

POLICY COMMITTEE
KANKAKEE AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY (K.A.T.S.)
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (M.P.O.)
MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2014

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Fowler	Aroma Park
Mr. Paukovitz	Representing Illinois Department of Transportation
Mr. Spathis	Representing Bourbonnais
Mr. Bossert	Kankakee County
Mayor Adams	Bradley
Mayor Epstein	Kankakee
Mayor Nugent	Manteno
Mr. Koning	Representing River Valley METRO Mass Transit District
Ms. Ruble	Representing Kankakee Valley Airport Authority

OTHERS PRESENT:

Mr. Lammey, Mr. Greenstreet and Mr. Olson, Kankakee County; Mr. Caldwell, Ms. Baxter, and Ms. Messina, IDOT; Mr. Mulholland, Aroma Park; Mr. McBurney, Bourbonnais; Mr. Rogers, Kankakee County; Ms. Franke, METRO; Dr. Gingerich, Bradley; Mr. Donovan, FHWA and Mr. Meyer, URS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Epstein called the meeting to order at 3:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mayor Adams moved approval of the January 29, 2014 minutes. Mayor Fowler seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

AGENDA

Chairman Epstein asked that the project updates be moved on the Agenda before the Long-Range Transportation Plan discussion. Mayor Nugent moved that the amended Agenda be approved, and Mr. Paukovitz seconded. Unanimous vote.

FY 2014 TIP AMENDMENTS

Mr. Lammey stated that the City of Kankakee has submitted an application for a Safe Routes to Schools project, and that, if approved, the project would require addition to the **FY 2014**

Transportation Improvement Program.

Chairman Epstein asked Mr. Mulholland to describe the project. He stated that the improvements are for crosswalk changes at Small and Calista for Kennedy Middle School.

DRAFT FY 2015 UNIFIED WORK PROGRAM

Mr. Lammey stated that the contract with IDOT requires that a draft **FY 2015 Unified Work Program** be submitted to the MPO Policy Committee in March. He explained the four areas of work in the document, being: (1) the regular transportation planning program; (2) the Long-Range Transportation Plan program; (3) the Traffic Safety Audit program, and (4) the Land Use/Transportation Planning study for the Illiana. He stated that a table will be added to the document that summarizes the State Metro Planning funds.

Mr. Rogers stated that the Technical Advisory Committee recommends approval. Chairman Bossert moved approval, and Mayor Adams seconded. Unanimous vote.

REPORT ON SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mr. Lammey stated that the Policy Committee formed the Safety Committee in April, 2013, and that it was comprised of engineering, law enforcement, emergency response, and education personnel from the member agencies of the MPO and the rest of the County. He stated that a number of meetings have been held, and that a session on Goals, Mission, and Visioning will be held on April 30, 2014.

IDOT DISTRICT 3

Mr. Paukovitz gave the report attached to these Minutes.

FHWA UPDATE

Mr. Donovan stated that the Safety Performance Measures were released on March 10. He stated that the Highway Trust Fund will run out in August. He stated that the administration proposal on Reauthorization was to be released soon (Mr. Caldwell confirmed that a release had occurred earlier this morning). Mr. Donovan stated that the public comment period on the Illiana had closed on March 10, and that FHWA was reviewing the many comments.

BROOKMONT BOULEVARD

Mr. McBurney stated that there was no change.

INDUSTRIAL DRIVE

Dr. Gingerich stated that there was no change.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF MEMBER

Mr. Lammey introduced Mr. Geoff Olson, the newest member of the Transportation Planning staff, and stated that he had been working for the MPO in the Quad Cities area. Members of the MPO welcomed Mr. Olson.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN PRESENTATION

Mr. Meyer discussed the timeline for the study, and the progress thus far. He detailed the next meetings to be held, including a meeting of bike stakeholders on April 17, a meeting of the Land Use/Transportation Subcommittee on April 17, a meeting with METRO staff on April 17, and a meeting with the Safety Committee on April 30.

Mr. Meyer discussed important projects to be discussed in the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and Chairman Epstein stated that Exit 312 needs to be on that list. Mr. Paukovitz stated that the closure of Warner Bridge Road has pointed out the need for another bridge crossing the Kankakee River west of the current crossing at Court Street.

Mr. Meyer discussed the freight situation in Kankakee County, stating that the increasing amounts of heavy trucks traversing the urbanized area is a problem that needs to be addressed in the Long-Range Transportation Plan. He discussed the bottleneck of the Brookmont Boulevard viaduct. He discussed IDOT data on bridges in Kankakee County.

