

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 3, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Dean, Cavallini and Baggett

Members Absent: Member O'Connor

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

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Jeanne Morris, League of Women Voters; Mr. Neil Finlen, P.E., The Farnsworth Group

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the April 5, 2005 meeting for approval.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to approve the Minutes of the April 5, 2004 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Hoselton asked how Mr. Mitchell was handling the increase in fuel costs. Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, Highway Department, responded that the department has not yet exceeded the budgeted amount for purchase of fuel. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department takes quotes whenever they are in need of diesel or gasoline. The diesel is bought in tanker loads because it is less expensive when bought in larger quantities. Mr. Mitchell stated that they do not have a tanker load capacity for gasoline, so it is purchased as needed.

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

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that he would direct the Committee's attention to item "D" on the agenda. Chairman Bass stated that Mr. Neil Finlen, P.E., The Farnsworth Group, is here to make a presentation regarding the proposed East Lake Subdivision Development and a possible Jurisdictional Transfer of Ireland Grove Road from Towanda-Barnes Road to 2100 East Road. Mr. Finlen stated that the proposed development will be on East Ireland Grove Road. Mr. Finlen informed the Committee that his ultimate goal is for the County to approve a Jurisdictional Transfer of the aforementioned strip of Ireland Grove Road to the City of Bloomington. Mr. Finlen noted that his firm has had several meetings with the City of Bloomington and with the Bloomington Planning Commission. Mr. Finlen advised the Committee that the City of Bloomington is prepared to accept a Jurisdictional Transfer of this road as this will soon become a City street. Mr. Finlen stated that the City of Bloomington has run out of sewerable ground along Towanda-Barnes Road.

Mr. Finlen stated that there are some major water ways that converge on the East Ireland Grove Road area (the proposed development area). That is the reason that the developers are looking to put a lake in this development. It is a very nice piece of land. Mr. Finlen stated that the proposed Jurisdictional Transfer will not cost the County any money and will not take away any revenue from the County. It will also relieve the County of any liability on this road.

Mr. Finlen stated that he represents several residential developers who are participants in this new development including, Armstrong, Rave, Kaisner, Hundman, Franke and the Doud Brothers.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he would speak to the Committee about this proposed project.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that his initial concern was that this proposed development will generate an additional 10,000 to 12,000 cars a day on Ireland Grove Road. Ireland Grove Road's present traffic level is at approximately 2,000 cars per day. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the traffic has increased significantly with the addition of Cornerstone Christian Academy in that area. Mr. Mitchell stated that he thought that the road should be improved to handle the increase in traffic. That is when the Jurisdictional Transfer was proposed by the City. It would be a benefit to the County to approve the Jurisdictional Transfer because the County will not have any financial responsibility or liability for this 2-mile stretch of Ireland Grove Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that if the County does approve the Jurisdictional Transfer, the City of Bloomington will be responsible for the improvements to the road. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Finlen how long this proposed subdivision was projected to take to develop. Mr. Finlen responded that it should be an 8 – 10 year build out for this subdivision.

Mr. Finlen added that the developers have recognized that the roadway needs to be widened and overlaid immediately. The developers will have a responsibility to the City of Bloomington to contribute to road improvements. Ordinarily, this is done as a part of the final plat, but, in this situation, the developers will pay the cost to have the road widened and overlaid up front. They want to insure that the road does not disintegrate before the project is completed.

Mr. Mitchell stated that his only other concern is where the proposed East Side Bypass will be located, if the Bypass does indeed ever happen. Mr. Finlen responded that from the initial study, this development will not interfere with the proposed bypass. Mr. Finlen stated that he would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have.

