

MINUTES

KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Kankakee County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room,
189 E. Court Street, Kankakee, IL 60901

December 12, 2013

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Chairman Chad Miller, Presiding; Ralph Paarlberg; David Bergdahl; Jeff Jarvis, Mel Blanchette, Craig Bayston, Rich Howell, Lisa Dugan, Samuel Payton, David Stejkowski and Bill Bukowski.

Others:

Joel Mingus, Aqua Illinois Water Company; Jim Meyer, URS; Mike Lammey, Jim Greenstreet and Ashley Taetsch, Kankakee County Planning Department.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM, and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Howell made a motion to accept the minutes from October 17, 2013, seconded by Mr. Bayston. Motion carried.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey introduced the consultant for the Long Range Transportation Plan, Jim Meyer from URS. Mr. Meyer began his presentation with a paper exercise for members to identify which of seven areas they believe to be of higher priority in undertaking the Long Range Transportation Plan, with five votes to be distributed to the categories as they wish. The categories and votes were as shown below:

Mobility and Accessibility	7	Safety	8
Environmentally Friendly	3	Economic Vitality	15
System Preservation	3	Land Use Integration	8
Freight Movement	11		

Mr. Meyer continued his presentation and discussion. Ms. Dugan stated that non-motorized travel is becoming more of a priority and that transit needs are being addressed by METRO in the urbanized area. Mr. Paarlberg stated that jobs for the community is also a priority. Mr. Stejkowski stated that extending commuter rail service to Kankakee was an option.

Mr. Howell stated that there are still segments built that are not connected to like standards. Bike trails are built in segments that are not connected to other bike trails. Ms. Dugan stated that pieces are built with available funding, but the funding source dries up and the community is left to fill in the gaps. Ms. Dugan stated that development is spotty, leaving gaps in infrastructure improvements. Mr. Paarlberg stated that bridges have been built for today's capacities, not to meet future needs.

Mr. Meyer returned to the Vision Exercise, identifying the votes cast for each category. Ms. Dugan asked about freight movement. Mr. Meyer discussed the apparent high number of trucks using county highways and lesser roads, partially due to congestion on I-80 to the north and partially due to the intermodal facilities in Will County. Will there be an intermodal facility built in Kankakee County and if so, where would be the best location for it? How will the Illiana Expressway affect truck traffic through the County? Mr. Bergdahl stated the County learned a valuable lesson when the Diversatech Campus was developed with business and warehouses, without having built sufficient roadways for the truck traffic to drive anywhere but through the Village of Manteno.

When discussing east-west through routes, Mr. Howell pointed out there are not enough places to cross the river between Rt. 17 in Kankakee and Warner Bridge, a problem that should have been fixed when they first built I-57. Mr. Jarvis brought up the need to have in place alternate routes to use when roads are closed for maintenance. Mr. Meyer stated that when the Illiana is built, it will connect to I-57, affecting traffic volumes on I-57.

In discussing public transportation, Mr. Howell stated the road system makes service difficult due to the lack of a true grid system. Ms. Dugan brought up increased safety issues on the roads where transit routes run. Due to growth in the community, roads that were once residential neighborhood streets are now thoroughfares with higher traffic volumes. Mr. Jarvis brought up the example of the extension of University Avenue west of South Main Street. There will be increased traffic in the previously quiet residential neighborhood. Mr. Jarvis also suggested Amtrak be considered when discussing public transportation issues.

In discussing non-motorized travel, Mr. Howell stated that there needs to be more consistent connectivity with the multi-use paths/trails between communities and beyond, and there is much concern for safety over on-street bike routes. Ms. Dugan agreed that bicycling on the street is a safety concern.

Discussing freight issues, Mr. Meyer asked where would be the best most suitable location to place an intermodal facility in the County. What would the County need to do to accommodate such a facility? Mr. Bukowski stated he believed that property just east of Diversatech Campus may be suitable. Ms. Dugan stated that such a facility if built outside the MPO/MPA areas, would

still have affects inside the MPO/MPA area and need to be planned for. Mr. Bergdahl stated that there will be planning concerns in Will County and Cook County that Mr. Meyer will be working on that will be related to Kankakee County needs, issues and concern.

Mr. Meyer explained the next steps in the process for this Committee will be at the next meeting, February 20, 2014.

ILLIANA UPDATE

Mr. Lammey stated that there are votes being taken today in other jurisdictions that will either further the Illiana or slow down the process. Check the news tonight about that.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2014 at 10:30 AM, with the **Long-Range Transportation Plan** session #3 being the primary topic of discussion.

The following meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2014 at 10:30 AM, with the **Long-Range Transportation Plan** session #4 being the primary topic of discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Howell made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Bayston. Motion carried. Mr. Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.