

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 18, 2004

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Frank Koehler, Rich Howell, Dennis Millirons, Dave Bergdahl, Ralph Paarlberg, Mel Blanchette and Chad Miller

Others:

Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Kankakee County; Ed Piatt, DCEO and Kurt Knauth

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koehler called the meeting to order at 10:03 A.M.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBER

Chairman Koehler welcomed Chad Miller, new member to the Subcommittee, and the remainder of the Subcommittee introduced themselves.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Mr. Howell moved the election of the current slate of officers, Chairman Koehler and Vice-Chairman Bergdahl, and Mr. Paarlberg seconded. Mr. Bergdahl moved that the nominations be closed, and Mr. Paarlberg seconded. Unanimous vote on the closure motion. Unanimous vote on the re-election of officers.

MINUTES

Mr. Bergdahl moved approval of the September 23, 2004 Minutes, and Mr. Howell seconded. Unanimous vote.

AIRPORT UPDATE

Mr. Howell mentioned a newspaper notice that the buying of land had begun again, and Mr. Bergdahl clarified the source of the newspaper article. The conditions of eminent domain and quick take were discussed, as were the changes in the situation following the election. Utility service for the airport site was also a topic of conversation.

LONG-RANGE PLAN

Mr. Lammey reported that the Long-Range Plan was adopted on October 27, 2004. Mr. Lammey stated that a reorganization of IDOT has been done, and it appears that a number of

Districts have been folded into another organization, with Dixon seeming to replace Ottawa. He stated that there is a great deal of confusion about how this change will impact any area. The map of the reorganized IDOT operation was distributed and discussed.

6000 N. ROAD INTERCHANGE

Mr. Lammey stated that a meeting was held with IDOT on the subject, and that the IDOT and Baker Engineering representatives were coming to the area on November 23 for a field trip. He stated that he had asked the Villages of Manteno, Bourbonnais, and Bradley to prepare material demonstrating the need for the project.

Mr. Piatt stated that the project was part of the Opportunity Illinois Program, but that the funding for that program had not been allocated. He also stressed that state legislators will be a critical factor in this process, and that communities should keep in touch with those state legislators.

Chairman Koehler stated that the progress of the IDOT/Baker Engineering team would have to be monitored much more closely than was done the previous time through the AJR process. Mr. Lammey stated that the monitoring of that process was his responsibility, and that the Subcommittee would be briefed at every meeting.

CORRIDOR PRESERVATION

Mr. Lammey stated that the change in MFT design standards by IDOT will require some tweaking, and that some of the criteria no longer are current. Mr. Van Mill stated that the justification for the project needs to be solid and current.

UPDATE OF COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the consultants for the project will make a presentation to the Land Use Subcommittee at 2 PM, and that Land Use Subcommittee members and others were welcome to attend. Mr. Van Mill stated that the projections shown in the report do not seem right, and that the consultant needs to convince staff and the Land Use Subcommittee of their projections.

COMMUTER RAIL

Mr. Lammey gave a short version presentation of what the consultants presented to the Commuter Rail Task Force at their last meeting in November. Chairman Koehler stated that he had comments on the report, and Mr. Lammey stressed that he should send the comments to Rich Juvinal at Parsons Brinckerhoff. Mr. Howell asked if comments had been received from the City of Kankakee, and Mr. Lammey stated that he was not aware of any formal comment as yet.

Chairman Koehler stated that his concern was to maximize the distance into Kankakee County for the Minimum Operable Segment (MOS) option, to take maximum advantage of the "Hastert Clause". Mr. Lammey stated that this referenced the just less than six mile distance inside Kendall County (also outside RTA boundaries) that were "approved" by the RTA and Metra as a minimum operable segment for their Feasibility Study. Considerable discussion about this subject followed.

Mr. Howell stated that the consultant in the Phase II study needs to be aware of the locations where spur lines off the Canadian National were owned by local operations (such as Lambert

Grain). Mr. Lammey stated that the issue of ownership of the right-of-way for the Canadian National needs to be investigated.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Blanchette asked about the continued work on the bridge on Illinois Route 102, stating that people are contacting him, thinking that the Township is doing the project. Mr. Lammey stated that he would find out the status of the project and get a name for Mr. Blanchette to contact.

WORK PROGRAM FOR 2005

Mr. Lammey stated that he is trying to slot certain topics into 2005 meetings, and the first effort in this exercise would be to have an Illiana Expressway presentation from Will County staff in January. At the same meeting, a discussion on truck issues in Kankakee County with Jim Piekarczyk and Sheriff Bukowski could be scheduled. He stated that the current plan would be to have both of those issues presented at the January meeting.

NEXT MEETING

Mr. Lammey distributed the meeting schedule for 2005. Chairman Koehler stated that the next meeting date will be January 20, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell moved adjournment, Mr. Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous. Chairman Koehler adjourned the meeting at 11:34 A.M.