



## 10.0 TASK FORCE MEETINGS

Oversight of the Kankakee County Commuter Transit Phase II Feasibility Study is provided by a Task Force of representatives from the following units of government:

- Kankakee County
- Will County
- Village of Aroma Park (Kankakee County)
- Village of Bourbonnais (Kankakee County)
- Village of Bradley (Kankakee County)
- City of Kankakee (Kankakee County)
- Village of Manteno (Kankakee County)
- Village of Monee (Will County)
- Village of Peotone (Will County)

Staff members from the State of Illinois, Department of Transportation attend as non-voting participants. Task Force meetings are generally held the third Tuesday of alternating months, and are located at member facilities on a rotating basis. A listing of the Task Force meetings held during this Phase II feasibility study is provided in Table 10-1.

**Table 10-1. Phase II Feasibility Study Task Force Meetings**

Meeting	Date	Location
1	August 15, 2006	Kankakee County Administration Building
2	October 17, 2006	Aroma Park Village Hall
3	December 12, 2006	Bourbonnais Village Hall
4	February 20, 2007	Kankakee City Hall
5	April 17, 2007	Kankakee County Administration Building
6	June 19, 2007	River Valley Metro Offices, Bourbonnais
7	August 21, 2007	River Valley Metro Offices, Bourbonnais
8	December 11, 2007	River Valley Metro Offices, Bourbonnais



## FINAL REPORT

A meeting-by-meeting description of the material covered is presented below. The PowerPoint presentations used at each of the meetings can be found at the Resources page of the project website (<http://kacotstudy.com/resources.php>).

Meeting #1, in August 2006, was the Phase II Study kick-off. Topics included:

- **Project Name Change:** Name was changed from Kankakee County Commuter Rail Feasibility Study (KACOR) to Kankakee County Commuter Transit Feasibility Study (KACOT).
- **Amtrak's New Service:** Announcement of expanded state-funded Amtrak service to be implemented in fall 2006 [service was initiated on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006].
- **Project Overview:** Description of eleven project tasks, including budget and schedule information.
- **Local Cost Share:** Discussion of possible capital and operating funding requirements and sources.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Overview of suggested public participation program, including examples of web sites.
- **Task Force Communications:** Pros and cons of alternative forms of Task Force communication, including 1) hard copy/regular mail, 2) e-mail or 3) a project ftp site were discussed.
- **SAFETEA-LU Funding:** Description and status of Chicago Region Commuter Rail Projects.

Meeting #2 was held in October 2006, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Description of eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Site Studies:** Report on review of recommended locations of the Monee, Manteno and Peotone Stations. Presentation of proposed workshop on Transit Supportive Land Use, including call for municipal planning documents.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** Background discussion on CN and Metra issues, and proposed conceptual design of the independent commuter rail alternative.
- **Institutional Issues:** Update on relevant issues related to Metra, Ring Around the Collar, Amtrak and South Suburban Airport.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Update of Public Education/Outreach activities and plans.



Meeting #3 was held in December 2006, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Transit Supportive Land Use:** Reported on December 15<sup>th</sup> Workshop and Bus Tour.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** Reviewed research of legal aspect of CN land grant status of right-of-way. Reported on material received from CN and a right-of-way inventory conducted in November.
- **Institutional Issues:** Discussed meeting with staff of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, who agreed to develop ridership forecasts for the KACOT project.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Updated Public Education/Outreach activities and plans.
- **Program Web Site:** Provided a general functional description of the structure and content of the proposed KACOT program web site.
- **Ridership Forecasts:** Reviewed approach for developing Kankakee County small-area forecasts of population and employment.

Meeting #4 was held in February 2007, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Ridership Forecasts:** Presented proposed control totals of future Kankakee County population and employment for Task Force feedback. The process to be used to generate ridership forecasts was reviewed.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** Reported on the completion of right-of-way inventory. Discussed work to identify infrastructure improvements.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Updated Public Education/Outreach activities and plans, including the formation of the Kankakee Resident's Transit Team.
- **Program Web Site:** A working digital display of the web site was presented for approval prior to opening the site to the public on February 28, 2007.

Meeting #5 was held in April 2007, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Project History:** Described the evolution of the KACOR/KACOT project.



- **Ridership Forecasts:** Presented small-area forecasts of future Kankakee County population and employment. Reviewed the variables used by CMAP to generate ridership forecasts.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** Reported on the status of work to identify infrastructure improvements.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Reported on activities and plans of the Kankakee Resident's Transit Team, including the logistics associated with a "Town Hall" meeting planned for May 31, 2007. Plans for a similar meeting in eastern Will County were presented. Various collateral materials were presented for Task Force review and comment. A report on the KACOT web site, which was publicly unveiled on February 28, 2007, was given.

Meeting #6 was held in June 2007, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Ridership Forecasts:** Status of CMAP forecast work was provided.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** Reported on completion of draft Chapter 5 of Final Report, which was submitted to CN for their review. Discussed meeting held with CN on June 1, 2007.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Reported on May 31, 2007 "Town Hall" Gathering for Kankakee County. Presented final plans for Eastern Will County Gathering. Distributed NewsNotes project newsletter issued in mid-May 2007. Activities to support project web site were described. The number of web site visits in May 2007 was presented.
- **Final Report:** Distributed draft of Final KACOT report for review and comment by Task Force.

Meeting #7 was held in August 2007, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks, including status of budget and schedule.
- **Ridership Forecasts:** Status of CMAP progress on estimating ridership was discussed.
- **Independent Rail Alternative:** The need for street-running between the Bradley and Kankakee Depot stations was discussed.
- **Public Education/Outreach:** Reported on the June 28, 2007 "Town Hall" Gathering for eastern Will County. Activities supporting the project web site were described. The number of web site visits in May through July 2007 was presented.



## FINAL REPORT

Meeting #8 was held in December 2007, and included the following topics:

- **Project Overview:** Described eleven project tasks and close out of the project.
- **Ridership Forecasts:** Presented the ridership results from the CMAP forecast work.
- **Commuter Rail MOS Capital Cost Estimate:** Reported on the completion of a capital cost estimate for the new minimum operable segment (MOS).
- **Institutional Issues:** Reported on three meetings with outside agencies and organizations, Amtrak, ring-around-the-collar counties, and an intermodal seminar.
- **Web Site:** A final report on the status and transfer of the web site was provided.
- **Future Work:** Provided a general outline of ideas for future work on the project.
- **Final Report:** Distributed the Final KACOT report to the Task Force.