

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Members Cavallini and Baggett

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer;

Others Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer; Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Specialist II, Auditor's Office; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission; Mr. Neil Finlen, Farnsworth Group, Inc.; Mr. Larry Hundman, Mr. Vic Armstrong, Mr. Marshall Kaisner, Eagle View Commercial Subdivision Developers

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:14 a.m. He stated that the first item for action is approval of the minutes from the July 24, 2007 meeting.

Motion by Clark/Dean to recommend approval of the minutes from the July 24, 2007 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills from July, 2007. He advised that Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, would address any questions that the Committee may have. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by Caisley/Clark to recommend payment of the July, 2007 bills as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the first item for action is a request for a commercial entrance to Towanda-Barnes Road from the Eagle View Subdivision. He asked Mr. Neil Finlen, Farnsworth Group, Inc., to present this item to the Committee.

Mr. Finlen advised the Committee that the developers of the Eagle View Commercial Subdivision are requesting a connection to Towanda-Barnes Road. The proposed entrance would be located approximately 1000 feet north of the GE Road intersection and would be aligned with the church driveway entrance on the west side of Towanda-Barnes Road. Mr. Finlen informed the Committee that the property owner to the south will not permit access across his property to GE Road at this time. This leaves the developers of the Eagle View Commercial Subdivision with no access to their property except for the platted Main Street entrance in Barnes (dedicated in the 1890's). Due to the closeness of Main Street to GE Road, this access is unacceptable. The following are reasons that the additional entrance is needed.

- The construction of a new intersection allows for the closing of the existing Main Street connection to Towanda-Barnes Road.
- Constructing a street across Towanda-Barnes Road from an existing entrance will permit, if ever warranted, traffic signals to control both the existing west side entrance and the proposed east side street.
- A new street connection to the Eagle View Commercial Subdivision will allow the separation of the Eagle View residential traffic from the Eagle View commercial traffic.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee  
August 7, 2007  
Page Three

The developers of Eagle View have already paid McLean County \$245,000.00 in permit fees for entrances to Towanda-Barnes Road for the residential subdivision. This additional street connection, if permitted, will result in the County receiving another \$35,000.00 in permit fees.

The developers would be willing to pay for the closure of Main Street as it exists today. This would involve removal of pavement and curb and gutter and installation of the new curb and gutter to ensure that this entrance could no longer be used.

Mr. Finlen stated that he believes the justification for this request is valid and from the Committee's perspective, does not set a precedent for other similar requests.

Additionally, Mr. Finlen advised the Committee that Mr. Tom Hamilton, City Manager, City of Bloomington, has written a letter in support of this request.

Mr. Mitchell noted that the Committee has copies of Mr. Hamilton's letters in their agenda packets. Mr. Mitchell stated that the key to making this proposed entrance work is closing Main Street. The City of Bloomington is supportive of this request. The Highway Department recommends approval of this request as well.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the reason that this item must be approved by the Transportation Committee is because the McLean County Comprehensive Plan states that there should be only one access per half mile to developed areas on Towanda-Barnes Road. Considering the safety of the issue, as stated earlier by Mr. Finlen, this should not set a precedent. This item can be approved by Committee action only and, therefore, will not need to be considered by the County Board.

Mr. Dean asked if the trucks entering the elevator will have room to turn their trucks around and leave through the same entrance/exit. Mr. Mitchell responded that there is an area west of where the elevator is located that the trucks will be able to turn around. Mr. Mitchell stated that he understands that the elevator in question is no longer being operated as a public elevator. It is being leased to one farmer and is used as private storage. There will not be a major influx of traffic throughout this area.

Mr. Caisley asked if this item could be approved with the condition that when this property is eventually annexed into the City of Bloomington, the City will vacate and close Main Street. Chairman Hoselton responded that the City has already stated that they are in favor of the proposed entrance. Chairman Hoselton stated that the County does not need to put stipulations on the future of this property.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee  
August 7, 2007  
Page Four

Motion by Caisley/Clark to recommend approval of an Entrance on Towanda-Barnes Road for the Eagle View Commercial Subdivision. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the only remaining item for action is a Bridge Petition for the Yates Road District. There are two culverts that do not carry water properly in this area. The water flows across the road and causes a safety hazard. The cost of this project is such that it qualifies for funding from the Joint Bridge Fund. In order to qualify for funding by the Joint Bridge Fund, the project has to be more than .02% of the assessed value of the Township. The total cost of the new drainage structures is \$90,000.00. The cost will be divided equally between the Yates Road District and McLean County.

Motion by Dean/Clark to recommend approval of a Bridge Petition for the Yates Road District for 2007 Non-MFT Joint Culverts. Motion carried.

Mr. Caisley asked if, in view of the recent bridge collapse in Minneapolis, can any of the municipalities in McLean County put a demand on the County for a portion of bridge construction expenses. Mr. Mitchell responded that the law on the Township Bridge Fund states that a Township or Municipality under 15,000 is able to petition the County to fix a bridge sharing the cost equally between the Township and the County. If the County has the funds available in the Bridge Fund, they are obligated to match the petition. Mr. Mitchell stated that he does not anticipate a large influx of petitions coming into the county. There will be some petitions as a result of the 2007 Timber Pile Bridge Inspection report.

