

MINUTES

COMMUTER TRANSIT FEASIBILITY STUDY TASK FORCE

DECEMBER 12, 2006

IN ATTENDANCE:

TASK FORCE MEMBER AGENCIES

Aroma Park – no attendee

Bourbonnais – Frank Koehler

Bradley – Mayor Kent

Illinois Department of Transportation – Norm Johnson, Chuck Kadlec

Kankakee – Tim Schmidt

Kankakee County – Sam Nicholos, Kelly McLaren

Manteno – Craig Blanchette

Monee – Henry May

Peotone – no attendee

Will County – Colin Duesing

OTHERS PRESENT

Mike Van Mill, Mike Lammey, Sarah Billadeau, Erik Rayman and Dave Bergdahl, Kankakee County; Dennis Gary and Gary Foyle, Earth Tech; Larry McClellan, South of Chicago (sub to Earth Tech); Toby Olszeski, Herald; and Mary Baskerville, Journal

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Mr. Koehler welcomed the Task Force to the Village of Bourbonnais, and Chairman Nicholos called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Koehler moved approval of the October 17, 2006 Minutes, and Mr. Blanchette seconded. Unanimous vote.

CONSULTANT PRESENTATION

Mr. Gary from Earth Tech made a presentation including the following items:

- Project Overview
Mr. Gary reviewed the schedule for the project and the issues that would be dealt with at the meeting. He showed the status of current Task Orders, and of the Task Orders to be proposed at the meeting. He reviewed the budget for the project.

- Task 3, Site Studies

Mr. Gary stated that Transit Supportive Land Use Task Order will culminate in a workshop to be held on Friday, December 15, and detailed the arrangements for the workshop, with the morning session to be held in Manteno, and the bus tour scheduled for the afternoon. He reviewed the attendees responses from each member agency and other invitees.

Mr. Gary stated that activity was ongoing in the Independent Rail Alternative, specifically on the Val maps delivered from the CN Railroad. He briefly reviewed a legal issue on the status of the land grant of the Illinois Central Railroad, and thanked Mr. May for his concern on this issue.

Mr. May stated that he believed the land grant issue and the current ownership of railroad right of way was still an issue, and stated his opinions on the issue. He stated that he would like to make contact with lawyers for either CN or Metra on this issue, and Earth Tech indicated that they would provide the name of the Metra lawyer. Chairman Nicholas stated that Kankakee County would pursue the States' Attorneys' Office to ask for an opinion on this issue from the Attorney General's Office.

Mr. Schmidt asked about the amount of spacing between the existing CN tracks and any new tracks, and was informed that CN wanted 25 feet between the two lines. Mr. Schmidt stated that this could cause some issues at every at-grade crossing, and would likely cause issues at grade separated crossings, as well. Mr. Gary acknowledged that fact particularly at the grade separations, but indicated that for grade crossings it is a routine railroad design issue.

- Task 6, Institutional Issues

Mr. Gary stated that a meeting with CMAP (formerly CATS) with Kankakee and Will County staff was held on October 27 to discuss the ridership estimates for the project. He stated that the meeting was very productive, and that CMAP will attempt to run their model for the Kankakee County area. He stated that there is some risk, in that CMAP was not certain that the model would run with the addition of detailed zones for Kankakee County.

- Task 8, Public Education/Outreach

Mr. McClellan discussed the October 25 meeting with the member agencies of the United Way in Will County. He stated that there were a number of goals for the meeting, one of which was to develop a model for the same kind of meeting in Kankakee County.

Mr. McClellan stated that the project website is in development, and will likely be available in late January. The Task Force agreed that a website roll out date of January 30 with a public announcement at the February Task Force meeting would be appropriate.

Mr. McClellan stated that at least two newsletters will be published during the study, and that a comprehensive contacts list is being developed, stating that this list will be

useful to both Will and Kankakee County staff for projects beyond the scope of the commuter transit issue.

Mr. Schmidt stated that an effort should be made to collect public opinion in every community along the proposed corridor, and that proposed public meetings should be scheduled in each of those communities, as well.

- New Task Orders:
- Socio-Economic and Ridership Forecasts – Mr. Foyle stated that new forecasts of socio-economic data will be required in a different (small area) zone structure, and stated that the subconsultant on this activity would be contacting member agencies.
- Website Technical Support – Mr. McClellan reviewed possible website content and asked for input.
- Project Map – Mr. Gary stated that the newest project map is being made available to any member agency for their use.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Nicholos stated that the next meeting of the Task Force would be on February 20, 2007 at 2:30 P.M. and will be held in Kankakee. He stated that the April 17 meeting will be held in Bradley.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schmidt moved adjournment, and Mayor Kent seconded. Chairman Nicholos adjourned the meeting at 3:48 P.M.