Mr. Dean asked who has jurisdiction of Ireland Grove Road west of Towanda-Barnes. Mr. Mitchell replied that is under a Jurisdictional Transfer agreement. Mr. Mitchell explained that as soon as the County paves that portion of Ireland Grove, it will shift to the City of Bloomington. Mr. Dean asked if that was the transfer that this Committee approved last winter. Mr. Mitchell replied that is correct.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he wanted to bring this item to the Committee's attention an information item before he presented the proposed Jurisdictional Transfer agreement for action. Mr. Mitchell stated that he is looking for the Committee's approval of this Transfer and he will bring the document before the Committee next month.

Motion by Cavallini/Baggett to proceed with the Jurisdictional Transfer Agreement of Ireland Grove Road from Towanda Barnes to 2100 East Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he will present this item action next month.

Chairman Bass thanked Mr. Finlen for his time and the presentation.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the letting results from April 25, 2005 for County and Township Projects. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first project is McLean County bridge deck repair. Mr. Mitchell noted that Stark was the low bidder at 22% below the Engineer's estimate. Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item is Empire Road District. This is an award to all bidders. Mr. Mitchell explained that this is the group four material that the Township picks up at the site. The next item is the West Road District Bridge Project.

Mr. Mitchell explained that this is a Township Bridge Project, which is funded 80% by the State's Township Bridge Program Funds, 10% County and 10% Township funds. Mr. Mitchell noted that H.J. Eppel is the low bidder at 3.5% under the Engineer's estimate. Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item is for a Joint Culvert in Old Town Road District. H.J. Eppel was the low bidder at \$18.14% under the Engineer's Estimate. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project's costs are shared 50% by the County, 50% by the Township.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the last project is the White Oak Road Project. This is a non-MFT project and will not be included in the award. The Township will award this project. Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommends approval of the Letting Results Award Resolution.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of the Letting Results from April 25, 2005 for County and Township Projects. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is an Appraisal Agreement for the properties along Danvers-Carlock Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that included in the Committee's packet there is contract for appraisal services with Mr. Richard Castelli. Mr. Mitchell explained that the Highway Department is aware that there will be substantial damages to the some of the properties along this road when fixing the curves. It was decided that it is best to have a registered appraiser

appraise these properties so a valid offer can be made. Traditionally, the Highway Department will conduct the appraisals in house, but with the gravity of this project, it was decided to hire a State Certified Real Estate Appraiser. Mr. Castelli is on the list of the State of Illinois Certified Real Estate Appraisers. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be happy to address any questions from the Committee.

Mr. Dean asked Mr. Mitchell if he is certain that the appraisal work cannot be done in-house. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are several parties that are contesting this work and this matter may end up in court. Mr. Mitchell stated that it would probably be best to leave this to a professional.

Mr. Hoselton stated that at first, he was not in favor of improving this road. After he spoke with Mr. Mitchell and weighed the options, he decided that this is the best course of action. Mr. Hoselton stated that from a safety standpoint, the road needs to be improved. Mr. Hoselton added that while the road is being improved it should also be made an 80,000-lb. road.

Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion to recommend approval of the Contract for Appraisal Services.

Motion by Cavallini/Hoselton to recommend approval of a Contract for Appraisal Services for the Danvers-Carlock Road. Motion carried. Mr. Dean voted no.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item for consideration is whether to bring the Danvers-Carlock Road to 80,000-lb. limit. Mr. Cavallini asked how many roads in the County have an 80,000-lb. limit. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are not many roads which meet that standard. Mr. Mitchell stated that Towanda-Barnes from Ft. Jesse Rd. to Highway 150 is the biggest stretch in the County. Mr. Mitchell stated that Anchor Road, Cropsey Road, Weston Road, Stringtown Road and Arrowsmith Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that next month, the Highway Department will bring the Committee an Agreement for Stanford Road, which is proposed at an 80,000-lb. limit. Mr. Mitchell stated that in the past, if there has been a facility that wants the 80,000-lb. limit, the Highway Department will apply for the State's Truck Access Route Funding. It pays nearly half of the additional cost to bring it to 80,000-lb. Mr. Mitchell noted that they have then asked the party requesting the upgrade to pay a quarter of the cost and the County will pay a quarter of the cost. Mr. Mitchell added that in some cases the projects did not receive the State's Truck Access Route Funding, but the roads were built to that standard anyway. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that in the future the County needs to be striving toward making all new roads 80,000-lb. Mr. Mitchell shared the figures for hot mix versus oil and chip:

