

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Hoselton, Members Baggett, Dean, Caisley and Clark

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Bill Wasson, Director of Administrative Services, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Highway Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Highway Engineer, Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission, Mr. Porter Witham, North Ridge Subdivision

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the July 8, 2008 meeting.

Motion by Caisley / Clark to recommend approval of the minutes from the July 8, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that Mr. Porter Witham, 2890 Glendale Lane, Normal, IL would like to address the Committee.

Mr. Caisley introduced Mr. Witham, a resident of District 5, in the North Ridge area of Normal.

Mr. Witham expressed his concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Pipeline Road, near North Ridge. He stated that early morning and late afternoon, traffic commuting to and from work, travel at a rate of speed he believes is too fast for the area. He asked if there was anything that the County could do to control the speed of traffic.

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Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer, stated that the County Highway Department can do a speed setting study to determine if the speed limit is posted properly. There is a construction project planned for this area next year that will widen the road to three lanes. The project improvement will lower the speed limit to 45 miles per hour.

Mr. Clark suggested that Mr. Witham contact the Normal Police Department to monitor the speed of traffic.

Mr. Baggett asked the cost and time involved with a speed study. Mr. Schmitt answered that counters would be put out for 24 hours. It would then take 2 hours to process the data. He stated that the County Highway Department will do the speed study and also contact the Sheriff's Department to patrol the area.

Mr. Witham thanked the Committee for their assistance in helping to control the speed of traffic on Pipeline Road near the North Ridge Subdivision.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills for July 31, 2008. The prepaid total is \$1,990,130.38

Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Schmitt to report on the Gasoline / Oil / Diesel Fuel Budget Status.

Mr. Schmitt referred to the memo in the packet. He reported that the Highway Department budgeted \$225,000.00 for gasoline, oil and diesel fuel for the Fiscal Year 2008. They have used \$207,974.95 of the budgeted funds. This is 92.4% of the budget for the Fiscal Year 2008. He projected that the additional costs will be \$112,000.00; \$85,000.00 over budget for the fuel line item. He stated that they are conserving fuel whenever possible and are trying to cut spending in other areas to cover the overrun in this line item.

Chairman Hoselton asked for any comments or questions concerning the Bills.

Motion by Clark / Dean to recommend payment of the July 31, 2008 bills as submitted by the County Auditor.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the first item for action is the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Truck Access Route Program (TARP) Agreement and the 80,000 lb Weight Limitation Resolution.

Mr. Schmitt explained that there are two items, the TARP Agreement and the Weight Limit Resolution to upgrade the Horse Farm Road from the LeRoy Spur Road to US Route 136, 4.73 miles, to an 80,000 pound access road.

Motion by Dean / Baggett to recommend approval of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Truck Access Route Program (TARP) Agreement and the 80,000 lb Weight Limitation Resolution.
Motion carried.

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Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee that the next item for action is the Bridge Construction Petition – Randolph Township Joint Culvert – 000 North and 1600 East Roads

Mr. Schmitt stated that the existing structure size is inadequate. The existing 21 and 36 inch pipes will be replaced with three 36 inch pipes. This will correct the problem of water covering the road and washing out the shoulders of the road during heavy rains. The County's share of the cost of the project is \$5,500.00. Mr. Schmitt recommended approval of the Bridge Construction Petition.

Motion by Caisley / Dean to recommend approval of the Bridge Construction Petition; Randolph Township Joint Culvert - 000 North and 1600 East Roads.
Motion Carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next items to be presented to the Committee are Items of Information.

Mr. Schmitt reported that construction on the Danvers / Carlock Road - CH 53, Combined Sections 03-00147-02-AS and 03-00148-04-BR has been completed.

Mr. Caisley asked Mr. Schmitt if the County is going to pay Eppel & Co Inc. since the County had to mill the road. Mr. Schmitt responded that the County Highway Department met with Eppel & Co Inc. to discuss the reasons why the problem of the unevenness in the road occurred and the possibility of them paying for part of the extra work. Eppel & Co Inc. has no interest in paying any part of the project's added costs. Eppel stated that they tried everything the County asked them to do to correct the problem. They also felt the milling was not necessary to fix the problem. The County disagreed. The outcome of the milling is a great improvement to the road. Mr. Schmitt explained that it is difficult to determine exactly why it happened. As a result, the Highway Department is considering including additional specifications in future project contracts.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that the construction on the Bentown / Holder Road - CH 25 - Section 04-00040-03-WR has been completed and final payment has been made.

Mr. Schmitt noted that the construction on the Reese Bridge – Bentown / Holder Road – CH 25 – Section 05-00040-04-BR has also been completed and final payment has been made.

Mr. Schmitt reported on the construction of the Seegmiller Bridge – Weston Road – CH13 – Section 05-00130-13-BR. He stated that the piles are driven and the abutments, pier caps and bridge deck have been poured.

Mr. Schmitt continued with the Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue Signals. He stated that most of the road work is complete. Three (3) mast arms are in place. The signal will be turned on August 19, 2008.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Horizon Wind Farm Phase 1- Post Construction work, Lexington / LeRoy Road – CH 21 and Ellsworth Road – CH 17, Combined Sections, 07-00044-11-CG and 07-00134-08-SM has been completed and final payment has been made.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that the contractor on the Danvers / Carlock Road - CH 53 – Section 07-00148-04-FP has completed the main line paving. The project should be finished in the next two weeks.

Mr. Schmitt stated that construction on the Equipment Storage Building is underway. Erection of the exterior walls has begun. Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee that the project is going well and encouraged the Committee to go by the site at their convenience.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the East Side Highway Project Study Group hosted a Public Information Meeting on July 29, 2008. Mr. Jerry Payonk of Clark-Dietz informed the group that the Citizen's Advisory Group has eliminated alternatives M4, S3 and S9 from consideration for the East Side Highway. The public is being encouraged to submit written comments concerning final corridor selection to Clark-Dietz by August 12, 2008. Mr. Schmitt stated that the Project Study Group will meet in late August to discuss the public's written comments concerning the selection of a preferred alignment.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that the plans for the stand-by emergency generator were received on June 30, 2008. The design is for a 125kw diesel powered generator. The plans will be sent out for an August 26, 2008 letting for installation this year (2008). In the current year budget, \$100,000.00 has been budgeted for the purchase and installation of the stand-by emergency generator.

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Mr. Caisley questioned the reason for using diesel fuel as opposed to using natural gas. Mr. Schmitt answered that, with this size of a generator, it becomes more costly to purchase a natural gas powered generator. Also when using natural gas, you are relying on a utility to supply the power source.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the letter to the Townships concerning the Joint Culverts process has been sent. A report to the Townships, informing them of their available Motor Fuel Tax Funds, is being sent quarterly.

Chairman Hoselton referred the Committee to the attached Financial Report.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary