

Policy Committee
Kankakee Area Transportation Study (K.A.T.S.)
Metropolitan Planning Organization (M.P.O.)
Minutes
March 27, 2019

Policy Committee Members Present:

Mayor Nugent, Chairman	Village of Manteno
Chairman Wheeler, Vice-Chairman	County of Kankakee
Mayor Adams	Village of Bradley
Mayor Schore	Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Stump	Village of Aroma Park
Mayor Wells-Armstrong	City of Kankakee
Mr. Caldwell	IDOT OP&P
Mr. Lindenmier	IDOT District 3
Mr. Magolan	IDOT District
Mr. Donovan	FHWA

Others Present:

Alderman Brown, Lee Provost, Dr. Gingerich, Mr. Koning, Mr. Piggush, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Mergenthaler, Mr. Olson, Mr. Skimerhorn.

Call to Order

Chairman Nugent called the meeting to order at 3:10 P.M and took roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comment

Chairman Nugent said all members of the Policy Committee were present for Alderman Brown's public comments given to the Technical Advisory Committee asked Alderman Brown if he would those comments to be considered as given to the Policy Committee as well and if there were any additional comments. Alderman Brown said he would like his previous comments to be considered as directed to the Policy Committee and did not have any additional comments. The comments given by Alderman Brown at the Technical Advisory Committee were...

Alderman Brown from the City of Kankakee gave public comment the Hobbie Avenue project (HKA-16-041) and his support for the project. He stated he as been a city alderman since 2001 and has also served on the park district board. He said as government officials, we do the best we can with what we have available. He continued by saying that the east side of Kankakee has waited ten years for the Hobbie Avenue project, which has been long enough. He added that many projects on the east side of Kankakee get moved back, such as the I-57 Exit 312

interchange. Alderman Brown asked for the same consideration that is given to the other communities. He concluded by saying there is daily truck traffic on Hobbie Avenue going to Aroma Park, Momence, and St. Anne, and the area floods when it rains. He asked that Hobbie Avenue not be moved.

Minutes

Chairman Nugent asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 28, 2019 meeting. Mayor Adams made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mayor Schore seconded the motion to approve the minutes. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Approval of Proposed Agenda

Chairman Nugent asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Chairman Wheeler motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Mayor Stump seconded the motion to approve the agenda. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

FY 2019 Unified Work Program Amendments

None.

Approval of Draft FY 2020 Unified Work Program

Mr. Olson reminded everyone that each year at the March meeting, the draft Unified Work Program for the upcoming fiscal year is presented. He said it is one of the required documents that the MPO is required to prepare annually. The document is essentially a budget and outline of work that MPO staff will work on for the fiscal year. The total budget amount for fiscal year 2020 is \$324,916. Mr. Olson stated that eighty percent of the funding (\$253,557) is allocated to the MPO by the Federal Highway Administration. In the past, Kankakee County has always provided the local match. This year, State Metropolitan Planning funds from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will be used as the twenty percent (\$63,389) match. The State Metro funds are a discretionary fund of IDOT and has been made available to all MPOs in Illinois. Mr. Olson guided everyone through the document and described the work to be done for each work element. Mayor Wells-Armstrong motioned to approve the Draft FY 2020 Unified Work Program. Mayor Adams seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

FY 2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Chairman Nugent said one of the amendments to the transportation improvement program was Hobbie Avenue and asked Mayor Wells-Armstrong to start the discussion. Mayor Wells-Armstrong said she felt there was a lack of notification and discussion of the Hobbie Avenue project at the previous Policy Committee meeting. She said Kankakee has been waiting ten years for this project and the improvements in east Kankakee are needed. She also wanted everyone to know that Kankakee is not against improvements to address the expansion of CSL Behring, but Hobbie Avenue has daily truck traffic and experiences flooding when it rains.

Chairman Nugent started by saying the Hobbie Avenue project would be the MPO's second priority project and the first priority project would be improving Illinois State Route 50 at

Armour Road. He continued by saying the needed improvements at that location were unknown in past years and therefore couldn't be ranked. As the second ranked project, Hobbie Ave. would be funded next. Mayor Wells-Armstrong asked what assurances could Kankakee have that Hobbie Ave. wouldn't get pushed back again. Mayor Nugent responded by saying IL-50 may not currently be in the TIP, but phase I engineering was completed in 2008 and is now in phase II. If CSL had not make an announcement of their expansion, Hobbie Ave. would likely be moving forward as programmed.

Mayor Adams added to the discussion by saying when Bradley's Cardinal Drive project was programmed to move forward, the Lowe Road project was actually moved in front of Cardinal Dr., delaying it. Chairman Wheeler stated that projects need to be based on need and cannot be turn-based. Mr. Skimerhorn said that was one of the program requirements that has been explained to staff by FHWA and IDOT.

Mr. Piggush asked how a project can be funded when it is not fiscally constrained, no logical termini have been established, and it is not in the MPO's TIP or in the state multi-year program. Mayor Adams said the IL-50 project is a response to extenuating circumstances and through it should be a federal and state project. He also said there was no intent to move Hobbie Ave. again and would prefer to see both projects move forward concurrently.

Chairman Nugent asked what the proposed TIP amendment contained. Mr. Olson said the first project being amended was for project HIL-10-006, which is for work on Interstate 57. The project costs were being reduced from a total project cost of \$11.2M to \$9.6M. The new funding amounts by source will be \$8,600,000 from the national highway performance program and the local match will be \$960,000 in state funds. He also said the action taken at the previous meeting to change programming priorities required a TIP amendment to reflect the action. The memo given to members would not remove Hobbie Ave. from the TIP, but place preliminary engineering in FY 2021 and construction and construction engineering in FY 2022. Mr. Donovan informed everyone that by keeping the project in the TIP, it shows that it is still being planned for, but if funding is not going to be spent during the current fiscal year (FY 2019), the project would have to be placed in the out years of the TIP. By not programming funds to a project, the funds would continue to accumulate.

Chairman Nugent suggested allowing preliminary engineering for Hobbie Ave. to proceed and the construction and construction engineering would be moved back. This would allow the MPO's annual funding allocations to still accumulate. Then as more information about IL-50 becomes known, the use of MPO funds can be re-evaluated. This would protect both projects and allow them both to move forward.

Mayor Schore motioned to approve the cost reduction of project HIL-10-006, leave preliminary engineering of project HKA-16-041 (Hobbie Ave.) in fiscal year 2019, and only move the construction and construction engineering phases of HKA-16-041 to fiscal year 2022. Mayor Wells-Armstrong seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Transportation Improvement Program Staff Modifications

Mr. Olson said one of the Transportation Improvement Program amendments included a request for a reduction in federal costs greater than ten percent, but KATS staff are only authorized to make modifications to the TIP if the cost change is less than ten percent of the total project cost regardless of whether the change is an increase or decrease. He said the agenda item was to request that staff be permitted to process any decrease in projects costs as a staff amendment. Mayor Schore motioned to authorize KATS staff to process decreases in project costs as a staff amendment. Mayor Stump seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Improvements at IL-50 and Armour Road

Chairman Nugent said the discussion that occurred during the TIP amendment included improvements at IL-50 and Armour Road and asked if there was anything else to discuss. No additional comments were made.

Hobbie Avenue Project Ranking

Chairman Nugent said the discussion that occurred during the TIP amendment included the project ranking of Hobbie Ave. and asked if there was anything else to discuss. No additional comments were given.

Long Range Transportation Plan Update

Mr. Olson said staff are continuing work on the long range plan update. He said the survey is still available on the website and will be closed in early May so the results can be presented to the committee.

Agency Updates

METRO

None.

IDOT District 3 Update

None.

IDOT Urban Planning Update

None.

FHWA Update

None.

Safety Committee Update

None.

Brookmont Boulevard Update

Mr. Piggush informed everyone that phase 2 geotechnical work with the railroad is proceeding.

Hobbie Avenue

For Hobbie Ave. the agreements for preliminary engineering are in Springfield being reviewed for approval. Mr. Piggush recommended to the committee to establish a project scope for IL-50 at Armour Rd. so it can be placed in the TIP.

Kankakee Valley Airport Authority Update

None.

Updates from MPO Staff

None.

New Business

None.

Old Business

Chairman Wheeler told everyone that it is important for the project at IL-50 and Armour Rd. that State Senators Sandoval and Hutchinson hear from KATS members about the importance of the project. Chairman Wheeler said they are working to get the project funded without a local match. Chairman Nugent requested that a letter be drafted by the County or KATS staff that contained a list of qualities about the project and possibly create a letter to be signed by all members of the MPO. Chairman Wheeler said this project is in the top 5 of importance to the state.

Mayor Adams said there have been complaints about the amount of time it takes to get through the intersection of IL-50 and Armour Road. He said the comments were forwarded to IDOT. IDOT responded the saying the sequencing of the signal would be put back to what it was before the North Street bridge over I-57 was closed. This should help improve traffic.

Chairman Wheeler commented that when a regional approach is used to evaluate the need of projects, everyone wins. Mayor Wells-Armstrong thanked everyone for continuing the preliminary engineering work for Hobbie Ave. Chairman Nugent said nobody was trying to remove the Hobbie Ave. project. Mayor Schore added that it's important to ensure that that state knows regional officials are serious about the need for improvement at IL-50 at Armour Road.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next MPO Technical Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meetings will be on May 8, 2019 starting at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment

Chairman Nugent asked if there was any more business to discuss. There was none. Mayor Well-Armstrong motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Stump seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Chairman Nugent adjourned the meeting at 4:00 P.M.