

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the Highway Department, 102 S. Towanda-Barnes Road, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Dean, O'Connor, Cavallini, Hoselton, and Baggett

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

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

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer; Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning

Others Present: Mr. Leif Epperson, Fleet Manager, County Highway Department; Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator, County Highway Department; Ms. Christine Brauer, Member, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item for action is the approval of the minutes from the January 6, 2005 meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2005 Transportation Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the December, 2005 bills and January, 2006. Chairman Bass stated that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills. He asked if there were any questions from the Committee.

**Mr. Hoselton joins the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

**Ms. O'Connor joins the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Motion by Cavallini/Baggett to recommend approval of the bills for December, 2005 and January, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the first item on today's agenda is a request for approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. This item refers to the proposed east side highway. Chairman Bass reminded the Committee that this item was postponed from last month's Transportation Committee agenda. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to inform the Committee where this agreement stands with the two other local governments. Mr. Mitchell replied that the other two local governments have not acted on this item yet. He also noted that the Intergovernmental Agreement has been revised since it was presented to this Committee last month. All mention of a moratorium within the corridor has been removed from the agreement.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Land Use and Development Committee voted unanimously not to approve the amendment to the County's Comprehensive Plan. However, the Committee Members spoke in favor of completing further study of the project. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Baggett and Mr. Cavallini, who are Members of the Land Use and Development Committee, if they had anything to add to the discussion. Mr. Cavallini stated that the growth in the community will have to be addressed at some point.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Intergovernmental Agreement's purpose is to split the cost of the local match of the study. The alignment study is estimated at \$1 million. There is an \$800,000.00 federal high priority grant that will cover the majority of the cost. The Intergovernmental Agreement proposes that the three local governments share the remaining \$200,000.00 cost equally. The Agreement places a \$100,000.00 maximum expenditure for each local government. The Highway Department has applied for additional Illinois Tomorrow Grant funds in the amount of \$150,000.00 to help defray the cost of the study. There has been no word back regarding the status of that grant.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the study will explore the entire three miles east of Towanda Barnes out to 2200 East, which the original feasibility study covered. The study will also extend down to Route 51 South. The feasibility study called for a controlled access facility, similar to an interstate. That is why this proposed highway will take the amount of land that is being considered. The feasibility study recommended interchanges every two miles, but the alignment study would further determine the placement of such interchanges.

Mr. Hoselton stated that in reference to moratorium, the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed the a local government in New Jersey to use eminent domain on innocent people's houses for economic development and he does not want to see that happen here. Mr. Hoselton added that the only reason that this Agreement was not passed the last time it was presented was because the City of Bloomington voted it down. Mr. Hoselton stated that he would like to see the City of Bloomington take the lead on this project. Mr. Mitchell responded that the local governments have no intentions to take anyone's property and that if and when property will need to be purchased for this project, property owners will be paid fair market value for their property.

Mr. Mitchell stated that this proposed highway is to ease anticipated congestion on the east side of Bloomington-Normal. Mr. Mitchell stated that at the Land Use and Development Meeting on Thursday, Mr. Segobiano commented that the west side of Bloomington is very congested. That is because there is only one access into town from the west off I-55, which is Route 9. The alignment study will take into account the proposed increase in population and traffic and will demonstrate whether this proposed highway is necessary on the east side.

Minutes of the Transportation Committee
February 6, 2006
Page Four

Mr. Cavallini asked if the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal have already approved the Intergovernmental Agreement. Mr. Mitchell responded that they have not. He noted that it will be on their council agendas in the next month. Mr. Cavallini informed the Committee that the reason that he raises that issue is because when he first became a Member of the Transportation Committee a number of years ago, this Committee and the County Board approved the Consultant's recommendation for the proposed east side highway corridor. The City of Bloomington would not approve the Consultant's recommendation and the whole project was halted. Mr. Cavallini stated that he is reluctant to take the lead now, not knowing how the City of Bloomington will act on this issue. Mr. Mitchell stated that if this study is put off, it delays the hiring of a consultant and the study itself. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Committee could approve this Agreement subject to the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal's approval. Ms. O'Connor stated that the Agreement was tabled last month and has now been revised. Ms. O'Connor stated that she would be in favor of recommending approval of this item.

Chairman Bass stated that he understands Mr. Cavallini and Mr. Hoselton's feelings regarding how this Agreement was handled last time it was brought before the three local governments. He noted that should not have any bearing on how the Committee votes today. The Intergovernmental Agreement should be considered on its own merits.

Mr. Hoselton asked that if the three governments approve this highway in the future, who will make decisions on how the road is to be constructed. Mr. Mitchell responded that if this is eventually approved, a consultant will conduct a study and recommend a proposed alignment. Then, the three local governments and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will have to accept the alignment. Mr. Hoselton asked what happens if the two other local governments agree upon an issue, but the County does not agree. Mr. Mitchell replied that IDOT will not proceed with this project or the funding for this project unless the three local governments involved agree upon the terms.

Mr. Dean asked how much it would cost to build a road similar to Towanda-Barnes Road. Mr. Mitchell responded that approximately two years ago, a two-mile stretch of Towanda-Barnes Road was upgraded to four lanes with curb and gutter. That cost \$5.5 million.

Chairman Bass stated he would entertain a motion.

Motion by O'Connor/Hoselton to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between the County of McLean, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal. Chairman Bass called for a roll call vote and stated that the Chair will vote.

Member Cavallini	"No"
Member Dean	"No"
Member O'Connor	"Yes"
Member Baggett	"Yes"
Member Hoselton	"No"
Chairman Bass	"Yes"

Motion failed on a tie vote of 3-3.

Chairman Bass reminded the Committee that voting "yes" to this Agreement is just a vote to continue with an alignment study. Mr. Hoselton asked if this will go before the Executive Committee and the County Board. Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator, responded that the issue will not go before either the Executive Committee or the County Board because the motion failed on a tie vote. Chairman Bass asked members of the audience if they had any comments to make to the Committee. Mr. Tim Bittner, Mr. Paul Kreuger, Mr. Tim Kraft, Mr. Melvin Jeter, Mr. Homer Bozarth and Ms. Jerri Jeter all offered opinions and briefly addressed the Committee.

Chairman Bass asked if any other County staff or Committee Member had any comments. Ms. O'Connor asked if Bloomington and Normal can move ahead with this project now without the County's consent. Chairman Bass responded that IDOT is looking for a consensus between all three local governments before issuing any grant funds. Mr. Phil Dick, Director, Building and Zoning, asked the Committee Members 1) whether they feel an east side facility will be necessary in years to come and 2) if they are wanting the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal to make this decision without the County's input. Mr. Dean stated that he does feel that a facility will be necessary, but he is not certain if this area needs to grow as fast and furiously as it is currently. Mr. Dean stated that he would be in favor of a road similar to Towanda-Barnes, not an Interstate Highway. Ms. O'Connor asked why the Committee would want to take the County out of a decision such as this. Mr. Hoselton stated that the County is out of the decision right now, but, in all likelihood, this issue will come before the County again. Mr. Hoselton added that he wants to hear from the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal before he votes on this issue. Mr. Cavallini stated that he has heard many negative comments from constituents from his District and he assured them that he wanted further information before he would vote for this Agreement. Chairman Bass thanked everyone in the audience for their input and attendance at today's meeting.

Chairman Bass stated that the Committee should move forward with the other items on the agenda. The next item for action is a Jurisdictional Transfer request for County Highway 28, from Dawson Township to McLean County. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to explain this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated

