

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, February 1, 2005 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Acting-Chairman Cavallini, Members Dean, Baggett and O'Connor

Members Absent: Chairman Bass and Member Hoselton

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: Mr. Lafe Epperson, Fleet Manager, County Highway Department, Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator, County Highway Department; Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Regional Planning Commission; Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Acting Chairman Cavallini called the meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. Roll was called:

Dean – Present
O'Connor – Present
Cavallini – Present

Acting Chairman Cavallini informed the Committee that there was not a quorum, so the Committee would begin by discussing the items for information.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the first item for information is an update on the No Parking request made by the Village of Downs. Acting Chairman Cavallini asked Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, to update the Committee on this item. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that, as he had mentioned at last month's meeting, there has been a request from the Village of Downs to place No Parking signs on the first three blocks of Washington Street off of Seminary Street. Mr. Mitchell stated that he had contacted both the Mayor of Downs and the pastor at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he met with both parties last week and The Mayor of Downs noted that there

is no room for traffic on Washington Street if there are cars parked on both sides of the street. Mr. Mitchell stated that the distance between the sidewalks on the street is only 31 feet. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Mayor informed them that the Director of ESDA has advised the Village Board that parking on both sides of this street presents a safety issue. The church representatives stated that there has never been a problem or emergency as a result of parking on that street and the church has been in that location since the turn of the century. Mr. Mitchell stated that there may be a liability issue for the County now as the County has been made aware of a problem. Mr. Mitchell urged the two sides to try to work together with the County to find some alternative parking for the church. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department is going to take some measurements and try to offer the two entities some options for additional parking.

**Member Baggett entered the Meeting at 8:24 a.m.

Ms. O'Connor thanked Mr. Mitchell for the update and asked him to keep the Committee informed of any future developments.

Acting Chairman Cavallini informed the Committee that there is now a quorum. With a quorum present, Acting Chairman Cavallini announced that the Committee can begin with the items for action.

Acting Chairman Cavallini asked if there is a motion to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2005 Meeting.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to approve the Minutes
of the January 11, 2005 meeting of the Transportation
Committee. Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini informed the Committee that the next item on the agenda is the payment of the December 31, 2004 and January 31, 2005 bills. Acting Chairman Cavallini noted that he has a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills. Acting Chairman Cavallini asked if there were any questions regarding the bills. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend approval of the bills for December 31, 2004 and January 31, 2005 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the first item on the agenda is the letting results from January 26, 2005 for County pipe culverts. Acting Chairman Cavallini asked Mr. Mitchell to present this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that the County Highway Department takes bids each year for the culverts that are used throughout the year on County and Township projects. This process establishes the price of culverts for the year. The culverts are delivered to the jobsite as needed. Mr. Mitchell stated that *Contech* was the low bidder for the metal pipe culverts. Mr. Mitchell stated that bids were also taken for PVC Storm Sewer. Mr. Mitchell stated that bid came in almost 20% over the engineer's estimate. Mr. Mitchell explained that he was informed the day of the

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letting that resin prices, which the PVC pipes are made from, had jumped 20% the week before the letting. Therefore, Mr. Mitchell recommends that these bids be rejected. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends award of the metal culvert bid to *Contech*.

Motion by Dean/O'Connor to recommend approval of the Letting Results from January 26, 2004 for Metal Pipe Culverts. Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the next item is a Resolution for County Equipment purchases. Mr. Mitchell stated that the bid tab and letting Resolution are in the Committee's packets. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first item is the bids for the new motor grader. There are two bids for this piece of equipment. The lowest bid came from Martin Equipment for a John Deere 770D. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this is a brand new road grader model from John Deere. Mr. Mitchell stated that Mr. Mark Leake, Highway Maintenance Coordinator, Mr. Lafe Epperson, Fleet Manager and two of the County's machine operators went to the John Deere factory in the Quad Cities to view the equipment. Mr. Mitchell asked Mr. Epperson to inform the Committee of their findings. Mr. Epperson stated that the newly designed motor grader is very comparable to the Caterpillar models that the Highway Department is currently using. Mr. Epperson stated that in the past, the Highway Department has favored the Caterpillar model, but John Deere has significantly improved their design. Mr. Epperson stated that their operators were satisfied with the new design as well. It is much improved. Mr. Mitchell stated that the price difference is insurmountable. The Caterpillar model (less trade in) comes in at \$47,094.00, whereas the John Deere model (less trade in) is \$19,985.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends award of this item to John Deere. Mr. Dean asked if the Highway Department is leery to buy a model in its first year in production. Mr. Leake responded that 14 of these models were built and released to various contractors last year with so few problems that John Deere jumped production a year and released them this year.

Mr. Mitchell stated the next item on the bid tab is the backhoe loader. Mr. Mitchell stated that Martin Equipment was the low bidder again. The net trade allowance on this item is \$52,367.00. The only other bid was from Altorfer for a Caterpillar model. The net trade allowance for the Caterpillar model is \$64,829.00. Mr. Mitchell stated that Highway Department recommends award of this bid to Martin Equipment for the John Deere model.

Mr. Mitchell stated that when bidding trucks, cabs are bid separate from the bodies. For the tandem cabs, Jones International came in with the low bid. Jones International offers three trucks for net trade allowance of \$154,300.00. Peterbuilt of Central Illinois came in with a bid of a net trade allowance of \$161,960.00.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item on the bid tab are the plow-wings. The only bid received was from Wissmiller and Evans Welding. Their bid came in at \$9,990.00 apiece. The total is \$29,970.00 for three. Mr. Dean asked why there were no other bids for this item. Mr. Epperson responded there were no other bids which met the Highway Department's specifications. Mr. Epperson noted that there was another company which offered plow wings, but would not issue a warranty on their equipment. In addition they are headquartered in Joliet, which creates a problem with service.

Mr. Mitchell stated the next item on the bid tab is for the dump bodies. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department has transitioned to stainless steel dump bodies over the last 3-4 years. The stainless steel dump bodies are superior because they do not require sanding or painting. Koenig is the only company that bid on this item and the dump bodies came in at \$22,817.00 each or \$68,451.00 for three.

The last items from the January 26th letting are the 2005 State Bid pickups for the Operations Officer and the Maintenance Foreman. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that when the pickups are purchased via the State bid, the trade in price is not applicable. The first pickup is a 2005 Chevrolet 4X2 extended cab for \$21,044.48. The second pickup is a 2005 Chevrolet 4X4 extended cab for \$25,369.48. Ms. O'Connor asked how old are the trucks that are being replaced. Mr. Leake replied that one is a 2001 with 113,000 miles and the other is a 1999 with 85,000 miles. Ms. O'Connor asked why they are being replaced at this time. Mr. Mitchell responded that in order to keep the trade rotation in tact, the Highway Department trades a few trucks each year so that a large number of trucks do not have to be bought in a single year. Mr. Mitchell added that they try to trade trucks when they reach approximately 100,000 miles due to the resale value.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends the purchase of all of the new equipment that was just presented in the bid tabs.

Acting Chairman Cavallini asked if there was a motion to recommend approval of the 2005 equipment purchases.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval
of the Letting Results from January 26, 2004 for
County Equipment Purchases. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that because of the exceptionally low bids, the County Highway Department saved \$70,000.00 from the projected budget. Mr. Mitchell explained that because the bids came in so low, the Highway Department would like to request additional equipment purchases as illustrated on a list that he provided to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell stated that the request is for a nuclear

density gauge, two reversible snow plows, one stainless steel salt spreader and one six foot wood chipper. After some conversation, Mr. Dean commented that he would prefer to wait until the full Transportation Committee is present to vote on these additional items.

Motion by Dean/Baggett to postpone the additional equipment purchases until the next Transportation Committee Meeting. Ms. O'Connor voted no. The Acting Chairman did not vote. Motion carried by a vote of 2-1.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the next item is a Local Agency Agreement and a Resolution Appropriating MFT funds for work on Lexington/LeRoy Road. Mr. Mitchell explained that this is a project to widen and resurface a portion of this road due to an increase in traffic. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost of this project is \$1,600,000.00. The federal share is 80% or \$1,280,000.00, leaving the local agency share at \$320,000.00. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project was originally slated for 2006, but the State has recently informed the County that the County's allotments are increasing significantly over the next year. So this project was moved up to 2005 and a June letting is expected. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends approval of this project.

Motion by Dean/Baggett to recommend approval of a Local Agency Agreement and a MFT Resolution Appropriating the funds for work on Lexington/LeRoy Road, Sec. 02-00044-07-WR. Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the next item is a MFT Resolution Appropriating Funds for work on Holder Road. Mr. Mitchell explained that this project is to widen Holder Road, regrade the shoulders and ditches, and acquire right of way. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Highway Department has spoken with Farm Service regarding making the road an 80,000 lb. route. The application for that work will come at a later date. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department requests approval of this Resolution now, because the engineering work has begun. Mr. Mitchell stated that the construction will not take place for approximately another year.

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to recommend approval of a Resolution Appropriating MFT funds for work on Holder Road, Sec. 04-00040-03-WR. Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini stated that the next item is a MFT Resolution Appropriating funds for work on the Hudson-Stuckey Road.

Mr. Mitchell explained that this project will improve the bridge in the valley on this road. It will also improve the site distance at the intersection that occurs right after the bridge. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that there was an accident at the aforementioned intersection which resulted in a lawsuit against the County. Eventually, the lawsuit was dropped against the County and remained between the two drivers. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project will fix these problems with the road. Mr. Mitchell stated that the total cost is \$1,300,000.00 for widening, resurfacing, acquiring the right of way and the engineering fees. Mr. Mitchell noted that the Highway Department has already begun the survey work.

Motion by O'Connor/Baggett to recommend approval of a MFT Resolution for Hudson-Stuckey Road – Sec. 05-00135-07-WR.
Motion carried.

Acting Chairman Cavallini informed the Committee that completes the items for action. The first item for information was previously discussed, and the second item is road work status – which is *weathered out of projects*. Acting Chairman Cavallini asked Mr. Mitchell to present the application for TEA-LU High Priority Projects. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is a bill in Congress called the TEA-LU bill which is going to be reintroduced. Mr. Mitchell stated that funding for all high priority projects must be reapplied for under the bill. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that the Highway Department had previously applied for \$3 million in funding for the I-55 Interchanges (Towanda and Lexington Interchanges). The Highway Department has reapplied for those funds. The second item is the East and South Side Highway Facility Study. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that last year the three local governments, the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, and the County of McLean had all passed a Resolution to recommend approval of the \$8 - \$10 million study for an East Side Bypass. Mr. Mitchell explained that this application is requesting the full \$10 million dollars to fund this project.

Mr. Mitchell noted that if approved, the federal government would pay 80% or \$8 million with the additional \$2 million to be split between the City of Bloomington, the Town of Normal, the County of McLean and the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Acting Chairman Cavallini asked Mr. Mitchell when would the public meeting regarding Danvers/Carlock Road be scheduled. Mr. Mitchell replied that the meeting has not been scheduled yet. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that he has visited the White Oak Township Meeting Hall, where the meeting will be held to view the facilities. It offers plenty of room and is most convenient for the

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interested parties. Mr. Mitchell noted that he will send a notice to all Committee Members after the meeting has been scheduled. Mr. Mitchell stated that this meeting will be held in a public meeting format. There will be several members of the Highway Department and the project consultant available to address questions or concerns from members of the public. Mr. Mitchell noted that the meeting will probably be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

Motion by O'Connor/Dean to adjourn the
Meeting of the Transportation Committee at
9:12 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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