

Longmeadow Parkway Toll Bridge Task Force

Public Safety Center II
100 Carrington Drive
West Dundee, IL 60118

Meeting Minutes - November 15, 2007, 7:00 p.m.

Members in Attendance:

Jan Carlson (Chair)	Kane County Board
Hollie Kissane	Kane County Board
John Fahy	Kane County Board
Dan Shea	McHenry County Transportation Comm. Chairman
John Schmitt	Village of Algonquin, President
Bill Sarto	Village of Carpentersville, President
Dan O'Leary	Village of East Dundee, President
Larry Keller	Village of West Dundee, President
Carl Schoedel	Kane County Division of Transportation
Joe Korpalski	McHenry County Engineer/Dir. of Transportation
Ed Dvorak	McHenry County
Bill Ganek	Village of Algonquin, Village Manager
Craig Anderson	Village of Carpentersville, Village Manager
Frank Koehler	Village of East Dundee, Village Manager
Joe Cavallaro	Village of West Dundee, Village Manager

Absent:

John Noverini	Kane County Board
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Others Present:

Tom Rickert	Kane County Division of Transportation
Steve Coffinbargar	Kane County Division of Transportation
Erin Willrett	Kane County Division of Transportation
Patrick Jaeger	Kane County Special Assistant State's Attorney
Judy A. Sigwalt	Kane County
Peggy Lathrey	Kane County
Sherry Dobson	Village of Carpentersville
Becky Gullan	Village of West Dundee
Jim Krene	Village of Carpentersville, Candidate, 49 th Ill. House Seat
Thom McNamee	Village of East Dundee
Pat Schultez	Village of Carpentersville

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Carlson called the Longmeadow Parkway Toll Bridge Task Force meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. A quorum was present with eight (8) voting members present.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items only)

Mr. Dave Reece, 1931 Riverwood, Algonquin, Illinois, stated he would like to the committee to consider a funding mechanism for Longmeadow Parkway which is needed for the region. However, because he felt the area needed a local bridge, he recommended placing both bridges in the toll authority and placing the toll booths at Lake Marion Road. An opportunity existed to pay for both bridges which would solve the traffic issues for the region as well as locally.

Mr. Frank Stoneham, 314 Sedgwick St., Carpentersville, questioned the above discussion about tying a local bridge with the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge. He stated the residents in Old Town do not want the Lake Marion Bridge because the access area will be along Williams Road which would cause more traffic to a residential area. He believes the area cannot handle that amount of traffic. He did not believe a local bridge should be tied in with the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the October 25, 2007 meeting were approved on motion by Shea, seconded by Schmitt. Motion passed by voice vote of 7-0.

IV. TASK FORCE WORK ITEMS

A. Legal Opinion(s) – Spec. Asst. State's Attorney Jaeger reported three issues were presented to his office by the Division of Transportation. First, under the county's Toll Bridge Act the question was asked would the approaches to the toll bridge between Illinois Rt. 25 and Illinois Rt. 31 constitute "approaches" as the term is defined by statute. In Atty. Jaeger's opinion, that part would be considered the approaches to the toll bridge. Second, asked if impact fees could be expended by the county for feasibility studies, etc. for the toll bridge corridor, it was Atty. Jaeger's opinion that impact fees could not be spent on any type of a toll facility. Lastly, asked whether or not any funds that would be expended prior

to the issuance of revenue bonds that would be used to fund the right-of-way acquisition and the construction prior to bond issue could be reimbursed from the bond issue, Atty. Jaeger stated he was waiting for a response from the county's bond counsel on his matter. However, from his own experience, it was typical for certain expenses, such as engineering studies, feasibility studies, etc., to be eligible for reimbursement conditioned upon of the county board passing a resolution to seek reimbursement for expenses incurred prior to the issuance of the bonds. He believed reimbursement could take place.

B. Scope of Services for Preliminary Traffic Projections and Financial Feasibility Study - Mr. Coffinbargar stated the study was necessary to update traffic projections and to consider the toll facility to develop a financial feasibility study to determine how much revenue/fees would be collected as well as bonding capabilities. A review of the study areas followed. The scope of services would include a number of sub-tasks, including the following: current traffic and operations profile; corridor economic analysis; travel demand model development; detailed traffic and revenue analysis; traffic/toll operations analysis; sensitivity tests; and documentation/coordination/meetings. Details followed under each sub-task. Mr. Coffinbargar provided a summary of the County's consultant selection process.

Chair Carlson briefly reviewed the charge of this taskforce as it relates to the feasibility study of the project at hand and the fact that it would be wise to combine the traffic study and the economic study into one study since they were inter-related and have one consultant provide the services. Chair Carlson also reminded the public that the purpose of the taskforce was not to approve the bridge but, rather, to review the feasibility and forward it to the county board who would make the final decision. Asked whether a reasonable number of consultants were adept at both types of studies, Mr. Coffinbargar explained he and staff was meeting with representatives of the Illinois Tollway to discuss the consulting firms which provide such types of services and their costs. He expects to have a short list of consultant names in approximately one to two months with the RFP process and interviews to follow. Mr. Koehler recommended that staff add language that reserves the right to award all or any part of any service. Questions followed on whether other information, besides the statement of information, would be provided in the RFP process. Mr. Coffinbargar stated that the firms will have an opportunity to provide models and show the county what they are capable are doing. Chair Carlson suggested Mr. Coffinbargar to invite the staff from other municipalities to participate in that process. A general dialog followed on the interest that may be generated as a result of the bridge.

Chair Carlson asked for a consensus to direct staff to move ahead for professional services. Members concurred.

C. Establish Working Groups - Chair Carlson announced the two working groups for the project. Those on the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority include Chairman Keller, Carlson (ex-officio), Kissane, Shea, and O'Leary. Those assigned to the Federal Highway Administration include Chairman Schmitt, Carlson (ex-officio), Fahy, Noverini, and Sarto. No objections followed. Chair Carlson stated that for those on the Federal Highway Administration, it would be wise to have elected officials in the group because the federal government needs to know how important the project is and, as elected officials, they need to know what the government has to contribute since some money has already gone into the project. From Carlson's understanding, Washington representatives are willing to consider the county's issues now and they encourage private and public partnerships. As to the success of the Illinois Toll Authority, Carlson believes the viability of the project will rest on the usage of the I-Pass system. A suggestion was made to create a third working group which coordinates efforts with Springfield reps and to keep them apprised of what is going on. The chair would possibly consider the suggestion.

V. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Because Carlson expects the working groups to be busy over the next couple of months he suggested that staff determine a future meeting date. Members concurred.

Mr. Thom McNamee, 10 N .River Street, East Dundee, commended the taskforce for their efforts with the monumental task before them. He stated there were citizens who appreciated their work and supported the task force.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p .m. on motion by Fahy, seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Celeste Weilandt
Recording Secretary