

Policy Committee
Kankakee Area Transportation Study (K.A.T.S.)
Metropolitan Planning Organization (M.P.O.)

Minutes
October 28, 2020

Policy Committee Members Present

Mayor Tim Nugent, Chairman	Village of Manteno
Chairman Andrew Wheeler, Vice-Chairman	County of Kankakee
Mr. George Ryan Jr. (Proxy for Mr. Langlois)	Kankakee Valley Airport Authority
Mayor Paul Schore	Village of Bourbonnais
Mayor Brian Stump	Village of Aroma Park
Mayor Mike Watson	Village of Bradley
Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong	City of Kankakee
Mr. Lindenmier	IDOT District 3
Mr. Tom Caldwell	IDOT Office of Planning and Programming
Mr. John Donovan	Federal Highway Administration

Others Present:

Jim Hanley, Mark Rogers, Dave Tyson, Mike Gingerich, Joel Greer, Cortney Koning, Neil Piggush, Mike Mergenthaler, Geoff Olson, Delbert Skimerhorn, Dave Tyson, Ben Wilson.

Open Meeting

Chairman Nugent opened the meeting at 3:00 P.M.

Roll Call

Chairman Nugent asked for a roll call. A quorum was present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Stump motioned to approve the minutes from the meeting of August 26, 2020 as presented. Mayor Watson seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Approval of Agenda

Mayor Schore motioned to approve the agenda, as presented, and Mayor Wells-Armstrong seconded. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

FY 2021 Unified Work Program Amendments

There were no amendments to the FY 2021 Unified Work Program.

FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Wilson stated there was an amendment request for the FY 2021 Transportation Improvement Program from the Illinois Department of Transportation. The amendment was to add a new project to the State Highway Project Section of the FY 2021 program year. The project was HIL-21-004, railroad crossing safety improvements at IL-50 northbound, 0.4 miles north of IL-17 in Kankakee. The project had a total cost of \$275,000 and is funded entirely by federal railroad protection funds.

Mr. Rogers stated the Technical Advisory Committee reviewed the amendment and forwarded it to the Policy Committee.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong motioned to approve the FY 2021 TIP Amendment as presented. Mayor Schore seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

FY 2020 Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects

Mr. Olson said the FY 2020 Annual Listing of Federally Obligated Projects was completed. It is one of the required documents for the MPO to publish each year. He explained that it is complementary to the Transportation Improvement Program and indicates which projects had funds obligated and shows which projects were effectively completed. Over \$9 million in federal funds and \$2.1 million in state funds were obligated. There were an additional \$4.6 million obligated as advance construction, which could be converted to federal funds at any point in the future. Mr. Olson listed the contained in the report.

Greenways and Trails Plan Update

Mr. Mergenthaler gave a presentation on the status of the greenways and trails plan update. He informed everyone that a survey was going to be released soon and that a steering committee was going to be formed. He provided a summary of the Riverfront Trail gaps that would be addressed in the plan. He said twelve trails were added to the inventory of trails since 2009. He also said two new sections in the plan would include a review of non-motorized crash data and bicycle parking. Chairman Nugent asked if the survey had a time limit. Mr. Mergenthaler said it did not. Chairman Nugent asked out the survey would be distributed and suggested sending it to cycling groups and using social media to increase responses. He also asked how non-motorized injuries in the area compared to counties of similar size.

Traffic Counters

Mr. Olson said staff were looking into purchasing traffic counters. He explained they were interested in the in-lane, magnetic counters that could count cars and trucks as well as vehicle speeds. He said they could be used for collecting truck counts on local roads, and noted the statewide traffic counts only collect truck counts on state highways. He noted that this

purchase was included in the approved budget and the purchase was going to start with four or six counters.

Chairman Wheeler asked if mayors could provide suggestions or requests for counting locations. Mr. Wilson said staff would welcome requests and added that staff would likely have a schedule for locations to conduct counts and that additional requests may need to be coordinated with that schedule. Chairman Nugent recommended establishing a policy for member use.

Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Letters of Support

Mr. Wilson said there were eight project applications for the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program. Two projects were from Bourbonnais that included a shared use path from Bethel Drive to Diamond Point Park and a pedestrian bridge over U.S. 45/52 just south of IL-102. Two projects were from the City of Kankakee that included bike lane improvements on South Schuyler Ave and a shared use path along the east bank of the river from the new bike/ped bridge to Station Street. Four projects were submitted from Bradley that included shared use paths along Cardinal Drive and Larry Power Road, a path to connect IL-50 to Broadway Street, improvements from Broadway Street to South Street, and a path from Perry Farm Park to Broadway Street.

Mayor Watson motioned to approve the letters of support. Mayor Schore seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried.

Project Allocation Limits

Mr. Wilson said staff put together an analysis of possible project funding sequencing based on 3-year and 4-year funding allocations. He said in reviewing projects, approximately the same number of projects would be completed by the 2045 planning horizon, but in the 3-year and 4-year funding scenarios, but more funds would be required by the sponsoring agencies.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong asked if this would affect currently programmed projects. Chairman Nugent stated that would need to be discussed.

Mayor Wells- Armstrong motioned to table discussion. Mayor Schore seconded the motion. Mayor Watson said he'd like the motion to include the date of the next MPO Policy Committee Meeting.

Ayes: Chairman Nugent, Mr. Ryan Jr., Mayor Schore, Mayor Stump, Mayor Watson, Mayor Wells-Armstrong, Chairman Wheeler.

Nays: None.

Motion carried.

Chairman Nugent stated that in the past, funding projects used to be funded with a limit on how many years of funding allocations could be applied. Mayor Schore stated the MPO used to allocate only two or three years of funding to a project and the municipality was responsible for the rest of the project costs.

Mayor Wells-Armstrong asked if engineering was funded by the MPO. Chairman Wheeler stated the MPO did not pay for preliminary engineering (PE) in the past, it only funded construction. Hobbie Avenue was the first project to have PE funded by the MPO. He added that cost overruns were borne by the sponsoring municipalities.

Chairman Nugent said the Policy Committee should review past policies and practices of MPO project funding and it can be discussed at the next meeting. Mayor Wells-Armstrong stated that it was said that projects used to be funded by turns and that funding is now based on regional impact. Mr. Wilson stated the projects were evaluated based on performance measure categories, such as safety, infrastructure condition, and congestion reduction.

Mr. Donovan said FHWA does have an expectation that project evaluation is included in project selection and addresses performance measures. He said FHWA expects the MPO to establish priorities and then fund projects that meet those priorities. He added that some priorities may arise unexpectedly and priorities can be reevaluated at that time. Placing limits on funding projects is permitted, such as 70/30 funding instead of 80/20, but turned-based project selection is not permitted. FHWA does not encourage using federal funds for PE because construction must occur within 10 years of federal funds being spent on PE.

Chairman Nugent said it sounded that once an order of projects has been established, the order shouldn't be changed without justification.

Kankakee County Update

Chairman Wheeler asked if project safety was a consideration for project priorities. Mr. Olson said fifteen points could have been given to projects that addressed severe crashes, improve non-motorized facilities, and directly addresses known safety issues that reduce severe crashes.

METRO

None.

IDOT District 3 Update

None.

IDOT Urban Planning Update

None.

FHWA Update

Mr. Donovan said the federal government approved a continuing resolution regarding the budget. Included was a one-year extension of the FAST Act funded at the previous year's levels.

Safety Committee Update

None.

Brookmont Boulevard Update

Mr. Piggush said plans, roadway profiles, and hydraulic reports went to IDOT, the Illinois Commerce Commission, and Canadian National Railroad. He said a petition was going to be filed soon.

Hobbie Avenue

Mr. Piggush said the project was nearing submission and a project development report and was anticipating a letting in late 2021.

Kankakee Valley Airport Authority Update

None.

Updates from Transportation and Development Division Manager

None.

New Business

Mr. Wilson said the meetings scheduled for 2021 were tentative for January 27, March 31, May 5, June 30, August 25, and October 27. He said the list would be sent out to members.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Chairman Nugent stated the next KATS Technical Advisory Committee was scheduled for January 27, 2020 at 2:30 PM. The next Policy Committee meeting would be scheduled for January 27, 2020 at 3:00 PM.

Adjournment:

Mayor Watson motioned to adjourn the meeting and Mayor Schore seconded the motion. Unanimous vote. Motion carried. Chairman Nugent adjourned the meeting at 3:56 P.M.