

STAR LINE TASK FORCE
STEERING COMMITTEE MINUTES
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
10:00 a.m.
Hoffman Estates Village Hall

Steering Committee Members

Mayor Bill McLeod (Chair)	Village of Hoffman Estates
Mayor Al Larson	Village of Schaumburg
Doug Krause	City of Naperville
Bill Cooney	Village of Mount Prospect
Mayor Arlene J. Mulder	Village of Arlington Heights
Ray Rummel	Elk Grove Village
George Safford	Village of Warrenville
Tam Kutzmark	DuPage Mayors and Managers (representing Mayor Michael Fortner of West Chicago)
Jim Haller	City of Joliet

Other Participants

Chuck Abraham	IDOT – Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Greg Andre	Sutton Crossing
Mark Avery	DuPage County
Mark Bagherpour	Apex
Larry Bury	Northwest Municipal Conference
Carmen Caruthers	City of Naperville
Sheny Chen	IDOT – Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation
Darcy Davidsmeyer	Motorola
Heather D. Gates	Will County Governmental League
Jack A. Groner	Metra
Mike Hankey	Village of Hoffman Estates
Barbara Hayskar	Prairie Stone
John M. Heinz	Village of Barrington
June Johnson	Village of Schaumburg
David Kralik	Metra
Brad McGuire	Jackson Moving and Storage
Paul Newman	Motorola
Hugh O'Hara	Will County Governmental League
Nathan O'Leary-Roseberry	Village of Hoffman Estates
Phil Pagano	Metra
Phil Pasterak	Parsons Brinckerhoff
Michelle Ryan	RTA
Holly Smith	Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors
Mike Walczak	Northwest Municipal Conference
Amy Welk	IDOT – Division of Public and Intermodal Transportation

I. Call to Order

Steering Committee Chairman Mayor Bill McLeod called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

II. Alternatives Analysis Update

Executive Director Phil Pagano and STAR Line Project Leader David Kralik of Metra briefed committee participants on the federally-required Alternatives Analysis, to be completed later in 2006. Initial federal feedback has been positive, and Metra along with lead consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff, will continue refining its analysis, including project financing. Metra has received official comments back from the Federal Transit Administration on its first submittals: Project Work Scope, Purpose & Need Statement and Initial Alternatives, Part I. Those comments are being incorporated in the versions of those documents that will be shared with the first Technical Advisory Committee. Metra also expects initial funding for the STAR Line to be in the state package for 2007. Mr. Pagano said Metra's goal for the project is for construction to begin in five to six years, with service commencing four years after that. They also currently have specifications on the Diesel Multiple Units (DMU) and are confident that five or six manufacturers are capable of supplying them.

Mr. Pagano reported that the location of the station at the Prairie Stone development in Hoffman Estates has been agreed upon by the village and Metra, and the general location of the station in Joliet has been set as well.

Phil Pasterak of lead consultant Parsons Brinckerhoff reviewed the Goals and Objectives from the Purpose and Needs Statement that has been reviewed by the FTA. He reported that the first Technical Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in late February, the second two months later.

III. STAR Line Business Alliance

STAR Line Business Alliance co-chairs Darcy Davidsmeyer of Motorola and Brad McGuire of Jackson Moving and Storage were introduced. They discussed their plan to involve businesses and chambers of commerce in the STAR Line corridor with data collection efforts and to develop the business community as a strong project advocate. The Alliance is currently working with Metra to establish the goals for the group, including creation of an electronic employee survey, developing legislative support for the STAR Line, and helping businesses to plan for their employees' commute from the station. They will be reaching out to local mayors for help in establishing local business contacts, with an introductory letter set to go out later this month.

IV. Recent Meetings/Discussions

Mr. Groner reported that discussions with the Illinois Tollway to coordinate the planned expansion of the Northwest Tollway and STAR Line construction are proceeding well. The tollway is still planning construction on the eastern portion in 2009, and the western portion in 2010. Metra is hoping to use some

environmental and modeling data from ISTHA's work, but Mr. Pagano cautioned that since the Tollway does not need to meet the more rigorous federal environmental standards, not all of the data can be used. Mr. Pagano also affirmed that Metra is planning on running the STAR Line down the middle of the Tollway, not on one side of the roadway.

V. Public Involvement Efforts

Mr. Kralik presented the public involvement brochures and folders created by Metra's Public Involvement consultant, Res Publica Group. The material will be made publicly available in February. A brochure explains basic information about the STAR Line, while a larger folder provides information on all current Metra New Start projects. The information in the material, which will also be available online, is aimed at local government officials, business leaders, and the general public.

VI. Status of Technical Advisory Committee

A Technical Advisory Committee of local and regional officials will begin meeting in February to provide continued input and review of the Alternatives Analysis. The meetings will be public and include most members of the Steering Committee. The first meeting will feature a near-final version of the Purpose and Need Statement. A second meeting will be held in April or May and a third between September and November.

VII. Local Community Involvement

In response to concerns from Mayor Larson of Schaumburg and echoed by other municipalities who are looking to plan development around their proposed station locations, Metra agreed to meet with each community along the line to discuss the station locations and the surrounding development in more detail. Communities were instructed to contact Mike Walczak of the Northwest Municipal Conference to establish a time to meet.

VIII. Other Business

The committee discussed options to hire a new consultant to replace Steve Schlickman, whose contract expires in October. Upon the recommendation of Mayor Larson, the committee will not seek a Request for Qualifications, and rely on the committee members to stay actively involved in lobbying efforts for the STAR Line.

Requests for an updated project schedule and a list of all consultants working on the project were made. This is attached.

IX. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a full Task Force meeting and will take place in late February or early March. It was recommended that representatives of local Chambers of Commerce be invited to the next Task Force meeting.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.