Chairman Hoselton stated that brings the Committee to the items for information. The first item is the 2007 Timber Pile Bridge Inspection Report. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are still 17 timber bridges located throughout the County. A consultant is hired to complete this inspection approximately every three years. Some years, the inspection report will result in several bridges requiring a posting and some years, no bridges require posting. This year the report has produced six bridges which will require posting. One of the bridges is a County bridge. It is just south of Gridley. The bridge's posting is 8 ton for single axle, 11 ton for three or four axles, and 12 ton for five or more axles. This bridge will need to be replaced. There are several projects that will need to be completed before this bridge can be replaced. There are bridges on the Weston Road that the Highway Department has already committed to replace. There is also a posted bridge on the Arrowsmith Road which is in the process of having design work completed. Another of the timber bridges that has been targeted to be posted is

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

August 7, 2007  
Page Five

in Martin Township. The Martin Township Road Commissioner has already contacted the Highway Department with interest in replacing that bridge.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next item is a report on the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical and Policy Committees. He invited Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission, to address the Committee. Ms. Sicks explained that the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) has a dual role. It serves the County for a variety of functions including comprehensive planning. As the MPO, the RPC performs transportation planning for the entire county, primarily for an area called the metropolitan planning area. This area is set according to population concentration. At the close of each census, the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transportation Administration designate the metropolitan area. After the last census, Towanda and Downs were included within this planning area. Now, a total of 55% of the county's population is included within the planning area.

Ms. Sicks explained that the MPO Policy Committee is the functioning body of the MPO. It consists of the Chair of the Regional Planning Commission, a Member of the County Board, the Mayors of Bloomington and Normal, and a representative from District 5 of the Illinois Department of Transportation. The Policy Committee is empowered to set policy and priorities for McLean County's metropolitan planning area in terms of any transportation project or initiative that utilizes federal funding.

Ms. Sicks explained that the MPO Technical Committee does a lot of the technical work which is hammered out by the Policy Committee. This Committee consists of Mr. Mitchell, serving as Chair, and includes senior engineering staff from the City and the Town, representatives from IDOT, District 5, Bloomington-Normal Public Transit System and the Airport Authority. The Technical Committee is responsible for gathering information relating to all of the various modes of transportation.

The MPO process is the conduit for federal transportation funding into local projects.

Ms. Sicks informed the Committee that County Board Chairman Sweeney should be receiving a letter from IDOT asking him to appoint a County Board Member to represent McLean County on a regional committee. This committee will help to distribute federal funding primarily for transit services in rural areas. Most of the Counties in this area are serviced by SHOWBUS.

Ms. Sicks informed the Committee that the MPO Technical and Policy Committees meet quarterly and anyone who is interested is invited and encouraged to attend.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any questions for Ms. Sicks. Mr. Caisley asked how an individual can get an item included on the transportation planning process. Ms. Sicks responded that most of their directives come from government entities. However, they have had requests from individuals or groups regarding services. Mr. Caisley stated that there are people on the west end of his district that have children in high school who are interested in seeing Raab Road opened from Main Street through to Towanda-Barnes Road. Ms. Sicks stated that she believes that is a very long range goal. She noted that she would be happy to have that item placed on the agenda in the near future.

Chairman Hoselton thanked Ms. Sicks for her informative report and asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he asked Mr. Mitchell to present the project summary.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the project summary is as follows:

- The Reese Bridge on the Bentown-Holder Road is back open and the project is awaiting final payment.
- The Arrowsmith Road project is completed.
- The Lexington overpass project is underway. The westbound lane has been poured; traffic is using that side as a part of the two lanes that are open. The curb and gutter has been poured on the eastbound lane. They are nearly ready to pour the pavement.
- The LeRoy-Lexington Road is complete and awaiting final paperwork.
- The Danvers-Carlock Road is moving along rather slowly. They have replaced most of the crossroad culverts. There is a bridge that still needs to be built.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the East Side Highway Study Report #16 was included in the Committee's agenda packet. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is another public meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. The East Side Highway Study Committee is hoping that the purpose and need phase of the study will be completed tonight. It was briefly discussed at the last meeting. The committee is hoping for a lot of public input.

Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer, to give a brief summary on the progress at the Horizon Wind Farm. Mr. Schmitt stated that Phase I is substantially complete. Phase II has five turbines erected completely, twenty bases and mid-sections erected, and 35 foundations have been poured. Phase II is approximately 25% complete.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee  
August 7, 2007  
Page Seven

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the oil and chip work has been completed on the Phase I Township roads. The Phase II roads are still being built.

Chairman Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell to give an update on the proposed Highway Department garage. Mr. Mitchell stated that he, Chairman Hoselton, Property Committee Chairman Bostic and the architect met last week. Mr. Mitchell then met with Mr. Jack Moody, Facilities Management Director, and Mr. Tom Hawk, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, to discuss the construction of the garage. Mr. Mitchell stated that he had hoped to have this project set for an August letting, but he has not gotten the plans back from the architect as quickly as he had hoped. It appears that it may be too late to build the garage this fall.

Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee that he asked Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, to print out a list of duties and responsibilities of the Oversight Committees. On the last page are guidelines specific to the Transportation Committee. He has provided all of the Committee Members with this information.

Chairman Hoselton stated that there will be a Stand-Up Committee Meeting at the next County Board Meeting on August 21, 2007 to recommend approval of a Resolution and Letting results from an August 15<sup>th</sup> letting.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Melvin Kull, Sign Forman, retired on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. He had been with the Highway Department for 28 years. Internal applicants were interviewed and Ben Kahle, Laborer, was promoted to this position.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there were any other questions. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt  
Recording Secretary