that he would like to introduce Mr. Tim Bane, Dawson Township Road Commissioner. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Bane had come into the Highway Department recently inquiring about this possible transfer. Mr. Mitchell mentioned that he had brought this idea to the Committee in the past. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Bane to explain his request. Mr. Bane informed the Committee that the Dawson Township Board has asked him to consult McLean County to see they would agree to swap a small portion (5 ¾ miles) of 1100 North Road for the same length of 1200 North Road. When a portion of Oakland Avenue was closed due to the building of the new airport, traffic increased on 1200 North Road (Ireland Grove Road). The count is approximately 800 cars per day. The traffic count on 1100 North is only 225 – 250 cars per day. Mr. Bane explained that the County currently owns a portion just east and a portion west of the aforementioned road. It would promote continuity with the plowing and makes sense to swap the two small strips of roads. Mr. Mitchell noted that the County would also transfer a quarter-mile strip of 2400 East with 1100 North Road to Dawson Township. Mr. Mitchell stated that if the Committee agrees that this would be a fair request, it would be best to vote on this today, and then we can proceed with the transfer later on this year. Mr. Mitchell explained that delaying the transfer until later in the year will permit a road upgrade that is scheduled for a portion of 2400 East which involves federal grant funds to be completed. If the transfer is done before this work is completed, it may jeopardize those federal funds. The County will upgrade the road and then transfer it to Dawson Township.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval
of a Jurisdictional Transfer of County Highway 28
from Dawson Township to McLean County in the
Fall of 2006. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the letting results from January 25, 2006 for purchase of equipment. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this letting was for purchase of various pieces of equipment that were approved and budgeted in FY 2006. Mr. Mitchell went through the bid tabs individually with the Committee. The proposed purchases are:

- (1) 2006 John Deere 770D Motor Grader for \$44,846.00 with trade in from Martin Equipment, Goodfield, IL
- (2) 2006 International 7400SFA 6x4 (SF525) Tandem Cab and Chassis for \$116,820 with trade in from Chicago International, Normal, IL
- (2) Henderson Mark One XD 304SS Dump Bodies and Hoist for \$46,688.00 from Koenig Body and Equipment, Inc., Peoria, IL
- (2) Wiss Wings for \$21,980.00 from W.E.R.E., Cooksville, IL
- (1) 2006 GMC TC4500 with Reading Service Body Truck for \$38,472.00 with trade in from Central Illinois Trucks, Normal, IL

- (1) 2006 Ford F-350 One Ton Dump Truck for \$26,461.00 with trade in from Dennison Corporation, Bloomington, IL
- (1) 2006 Ford F-250 Crew Cab Pickup Truck for \$19,405.00 with trade in from Neldner Ford Sales, Inc., Lexington, IL
- (1) Ford F-250 ¾ Ton Pickup Truck for \$20,779.00 from Dennison Corporation, Bloomington, IL
- (2) 2006 Ford F-150 ½ Ton Pickup Trucks for \$33,792.00 from Dennison Corporation, Bloomington, IL

Mr. Mitchell stated that the total net spending is \$384,843.00. The Highway Department's purchases were \$31,657.00 under budget. Mr. Mitchell noted that because the purchases were under budget, he is requesting that the Highway Department be allowed to purchase a crack router. Mr. Mitchell explained that he attended a seminar recently where it was demonstrated that by reinforcing cracks when they just begin to form, it helps to preserve the road for a longer amount of time. In order to seal cracks properly, a crack router is needed to make a reservoir for the oil to go into. In the past a hot air torch was used, but it is not as effective as a crack router would be.

The Committee discussed the purchases. Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval of the Letting Results from a January 25, 2006 Letting for Purchase of County Equipment. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is the letting results from a February 1, 2006 letting for pipe culverts. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this process is done each year. ConTech was the low bidder at 2% under the engineer's estimate at \$236,414.30. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department bids every size of pipe that they may use throughout the year. This letting establishes the price for the year. The Highway Department and the Townships then order material when needed. Mr. Mitchell noted that it is never known how much pipe will be needed in any given year.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval of Letting Results from a February 1, 2006 Letting for County Projects. Motion carried.

Ms. O'Connor asked if items E, F, and G could all be moved together. Mr. Mitchell replied that would be a good idea. Items E and F are Bridge Repair Petitions for the Village of Carlock (Church Street Bridge) and for the Yates Road District. Item F is a Bridge Repair Petition for the Danvers joint culvert.