Mr. Meyer stated that the regional influence of the Illiana and South Suburban Airport must be an important part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan, particularly as the Illiana addresses the freight situation in Kankakee County. Chairman Bossert asked that the Cedar Road interchange on the Illiana be noted on the slides. Mayor Nugent stated that another river crossing is critical, as any traffic from the north that wants to cross the river has almost no choice but to take US Route 45/52, creating a bottleneck.

Mr. Meyer detailed the north south traffic movements at US Route 45/52, Illinois Route 50 and Illinois Route 1, and how those traffic movements will create issues in the urbanized area. Mayor Nugent stated that the I-57 connection to the Illiana will not create significant problems for Manteno, but that he has concerns about the Route 45/52 and Route 50 connections.

Mr. Meyer stated that the main east west artery through the urbanized area is Illinois Route 17. He stated that past plans had shown the 6000 N. Road corridor to also be a major artery, although only the section between U.S. Route 45/52 and Illinois Route 50 is planned to be built in the near future. He stated that the Cardinal Drive corridor is a problem area currently, and that some other north south corridor needs to be identified to relieve that area. He displayed a line in the vicinity of 4000 E Road, between Illinois Route 17 and 9000 N. Road to indicate that corridor.

Mr. Paukovitz agreed that a north south roadway in that area would be a significant improvement, but only if the character of the roadway were to move traffic, not to provide access to individual commercial properties. He gave the example of Peace Road in DeKalb County with access control.

Mr. Meyer stated that the next logical need of the local area would be a river crossing, and illustrated a conceptual crossing. Chairman Bossert asked if the political will existed to draw the line across the Kankakee River. Chairman Epstein asked how can you plan for the future and not address such a great need in that plan?

Chairman Bossert asked where the funding would come from for such large projects. Mr. Paukovitz stated that the projects would be expensive, but that those projects will never happen unless the footprint is preserved. Mr. Donovan stated that the projects will be expensive, but the Long-Range Transportation Plan process requires communities to identify their needs.

Mr. Meyer presented some information on fixed route transit, and on the unmet needs identified by the current Human Services Transportation Plan study. He stated again that a meeting will be held with METRO staff on April 17. He stated that he has already met with SHOW BUS staff on these issues.

Mr. Meyer showed some tentative goals to the Policy Committee, and stated that these goals will be discussed more fully at the next Policy Committee meeting.

Mr. Meyer stated that a Public Opinion Survey will be released in April to gauge public input on transportation issues, and that the survey will be posted online. Mr. Lammey stated the intent to also include a link to the survey on member agency websites. Mr. Nugent asked that Chambers of Commerce be included in the survey release.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

Chairman Epstein stated that the next Policy Committee meeting will be at 3:30 P.M. on May 7, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Adams moved adjournment, and Mr. Paukovitz seconded. Unanimous approval. Chairman Epstein adjourned the meeting at 4:45 P.M.

March/ April, 20

DOT PROJECT STATUS – KANKAKEE URBAN AREA

Note: Targeted contract lettings of projects cited below are contingent upon approval of the Governor and allocation of funds by the General Assembly.

1. **Proposed I-57 Interchange at Bourbonnais Parkway/6000 N Road** – IDOT, District 3 continues with land acquisitions. The project is tentatively scheduled for a June 2014 contract letting. Concern remains regarding an agreement with the CN RR and ICC over various issues with the proposed reconstructed Bourbonnais Parkway/6000 N Road crossing the CN tracks. Agreements with Bourbonnais and Bradley are required.
2. **IL 17 – From Four Lane Pavement in City of Kankakee to N&S RR in Village of Limestone** – Was on the January 17, 2014 contract letting. A railroad and utility agreement are still pending. Much of the summer involves utility relocations.
3. **Interstate 57 at IL 17 (Court Street) – Interchange in Kankakee** – Phase I engineering of the proposed interchange replacement will continue through calendar year 2014.
4. **I-57 and IL 50 Interchange Reconstruction** – Awaiting better weather for minor cleanup, electrical, and landscape work that remains.
5. **I-57 Overhead at North Street** – This project may be pushed back to FY 2017.
6. **I-57 Overhead at St. George Road/CH 8** – Phase II engineering underway. Preliminary plans will be provided to county when they become available. This project may be pushed back to FY 2018..
7. **I-57 Just north and South of the Kankakee River and Replacement of Kankakee River Bridge** – Lighting for the crossover is to begin. Southbound bridge will be closed first for replacement, with two way traffic being placed on the northbound bridge.