

Southwestern IL Connector Task Force Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2019
World Shooting and Recreational Complex, Sparta, IL

Good Morning and welcome to our April 12th meeting of the Southwestern IL Connector Task Force. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Marc Kiehna, Randolph County Commissioner
Ed Weilbacher, KRPD
Michael McConachie, Randolph County Farm Bureau
Bob Davenport, Realty Central, Inc.
Kathy Wills, Office of Senator Paul Schimpf
Jesse Johnson, Office of Senator Paul Schimpf
Jim Epplin, Perry County Commissioner
Will Stephens, Mayor of Murphysboro
Bob Elmore, Monroe County Commissioner
Deb Barnett, SIU Carbondale
Chad Goldschmidt IUOE 520
Carrie Nelsen, IDOT

Also, in Attendance:

Chris Martin, Randolph County Economic Development Director
Susan and Will Harbaugh, City of Red Bud
Eddie Koch, Monroe County Economic Development Director
Jason Schlimme, Mayor of Sparta
Joe Hackler, Randolph County Director of Land/Resource Management

Seeing that a quorum of the Task Force was in attendance, Chairman Kiehna started the meeting.

Chairman Kiehna asked for the members to approve the minutes of our previous meeting held on March 1, 2019, with a correction of the meeting date.

Bob Davenport moved to accept the minutes of the March 1, 2019 meeting with Bob Elmore seconding. All in Favor, Approved.

Chairman Kiehna reported on his attendance and presentation at the Senate Capitol Bill Hearing held at SIU Edwardsville on Monday, March 4th. Chad Goldschmidt, who was in attendance gave his perceptions of the meeting, including what he called the Elephant in the Room (how to pay for the Capital improvements).

Dr. Kiehna, talked about the resolutions and letters of support solicited and received. He read a long list of the resolutions passed by Counties, Cities, and Villages passed in favor of the Connector. He also read a list of the businesses and agencies in support of the highway. The Task Force determined it would be in their best interest to include these letters of Support along with the report to the legislature. Dr. Kiehna agreed to send out sample letters to assist

anyone who would like to send a letter of support and encouraged the members of the Task Force seek letters of support.

Chairman Kiehna introduced Carrie Nelsen of IDOT District 9 who addressed the Task Force about the materials she brought to assist the task force along with a primer as to how planning would be done for the expressway. She told us about the different phases that would need to be completed: Phase I for planning, Phase II for acquisition, and Phase III for construction.

Carrie talked about the Pinckneyville bypass and the two class I railroads that exists. The options dealing with these include going up and over these tracks. She talked about the route and the possibility of building massive structures to deal with the making of a four-lane rural expressway.

IDOT has estimated a 12-million-dollar cost for doing planning from Waterloo to the World Shooting complex ending at Route 4. The cost estimate going on to Pinckneyville would be an additional 6 million dollars. Planning has already been done from Pinckneyville to Murphysboro on Route 13/127.

Chairman Kiehna led a discussion about the expressway and a general location moving from Pinckneyville to Waterloo. Mayor Schlimme talked about Sparta's interest in the expressway moving from Eden to the North connecting to County Road 18 in front of the Shooting Complex. They feel like the best route for Sparta is to go to the North of town.

The Task Force took about 30 minutes to look at maps and exhibits showing proposed routes and discuss possible locations for the expressway.

Upon reconvening the group held more discussion: Chad Goldschmidt talked about the building of an expressway will be huge for Southern Illinois in bringing economic development. Michael McConachie talked about not breaking up farm land and appropriate access roads for farm equipment. Ed Weilbacher spoke to the needs for the port district and the possibility of a bypass to the North of Red Bud because of the movement of steel to the river. Carrie Nelsen mentioned that the Phase I program would look at all the possible routes around Red Bud. Bob Davenport mentioned the positive and negative aspects of real estate next to an expressway. He said he had a listing at this time where you can see the trucks next to the house. Some people like the access to the road and some don't. Deborah Barnet stated that any route that makes it easier to get to the university is exiting and the possibilities of growth is good for everyone. Bob Elmore talked about the possible growth at the shooting complex including possible hotels. He also mentioned the possibility of a tollway. Dr. Kiehna referenced the study done in the early 90's. James Epplin mentioned the routes at Pinckneyville were well decided.

Susan Harbaugh mentioned the possibility of a Capitol Bill and the need for dollars to fix existing roads. Edie Koch mentioned the job retention and creation component of the report. Also, Edie mentioned the St. Louis Regional Freightways is interested in non -interstate freight routes and is paying attention to our proposal.

Carrie was asked about the proposal to change the route going through Pinckneyville and the challenges they have with the historic buildings.

The group was asked about the goals for our next meeting:

Carrie mentioned that creating our Purpose and Need is the first thing we need to do to put this together. She also mentioned that we should consider this road being called a Rural Four-lane Expressway.

Chairman Kiehna thanked those in attendance and asked for a motion to adjourn. Ed Weilbacher motioned, and Chad Goldschmidt seconded. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned until our next meeting on May 10th at 10 a.m. in the WSRC.