Mr. Mitchell explained that the Church Street Bridge has deterioration on its wing walls. The total estimate for this project is \$18,000.00; the County's half is \$9,000.00. The concrete around the H-piles is disintegrating on the Yates Bridge on 3000 North Road. The total estimate for this project is \$23,000.00; the County's share is \$11,500.00. The next project is a Bridge Construction Petition for a joint culvert on 1550 North in the Village of Danvers. The culvert is rusted out and there is a hole in the shoulder of the road. It needs a new culvert and drop box. The total cost is estimated at \$28,000.00; the County's share is \$14,000.00. Mr. Mitchell recommended approval of these three items.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend approval of the following projects:
A Bridge Repair Petition for the Church Street Bridge in the Village of Carlock,
A Bridge Repair Petition for the Yates Road District,
A Bridge Construction Petition for a Joint Culvert in the Village of Danvers.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a Resolution for Improvement of Danvers-Carlock Road (County Highway 53). Mr. Mitchell stated that this project has been underway since last year. This Resolution gives the County permission to purchase all of the right-of-way. This Resolution is needed in order to go to court and establish Eminent Domain. Mr. Mitchell stated that there probably will be four property owners which the County will need to file against.

Motion by O'Connor/Cavallini to recommend approval of a Resolution for Improvement of Danvers-Carlock Road (CH 53). Mr. Baggett voted "No". Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a Department Visa Card Authorization request. Mr. Mitchell stated that in the past, the Highway Department had been using the Auditor's Office credit card to make reservations for training and travel. Last fall, Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, sent a memo to several departments informing them that they need to seek approval through their Oversight Committee to obtain their own departmental credit card. Mr. Mitchell stated that the limit is \$3,000.00 the credit card will be coded only to accept certain purchases. Mr. Hoselton asked how many employees will have access to the credit card. Mr. Terry Lindberg, Assistant County Administrator, stated that most departments are only getting one card and the Department Head keeps custody of the card. If an employee travels, they may use the card.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend approval of the request received from the County Highway Department to obtain a Departmental Visa Card. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Resolution to transfer \$130,000.00 for purchase of right-of-way on Towanda-Barnes out of the 2005 budget and into the 2006 budget. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee they recommended approval of this item last month. Mr. Mitchell apologized and stated that this was his error.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Resolution to transfer the \$130,000.00 right-of-way purchase from the 2005 Budget to the 2006 Budget. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is for information. It is the project summary for the LeRoy-Lexington Culvert Extension project. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that final payment has been made on this project.

Chairman Bass asked if there was anything else from the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would like to bring several items to the Committee's attention. Ms. Karen Swick, Senior Accountant, Highway Department, called Mr. Mitchell last night to inform him that her husband had lost his long battle with cancer. Mr. Hoselton asked that flowers be sent specifically from the Transportation Committee.

Mr. Mitchell stated that this Committee will need to hold a Stand-Up Committee Meeting before the County Board Meeting on February 21st. Last month the Committee approved the Engineering Agreement for the box culverts in Ellsworth. This work will need to be completed before April 15th because work will begin on the Windfarm at that time. There will be a bid letting next week so the award will need to be made in February.

The last item, Mr. Gordon Bidner, who lives on the Davners-Carlock Road is starting a campaign to save the Barclay Bridge. Mr. Mitchell stated that the problem with saving the bridge is that, when the new road is built, the bridge will not be in the new road's path. Mr. Mitchell stated that now Mr. Bidner is claiming that the bridge is an historic landmark. Mr. Mitchell noted that there are 14 other bridges in the County that are the same age with the same type of railing. There are another 16 bridges that are the same age with a different type of railing. Mr. Mitchell stated that approximately 10 years ago, the original Spill-Way Bridge was preserved for historical purposes. It is the same type of bridge as the

Minutes of the Transportation Committee
February 6, 2006
Page Ten

Barclay Bridge and the Highway Department sees no need to preserve another of its kind. Mr. Mitchell added that preserving the bridge increases the County's liability. In time it will deteriorate and someone could get injured on the bridge. The County would be liable. Mr. Mitchell stated that, at this time, the Highway Department's plans are to demolish the old bridge when the new one is constructed.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

E:\Ann\Minutes\Transportation Committee\2006\Trans_Feb06.doc