

**TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
POLICY COMMITTEE
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)
MINUTES
NOVEMBER 20, 2013**

TECHNICAL ADVISORY AND POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

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| Mr. Paukovitz | Illinois Department of Transportation |
| Mayor Schore, Mr. McBurney | Bourbonnais |
| Mayor Epstein, Mr. Tyson | Kankakee |
| Mr. Pearce, Mr. Koning | River Valley METRO Mass Transit District |
| Chairman Bossert, Mr. Rogers | Kankakee County |
| Mayor Adams | Bradley |
| Mayor Nugent | Manteno |
| Ms. Ruble | Kankakee Valley Airport Authority |

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Van Mill, Mr. Lammey, Mr. Greenstreet and Ms. Taetsch, Kankakee County; Mr. Caldwell, IDOT; Mr. Hoffmann and Ms. Franke, METRO, Ms. Dick, SHOW BUS, Mr. Fenton, Herald, Mr. Meyer, URS, and Mr. Provost, Journal

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Rogers called the Technical Advisory Committee meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.
Chairman Epstein called the Policy Committee meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Tyson moved approval of the October 23, 2013 Technical Advisory Committee minutes. Mr. Paukovitz seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Mayor Adams moved approval of the October 23, 2013 Policy Committee minutes. Mayor Nugent seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AGENDA

Mr. McBurney moved approval of the Technical Advisory Committee Agenda. Mr. Paukovitz seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Mayor Adams moved approval of the Policy Committee Agenda, and Mayor Schore seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

FY 2014 TIP AMENDMENT

Mr. Lammey stated that there were none.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Jim Meyer of URS Corporation, the selected firm to perform the **Long-Range Transportation Plan**. Mr. Meyer made a presentation on the process for the study, including:

- LRTP Team
- Project Schedule
- Work Program
- Goals
- Why Plan?

Mr. Meyer described the process for the study, including Data Collection, Current and Future Conditions, and Multimodal Alternatives and Recommendations. He detailed the planned Public Involvement and Information Meetings planned throughout the study. Mr. Meyer described the Work Program in summary, with some examples from other work that URS has performed. He discussed the level of detail for the financial analysis planned, and gave an example.

Mr. Meyer discussed fiscal constraint for the plan, and discussed unconstrained vision. He discussed environmental justice, and mitigation for environmental issues that might be raised in the study.

Mr. Meyer discussed the planned deadlines for significant action, to include having the draft report ready for public comment by October 2014, a revised draft available for public review in January 2015, and a final report adopted by the Policy Committee by March 2015.

Mr. Meyer discussed some issues related to the success of a **Long-Range Transportation Plan**, and related that success to a measure of how the goals of the study were determined and met. He gave an example from a land use/LRTP visioning study that URS performed for the MPO in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Mr. Meyer showed a regional transportation vision that was taken from the Kankakee County Comprehensive Plan (from 2005), and asked if the vision was still accurate. Chairman Bossert stated that the need was still present for another river crossing. Mayor Epstein expressed her concern that the effort undertaken to plan for the next 30 years seemed out of proportion to the resources that are used to fund transportation projects.

Mr. Paukovitz stated his concern that projects that have been advanced over the years (such as the US Route 45/52 project at the north end of Bourbonnais) are difficult to fund when bridge projects seem to move to the front of the list. He stated that milling and resurfacing projects have become difficult, since any change to a roadway now involves ADA issues on curbs and sidewalks and the costs of projects are rising.

Mr. Meyer acknowledged these issues, and stated that these problems will have to be included in the study. He stated that URS is also doing **Long-Range Transportation Plans** for Will and Cook County, and that there may be some benefits at having these studies being done at the same time.

Mr. Meyer gave an example from St. Joseph, Missouri, where a critical future transportation facility was made almost impossible to achieve due to a decision related to a development opportunity. He stated that these were the issues that **Long-Range Transportation Plans** were meant to avoid. He brought up the possibility the Illiana construction making an intermodal development in Kankakee County more likely, and asked the group to consider how they would respond to such an event. He stated that the "Complete Streets" concept raises issues on corridors of development.

Mr. Van Mill stated that pedestrian overpasses in areas of traffic congestion mixed with high traffic flows are a serious issue in the area, and should be addressed in the study. He also stated an interest in the study looking at the best locations for certain types of commercial and industrial development in the area, particularly in relation to the Illiana.

Mr. Meyer stated that the through truck traffic issue in Kankakee County will be addressed, as a number of the issues facing both the Urbanized Area and in the eastern portion of Kankakee County are related to this issue. He indicated however that specific LRTP projects must be in the MPO metropolitan planning area to be eligible for federal funding.

Mr. Hoffmann stated that the scope of the **Long-Range Transportation Plan** seems to be beyond what has been done in the past, leading to more advice and detail in many areas. Mr. Meyer stated that the study follows the goals that are set, and can and should be tailored to the needs of the area.

Mr. Paukovitz stated his belief that the study should not only focus on long-term construction projects, but should concentrate on some "quick fixes", such as signalization upgrades, coordination of signals, and safety projects. Mr. Meyer stated that the identification and targeting of discretionary funding is a major focus of the study.

Mayor Nugent stated that the environment in which communities exist is changing more quickly than ever before, as is witnessed by the Illiana study and the speed at which it has moved. He asked about cooperation from the railroads as part of the study. Mr. Meyer stated that they achieved cooperation from the railroads in their study in Decatur, but that it took a great deal of lead time.

Chairman Bossert asked about High Speed Rail, and Mr. Meyer stated that URS is involved in the High Speed Rail project, and would mention that project in the study. Mr. Meyer stated that one of the determining factors in the expansion of the passenger rail network is ridership on systems that attempt to serve that need at present. He stated that his conversations with Mr. Hoffmann indicate that current ridership on the University Park route is relatively low.

Mr. Paukovitz asked about socio-economic data in the study, and Mr. Meyer stated that the 2010 census would be a large part of the existing conditions study done by his firm. Mr. Paukovitz stated his belief that some of the older state routes through the Urbanized Area have capacity for more traffic, and that should be recognized. Mr. Meyer stated that a project in Decatur that transferred trucks from the downtown area has resulted in some major improvements in the downtown Decatur neighborhood.

Mr. Meyer stated that he would be meeting with the members of the Technical Advisory and Policy Committees throughout the study, and looked forward to the next year.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Epstein stated that the next meeting of the MPO Committees would be on January 29, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paukovitz moved adjournment of the Technical Advisory Committee, and Mr. Tyson seconded. Unanimous vote. Chairman Rogers adjourned the meeting at 4:40 P.M. Mayor Nugent moved adjournment of the Policy Committee, and Mayor Adams seconded. Mayor Epstein adjourned the meeting at 4:40 P.M.