

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on August 5, 2003 at 7:30 a.m. at the Law and Justice Center, Room 700, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Dean, Rodgers, Hoselton and Owens

Members Absent: Member Cavallini

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator;
Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Administrator's Office;
Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer; Mr. Bill Wasson,
Director, McLean County Parks and Recreation

Others Present: Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:40 a.m.

Chairman Bass presented the Minutes of the July 8, 2003 meeting for approval. Mr. Owens requested that the minutes be corrected by adding the word "yet" and striking the words "since traffic lights were put in". Corrected minutes have been included on page 10 of the August Transportation Committee agenda.

Motion by Owens/Rodgers to approve the
Minutes of the July 8, 2003 meeting of the
Transportation Committee as amended.
Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills for approval. The Committee reviewed the bills. Mr. Owens asked which projects are included in line items 0716.0002, Maintenance Road/Drainage Structures. Mr. Mitchell replied that the line item covers costs for intermittent overlay, which is purchased from McLean County Asphalt; calcium chloride, which is purchased from SicalCo. LTD; and striping paint, which is purchased from Ennis Paints. Mr. Owens asked if anyone locally could provide the striping paint. Mr. Mitchell responded that no one locally meets the State bid requirements or produces the volume needed by the Highway Department.

Mr. Owens asked where the Right-of-Way purchases were made. Mr. Mitchell answered that the Right of Way purchases were made on Stringtown Road. Mr. Dean asked how the Stringtown Road project is coming along. Due to a shortage of engineering staff, Mr. Mitchell replied that the project is moving slower than planned. However, Mr. Eric Schmitt is working on the project.

Motion by Dean / Rodgers to approve the bills for July 2003 as transmitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, presented a Weight Limit Resolutions for Section 00-00181-00-FP of Randolph Road. The Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District would like the weight limit of the Randolph Road from new Route 51 easterly to the Kickapoo Bridge to be increased to 80,000 pounds. This is per an intergovernmental agreement with the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District, that was approved several years ago. State funding for truck access has been received. Once the Resolution is passed, the State can act on the truck access funding.

Motion by Rodgers / Dean to recommend approval of a Weight Limit Resolutions for Section 00-00181-00-FP of Randolph Road between McLean County and the Bloomington-Normal Water Reclamation District.
Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request to install Crash Attenuators for Ropp Road (CH 39). A topographical map is included in the Transportation Committee Agenda packet on page 13. The Committee reviewed the map, which shows that one-way traffic going north towards the boat ramp, needs 12 Inertial Barrels angled 10 feet from the tree line to the edge of the pavement. This is needed to protect the trees which would otherwise need to be cut down if vehicles veered away from the 44 inertial barrels that are proposed to

be placed in the center of the road adjacent to the parking lot. A cold mix would be poured to stabilize the barrels placed in front of the trees. This is to prevent further accidents from occurring at the boat ramp. Despite the safety measures already in place, several accidents, which involved impaired drivers, have occurred when vehicles have driven off the boat ramp and into the lake. While the accidents have occurred at night when there are relatively few boaters, Mr. Wasson added that the Parks and Recreation Department is concerned that those launching boats at the ramp could be injured as well. The Highway Department Staff is able to do the work, which might prevent further collisions.

In addition to the barrels, Mr. Mitchell stated that culverts on each side of the parking lot would be extended for the ease of turning the boat trailers. Chevrons, stop ahead signs and one-way signs would also be placed along the ramp.

Chairman Bass asked if the boat ramp is open 24 hours a day. Mr. Wasson replied that the ramp is open 24 hours a day. Ms. Rodgers asked if gates could be put up. Mr. Mitchell replied that gates are not approved safety measures because if someone hits the gate, the person could be injured.

Ms. Rodgers asked if there would be plenty of room to maneuver boats around the barrels. Mr. Wasson explained that there would be a large radius to turn boats around. The extension of the culverts leaves extra room.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the State of Illinois does not have a plan for this type of boat ramp safety. However, the makers of the barrels have been asked to review the plan design.

Ms. Rodgers asked how the safety changes would change the aesthetics of the Park. Mr. Wasson stated that the changes would not fit with the environment of the Park.

Chairman Bass asked what is the cost of the project. According to Mr. Mitchell, the cost would be \$15,400.00 for materials and \$2,141.00 for equipment rental. Mr. Dean inquired as to how many companies make the barrels. Mr. Mitchell stated that there are two companies that make the barrels. The Highway Department will request a bid from the other company. Chairman Bass asked what is the timetable for this project. In his estimation, Mr. Mitchell replied that it would be 6 weeks from the time that the barrels are ordered.

Ms. Rodgers asked if the accidents have occurred at night. Mr. Owens answered that the accidents occurred at night and asked if the barrels had reflective strips. Mr. Mitchell replied that the barrels do have reflective strips. The barrels are designed to stop a small vehicle; a larger vehicle would travel 6 mph after hitting the barrels. If more barrels were placed in the road, the larger vehicles would stop, however, it may be too much for the smaller cars.

Chairman Bass stated that it is unfortunate that the County has to consider this added expense to increase safety measures. Chairman Bass asked if there are other precautions that could be taken that would fit in with the park. Ms. Rodgers asked how many fishermen are at the boat launch at night. Mr. Wasson explained that while there are not as many fishermen at the boat launch at night as during the day, there is still a small population of fisherman on the ramp at night. Ms. Rodgers asked if the Lake was patrolled at night. Ms. Rodgers asked if the boat launch could be blocked off at night and only allow those fishing on the ramp. Mr. Wasson replied that there is no regular patrol of the Lake.

Mr. Owens asked if the stop signs are lit. Mr. Mitchell replied that the signs are not lit. The cost to light the stop signs would be more expensive than the request before the Committee. Mr. Wasson explained that there is no electric service at this intersection. In order to light the stop signs, electrical lines would need to be run from the nearest pole which is approximately a mile from this intersection. Mr. Mitchell suggested that battery operated flashers could be put on the stop signs. The only downfall to the flashers is that the batteries would have to be changed regularly. Mr. Owens stated that he appreciated the concerns raised by the Departments, but feels the barrels are not appropriate. Mr. Owens asked Mr. Mitchell to look into the cost of the flashers and electricity.

Motion by Dean/ to table the motion until
Mr. Mitchell returns with the information requested.

Mr. Wasson stated that he is already trying to get electricity to the area. He is working with community agencies on funding assistance. Currently, the boat launch is lit by solar powered light.

Mr. Owens seconded the motion made by Mr. Dean.

Ms. Rodgers agreed that she would like to see a solution that was more aesthetically pleasing and consistent with the Park's natural setting.

Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented a 4-Way Stop Resolution for Gridley Road (CH 29) and P.J. Keller Highway at Lake Evergreen. Five accidents have occurred there since 2000, including a fatality. Overtime, the traffic patterns have changed. There is now more traffic on the Gridley Road than there used to be. The traffic on Gridley Road exceeds the traffic on the PJ Keller Highway. The stop signs on PJ Keller Highway could be reversed, however that is confusing to drivers. The Highway Department recommends a four way stop with rumble strips and stop ahead signs.

Motion by Owens/Rodgers to recommend approval of a 4 Way Stop Resolution on Gridley Road (CH 29) at P.J. Keller Highway. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass noted that Ms. Brauer, Regional Planning Commission, gave him a reminder that the Regional Planning Commission is having a Context Sensitive Traffic Meeting on Wednesday, August 6, 2003 at 4:00 p.m, in the Osborn Room, Bloomington Police Department.

Mr. Mitchell presented a request to install Rumble Strips on the Ellsworth/Cooksville Road (CH 17) at Illinois Route 9. Mr. Mitchell reminded the Committee that the history of the Committee is to hold down the number of rumble strips used out in the County. Currently, rumble strips are used on a limited basis on the Leroy/Lexington Road. There are some south of Green Gables and on the Covell Road. However, the ones on Covell have not been replaced since road work was completed due to there now being traffic signals. Ms. Rodgers stated that the population is growing out into the County. It makes sense to add additional strips. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Ellsworth/Cooksville intersection recently had an accident involving fatalities. There have been 4 accidents in 6 years at that intersection. The Arrowsmith/Colfax Road had 6 accidents and Anchor had an accident involving a fatality. Mr. Owens stated that he looked at the Ellsworth/Cooksville Intersection. There is a site problem to the north.

Motion by Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of a request to install rumble strips on the Ellsworth/Cooksville Road.

Mr. Dean asked if rumble strips could be installed at all the intersections discussed. Ms. Rodgers agreed that a proactive approach should be taken.

Amended motion Dean/Hoselton to recommend approval of a request to install rumble strips on the Ellsworth/Cooksville Road, Holder Road, Colfax Road and Anchor Road. Motion carried.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the rumble strips on the Ellsworth/Cooksville road could be extended out further than normal to allow the semitrucks more time to stop. Mr. Mitchell stated that the Highway Department uses the standards set by the area County Highway Departments because there are no State standards. The Highway Department will look into extending the rumble strips on the Ellsworth/Cooksville Road.

Mr. Owens stated that this time of year, it is very hard to see over cornfields at intersections. Mr. Owens asked if site triangles could be improved. Mr. Mitchell replied that as roads are improved, the site triangle is increased.

Mr. Hoselton asked if rumble strips could be put in at T intersection. Mr. Mitchell replied that most of the T intersections are on Township Roads. People who live in the area of the T intersections are familiar with them. However, those visiting the area are unfamiliar with the intersections. Mr. Mitchell stated that the rumble strips do require a lot of maintenance. However, the Highway Department would talk to the Township Supervisors.

Mr. Mitchell presented a Road Work Status update to the Committee.

The Culvert on the West Oakland Avenue Bridge, section 96-00042-07-BR is poured and back-filled. The Highway Department is still working on the parapets and approaches.

The Paving on the LeRoy-Lexington Road, section 99-00044-06-WR, is completed. The Highway Department completed work on the shoulders.

The punchlist is complete for Towanda Barnes Road, section 98-00113-03-FP. The final inspection needs to be completed by IDOT. The Highway Department is waiting for the final billing on Sections 97-00165-00-FP and 96-00168-00-FP of the Townada Barnes Road.

Paving is complete on the Ellsworth South Road, Section 03-000134-04-RS. The shoulders are next on the work list.

The Highway Department has graded 2 miles of the ditches and shoulders on the Arrowsmith Road, Section 99-00140-02-WR.

Mr. Mitchell updated the Committee on the status of the budget for the Highway Department. A current budget report is included in the Transportation Committee Agenda packet.

Mr. Mitchell stated that he spoke with the Mr. Dan Steska, Unit 5 Superintendent. Mr. Steska indicated that Unit 5 may not be able to fund 50% of the Safety project at the new high school. While nothing is final, Mr. Steska advised that Unit 5 can afford \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00. Ms. Rodgers added that the Unit 5 Board meeting is this evening.

Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee of an opportunity to have salt storage in Empire Township. The Empire Township Road Commissioner is going to build a salt cinder bin. He has asked if the County would like to build one as well, cutting cost by doing two bins at once. Ms. Rodgers asked what is the cost of building the salt cinder box. Mr. Mitchell replied that the salt cinder box would be made out of old power line timbers, a liner and a cover. The project would cost between \$10,000.00 and \$15,000.00. If the

Minutes of the Transportation Committee
August 5, 2003
Page Seven

Committee is interested, Mr. Mitchell said that he would look further into the project. Chairman Bass stated that the salt cinder box sounded primitive. Mr. Mitchell agreed stating that as long as the salt is covered, clumps and environments issues could be avoided.

Mr. Hoselton asked if the County would use the Empire Township's loader. Mr. Mitchell replied yes. Mr. Hoselton asked if a member of the Highway Department's union would have to load the salt. Mr. Mitchell replied that a member of the union would have to load the salt. Ms. Rodgers asked if the Empire Township Road Commissioner would be interested in renting a spot. Mr. Mitchell replied that he would ask. Mr. Owens asked if we built the salt cinder would the County own it. Mr. Mitchell replied that since the property belongs to the Empire Township Road Commission, the County would not own it. Chairman Bass asked why it is necessary to have a remote site after all these years. Mr. Mitchell explained that traffic is increasing to the more remote areas of the County, so more salt is needed.

Mr. Dean asked that Mr. Mitchell come back to the Committee with more information. Mr. Owens suggested that a site on the westside would also be a good idea.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 8:37 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucretia Wherry
Recording Secretary