

# **STAR LINE STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES**

## **Thursday, September 16, 2004**

### **I. Call to Order**

Steering Committee Chairman Mayor Bill McLeod welcomed everyone to Hoffman Estates.

### **II. Alternatives Analysis Work Plan**

Phil Pagano, Executive Director of Metra, stated that two consultants had been hired, (Parsons Brinkerhoff and Smith Engineering), and five more were going to be presented to the Metra Board tomorrow. These would be hired for ridership projections, developing the project management plan, operations, developing the capital plan and public relations. All of the consultants will be meeting at Metra within a couple of weeks to coordinate aspects of the STAR Line Study.

Mr. Pagano introduced Wanda Taylor with Res Publica, a public relations firm that will be assisting Metra and the communities throughout implementation. Ms. Taylor stated that it would be focusing on the media (particularly the transportation reporters from the various papers) the public (illustrating the benefits and trying to build excitement), legislators (giving them something to support), and local government, (giving local elected officials information to convey to the public and answers to questions that are likely to be asked).

Mr. Pagano introduced Phil Pastorak of Parsons Brinkerhoff who will be coordinating the Alternatives Analysis. Mr. Pastorak stated that while it was “good practice” to perform an Alternatives Analysis, it is also required by law. There will be various phases to the analysis including a statement of the problem, generation of alternative ways to address that problem, and evaluation of those alternatives based on standard and consistent criteria along with the costs, ultimately leading to a preferred alternative. Jason Poppin of Smith Engineering (co-consultant with PB) further added that there would be an outreach effort to the stakeholders throughout the region, via among other things, public meetings. Once a locally preferred alternative was selected, it would be presented to the public. It would be very important at that time to interface with legislators and media contacts.

### **III. Tollway Plan**

Leanne Redden with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority discussed the recently announced 10-year plan. She indicated that there were five primary goals: 1) to fix and maintain the existing Tollway roads which would include resurfacing 90% of the existing roads, 2) addressing congestion which would

include adding numerous miles of lanes to existing roads, 3) extensions which would include I-355 extension, 4) enhancing local economies which includes intermodalism, and 5) cutting edge initiatives. CTE will be presenting their report on right of way and structure analysis for the STAR Line to the RTA for final review. Regarding the Northwest Tollway, the Tollway would be rebuilt and widened from the Kennedy expressway to Marengo at the same time of construction of the STAR Line. A concept plan has been renewed as to financial feasibility and it does work. Public hearings are being held regarding the \$5.3 billion, 10-year plan and public agencies are invited and welcome to attend.

#### **IV. OCS Land Use Study**

Larry Bury of the Northwest Municipal Conference stated that S. B. Friedman was not able to attend today but did forward an e-mail update (text below).

- West Segment/Phase 1 (Prairie Stone to Joliet Division Street) We have recently completed the process of receiving and incorporating feedback from the communities on the Preferred Development Concepts. UIC Transportation Center has completed a draft of the geographically indexed socioeconomic data based on the preferred concepts, and we have begun to assemble the draft final report for this group of stations. We are targeting the end of October for the release of the draft document, which will include:
  - General introduction/overview
  - Condensed/revised existing conditions analysis for each station
  - Land Use and Constraints/Opportunities analysis maps
  - Preferred Development Concept drawing
  - Preferred Concept narrative describing key features of concept and recommended land use/development/transportation strategies
  - Socio-economic Database (as appendix)
- East Segment (Shorewood, Caton Farm Road, West Joliet to Lynwood) We have received feedback from most of the communities, and are currently working with some to clarify their goals and priorities for the Preferred Concepts. Revisions are underway on the concepts for which we have a clear direction from the communities.
- North Segment (Waukegan to Lake Zurich) We are still attempting to get feedback from many of these communities on the Alternative Concepts presented at the workshop in Vernon Hills on June 23.

We currently anticipate releasing the East and North segments together as a second document following the same format as the West Segment report.

#### **V. Scheduling a STAR Line Task Force Meeting**

Mr. Pagano suggested late October and the morning of October 28th was selected. The specific time will be determined and communicated to the Task

Force members. The meeting will be held at Metra in their boardroom on the 13th floor (547 West Jackson).

**VI. Other Business**

Steve Schlickman, consultant to the Steering Committee asked Mr. Pagano for his thoughts on the currently stalled Federal Transportation Bill. Mr. Pagano, thought it would be approved sometime after the election. Dave Seglin thought there may be a possibility for a one year Transportation Bill (rather than six years).

**VII. Next Meeting**

Next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 18, 2004, 10:00 a.m. at the Village of Hoffman Estates.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.