

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, July 13, 2004 at 8:00 a.m., in Room 700 of the Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

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

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

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;

Others Present: Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Regional Planning
Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the June 8, 2004 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to approve the Minutes
of the June 8, 2004 meeting of the Transportation
Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer handed the bills to the Committee. Chairman Bass informed the Committee that there is a letter from Ms. Jackie Dozier, County Auditor, recommending payment of the bills.

**Mr. Dean arrived at 8:06 a.m.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to recommend approval of the bills for June, 2004 as submitted by the County Auditor.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the letting results from July 7, 2004 for County and Township projects. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, to present this item. Mr. Mitchell stated that the first project is for aggregate surface course on Lexington Road. The low bidder was the Towanda Co. at 19% under the estimate. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the next project is the work on the Old Town Road District Bridge. The low bidder on this project is Otto Baum at 14% under the estimate. The next project is the Lexington Road District Joint Culvert. Mr. Mitchell explained that this is for the drop-boxes on the same road as the first project. J.G. Stewart was the low bidder for this project at 4% under the estimate. The last project is also the Lexington Road District for work on the Kaiser Bridge. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Stark was the low bidder on this project at 6% under the project estimate. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the Highway Department recommends approval of award of all of these bids to the low bidder in each project.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to recommend approval of the bids as presented, from the July 7, 2004 bid letting for County and Township Projects, as presented.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Jurisdictional Transfer of Ireland Grove Road. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to give the Committee some background on this item. Mr. Mitchell stated that the City of Bloomington is requesting a Jurisdictional Transfer of a portion of Ireland Grove Road. The portion that they are requesting is 275 feet East of Dover Road through to the East right of way line of Streid Drive. This project was built 10 years ago as a part of the agreement with the Bloomington-Normal Airport. Mr. Mitchell explained that this request has been triggered by a subdivision that is scheduled to be annexed by the City of Bloomington. As the area was being developed, the County has told the engineers and developers that the entrances must be a certain distance apart. As another two subdivisions were built, the Bloomington Planning Commission wants a street in the middle of the two. As a result, the Bloomington Planning Commission recommended that the City of Bloomington take this portion of Ireland Grove Road over. Mr. Mitchell stated that the City of Bloomington is proposing that the County make improvements to the road totaling \$570,000.00 and then make the transfer. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the portion of the improvements to the road that the City of Bloomington is requesting to be transferred would amount to \$220,000.00. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that typically, the party proposing the Jurisdictional Transfer asks for the road to be repaired before the transfer takes place. Mr. Mitchell noted that those are terms that must be agreed upon between the two negotiating parties.

Ms. O'Connor asked if the City of Bloomington was proposing that the County pay the entire cost of the improvement. Mr. Mitchell replied that is correct. Ms. O'Connor asked why would the City of Bloomington not be liable for the cost of the repairs to the portion of the road that they are requesting. Mr. Mitchell stated that those specifications are up to the Committee to decide. Mr. Owens stated that he agrees with Ms. O'Connor. Mr. Owens stated that he would have no problem with the Jurisdictional Transfer, but that he does not think the County should pay for all of the repairs on the road. Mr. Mitchell stated that down the road he would like to see the City take over some of the roads on the far West-side of Bloomington, such as Six-Points Road and this may be something that we can offer in exchange. Ms. O'Connor asked who would pay for the repairs on those roads. Mr. Mitchell responded that those roads will be repaired with 80% Federal - 20% County Matching Funds.

Mr. Hoselton stated that he feels this would be a good time to try to work out a deal with the City of Bloomington regarding a "trade-off" of this road for a road on the West-side. Chairman Bass stated that a "trade-off" would probably be more difficult than it sounds. Mr. Mitchell stated that in the long-term, the City of Bloomington will be more receptive to take over the roads on the West-side after they are repaired via the 80% Federal – 20% County Match. Mr. Mitchell stated

that the County will have to pay their 20%, but that will not be nearly as costly as the currently proposed Ireland Grove Road repairs. Mr. Dean asked if there would be any Federal funds available for this project. Mr. Mitchell replied that Federal funds are committed for current and proposed projects for several years in advance.

Motion by Owens/O'Connor to recommend approval of the proposed Jurisdictional Transfer with the understanding that the County will not pay for any improvements to the road.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he has no problem taking this proposed agreement back to the City of Bloomington and renegotiating the terms of the agreement.

Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item on the agenda is a Resolution for Improvement for Stanford Road. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he would present this item to the Committee. Mr. Mitchell explained that the resurfacing of the Stanford Road has been in the Highway's plan for some time. The resurface will take place from Highway 122 to the Olympia School Road. This is an approximate 3-mile stretch. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the project will most likely not be started until next year due to finances. Mr. Mitchell stated that there have been some engineering costs associated with this project. In order to appropriate those costs against this project, the Committee must pass this Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Resolution for Improvement. Mr. Mitchell explained to the Committee that the engineering costs are not for an outside firm. They are for the Highway Department engineering staff salaries. Mr. Mitchell advised the Committee that the Highway Department would recommend approval of this Resolution.