Oil and Chip (now)	\$	225,000
Hot Mix to 73,280-lb. (now)	\$	860,000
Hot Mix to 80,000-lb. (now)	\$	1,050,000
Oil and Chip (now) Hot Mix to 73,280-lb. (later)	\$	1,325,000
Oil and Chip (now) Hot Mix to 80,000-lb. (later)	\$	1,565,000

Mr. Mitchell stated that if the County decides to hot mix now the road now there is a savings of \$225,000 for skipping the oil and chip altogether. Mr. Mitchell stated that if we hot mix the road now to 80,000-lb rather than 73,280-lb., it will cost an extra \$190,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that in the scope of a large project such as this, that is a small percentage. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would recommend that the Committee approve the hot mix to 80,000-lb. now. Mr. Mitchell stated that he would be glad to answer any questions.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend paving the
Danvers-Carlock Road to the 80,000-lb. standard.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked if there is any downside to making this road an 80,000-lb. road. Mr. Mitchell stated that usually roads are only brought to the 80,000-lb. standard if another party makes the request. That party is then responsible for paying for a percentage of the upgrade. Mr. Mitchell stated that because no one is helping to defray the costs of bringing Danvers-Carlock Road to 80,000-lb. others may ask for the Highway Department to bring their roads up to 80,000-lb. standards at our cost. Mr. Mitchell stated that he does not think this should deter the Committee from moving forward on the Danvers-Carlock Road.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is an Engineering Agreement for repair of Holder Bridge and Culvert. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is a bridge South of Holder that is narrow and is sitting on timber piling. Some of the timber piling has deteriorated significantly. This needs to be replaced. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is a culvert near Bentown that has significant washing beneath it and is in poor shape. It will need to be rebuilt. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Engineering Agreement with Rice, Berry and Associates is to design these two structures. Mr. Hoselton asked Mr. Mitchell if the Highway Department has the capability to design these structures. Mr. Mitchell responded that these designs must be completed by a structural engineer. Mr. Dean asked how much will the engineering portion of this work cost. Mr. Mitchell replied that it is a percentage of the total cost. In this case it will be approximately \$8,500.00 for the box culvert and \$20,000.00 for the bridge.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval
of an Engineering Agreement for work on Holder
Bridge and Culvert. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the next item. Mr. Mitchell explained that the next three items are all related and that he would like to take them together. There are two bridges in Lexington that are experiencing severe washing underneath on the slopes. The bridges need to be rip-wrapped. Mr. Mitchell explained that the rip-wrap will be pushed underneath the bridges. This is a very economical way to repair these bridges. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the total cost for the repair of the Lexington Bridge is \$13,000.00. The County's share is 50% or \$6,500.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the bridge in the Money Creek Road District is having very similar problems and will be fixed in the same manner. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost of the \$12,000.00. The County's share is 50% or \$6,000.00.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the last item is a Joint Culvert Petition in Money Creek Road District. Mr. Mitchell explained that there is a pipe culvert that is too small and needs to be replaced. This will be a joint project working with Money Creek Township with the County's equipment and manpower. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost for this project is \$24,000.00. The County's share is 50% or \$12,000.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that these funds come from the County's Bridge Fund which is set up to repair or replace Township structures. After all Township petitions are satisfied, the funds are used to pay for the County's share of these projects.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend approval of a 2005 Lexington Bridge Repair Petition, a 2005 Money Creek Bridge Repair Petition and a 2005 Money Creek Joint Culvert Petition. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any further comments or questions. With no further business to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Motion by Dean/Baggett to adjourn the Meeting of the Transportation Committee at 9:21 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary