other with inclusion of the entire Task Force in supporting the consultant selection. Mr. Koehler moved that the staff begin negotiations with Parsons Brinckerhoff as the successful consultant. Mr. Grimsley seconded the motion. Chairman Nicholas called for a roll call vote on the motion:

- Mr. Grimsley – aye
- Mr. Koehler – aye
- Mr. Schmidt – aye
- Chairman Nicholas – aye

Chairman Nicholas declared the vote unanimous, and that the motion passed.

Mr. Koehler moved that the Task Force concur with the recommendation, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Chairman Nicholas called for a roll call vote on the motion:

- Mr. Grimsley – aye
- Mr. Koehler – aye
- Mayor Balthazor – aye

- Mr. Schmidt – aye
- Chairman Nicholos – aye
- Mr. Gruberman – aye
- Mr. Gray – aye

Chairman Nicholos declared the vote unanimous, and that the motion passed.

Mr. Van Mill stated that it is his intent to ask Mr. Abraham to give a presentation at the January meeting of all of the potential extensions of METRA service that are being discussed. Chairman Nicholos also stated that Will County has sent in their contribution toward the local share of the study (\$10,541), and that it was appreciated.

Mr. Schmidt asked about the timing of events from this point forward, and Mr. Lammey replied that after the concurrence of IDOT with the Task Force recommendations, the recommendation would be forwarded to the Planning, Zoning, and Agriculture Committee of the Kankakee County Board for action on December 3, 2003. He stated that the recommendation would be forwarded to the Kankakee County Board for action on December 9, 2003.

Mr. Schmidt reported on the meeting on METRA service that was held in Matteson, along with a number of other meetings that had been held. Mr. Gruberman stated that a data item of importance to the Task Force would be his previous experience in government in University Park, where an investigation revealed that one fifth of the cars parked in the University Park lot were from Bradley, Bourbonnais and Kankakee. He further stated that the University Park Station had the highest utilization of any end-of-the-line station.

Chairman Nicholos stated that an item of interest from the beginning of the study to Kankakee County had been the possibility of the reverse commute of employees to the Kankakee County area for employment.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Lammey stated that the schedule of meetings for calendar year 2004 will be sent out to Task Force members during the last week of November, and that the pattern of the third Tuesday of every other month at 2:00 P.M. would be recommended. The next regular meeting of the Task Force will be January 20, 2004, at 2:00 P.M., and the location is the second floor conference room of the Kankakee County Administration Building, 189 E. Court Street, Kankakee.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Gruberman moved adjournment, and Mr. Schmidt seconded. Chairman Nicholos adjourned the meeting at 2:25 P.M.