Motion Dean/Owens to recommend approval of a MFT Resolution for Improvement of Stanford Road.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a Resolution for Improvement for Danvers-Carlock Road. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project begins at Danvers and goes through to the interchange at Carlock. Mr. Mitchell stated that the engineering firm has begun engineering services on this project. In order to appropriate the funds to pay for this project, the Committee will need to pass the MFT Resolution for Improvement. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if there had been any specific requests by property owners along Danvers-Carlock Road. Mr. Mitchell replied that Mr. Bob Yoder has requested that his well be protected. Mr. Mitchell stated that he believes that the project can be

done without having to purchase right-of-way or do any construction adjacent to that well. Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell if he foresaw any major obstacles with this project. Mr. Mitchell replied that until the County goes to right-of-way negotiations, that will be undetermined. Mr. Mitchell stated a couple of parcels may have to go to condemnation, but the road improvements must take place as the Danvers-Carlock Road is one of the worst roads in the County. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department recommends approval of this Resolution.

Motion by O'Connor/Owens to recommend approval
of a MFT Resolution for Improvement for Danvers-Carlock
Road. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is a Bridge Petition for the 2004 Saybrook Joint Culvert. Mr. Mitchell stated that there is an existing culvert on East Street in the Village of Saybrook that is in very bad shape. It needs to be replaced. Mr. Mitchell stated that the law provides that the County is obligated to match Townships and Villages under the population of 15,000 for Bridge Petitions. Mr. Mitchell stated that when he met with the individuals from the Village of Saybrook they wanted to proceed with this project as quickly as possible. They have hired The Farnsworth Group to perform the engineering services for this project.

Motion by Hoselton/Dean to recommend approval
of a Bridge Petition for the 2004 Saybrook Joint
Culvert. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is for information. It is the roadwork status report. Mr. Mitchell stated that the County is nearly finished with its portion of work on the Randolph Road project. Rowe Construction should be out next week to begin the paving. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the next project is the Weston-Colfax Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that Rowe is done with their portion and the Highway Department still has a couple of culvert extensions yet to complete. Mr. Mitchell stated that the next project is the Section V Bridge. This bridge is located three miles North of Stanford. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that this project is being done half at a time with signals because of the traffic volume on the road. Mr. Mitchell stated that Stark won the bid on this project and is moving along slowly. Stark hit some extensive concrete where they had to drive sheet piling and this took a bit longer than anticipated. Mr. Mitchell stated that the last project is Towanda-Gridley Road. Mr. Mitchell stated that this is a resurface project for the two-mile stretch of this road. It is moving along as scheduled.

Chairman Bass stated that the Committee could find the budget report on pages 15-26 in their packets.

Chairman Bass advised the Committee that Mr. Mitchell has an item to add. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the timber bridge inspection that Rice, Berry, and Associates performed has been completed and the results have come back. Mr. Mitchell advised that he distributed a map to the Committee showing the location and status of all of the bridges in the County. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are three bridges in the County that are rated "poor piling" and require posting. There are four listed "poor piling", but no posting required. Mr. Mitchell advised that these ratings coincide with the federal manual on bridge ratings. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are 15 bridges where the piling is rated as "good". Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that the posted bridges are all Township bridges. That is good news for the County. Mr. Mitchell explained that bridge number 4203 is in Downs Township which will be posted at 10 tons for a single vehicle, 14 tons for 3-4 axle vehicle and 15 tons for 5 axle vehicle. Bridge number 5020 is in Martin Township. It will be posted at 13 tons for a single vehicle, 18 tons for 3-4 axle vehicle and 20 tons for 5 axle vehicle. Bridge 5711 is in West Township. It will be posted 17 tons single axle vehicle, 24 tons for 3-4 ton vehicles and 29 tons for 5 axle vehicles. Mr. Mitchell stated that the State of Illinois must concur with these recommended postings before they become final. Mr. Owens asked if and when these bridges are scheduled to be replaced, how would those projects be financed. Mr. Mitchell replied that the County and Townships would probably apply for the State-Township Bridge Match Program, which is a 80% State, 10% County, 10% Township program.

Mr. Owens informed the Committee that he will be attending the National Association of Counties Annual Conference this week. Mr. Owens asked Mr. Zeunik if the County's Legislative Committee has looked into funding for the Eastside Bypass Study. Mr. Zeunik replied that the Legislative Committee has not looked into that issue.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, Chairman Bass stated that he would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Hoselton/Owens to adjourn
at 9:12 a.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary