

## Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 6, 2002 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 700, Law and Justice Center, 104 West Front Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Owens, Johnson, Emmett and Selzer

Members Absent: None

Staff Members Present: Ms. Lucretia Wherry, Human Resources Assistant, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/  
Elected Officials Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, County Highway Department

Others Present: None

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m. and declared the presence of a quorum. Chairman Bass presented the minutes of the July 9, 2002 meeting for approval.

Motion by Owens/Johnson to approve and place on file the minutes of the July 9, 2002 meeting of the Transportation Committee. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass presented the bills as prepared and recommended for transmittal to the Transportation Committee by the Auditor's Office.

Motion by Selzer/Owens to approve the bills as presented and recommended by the Auditor's Office. Motion carried.

Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer, presented a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with Rice, Berry and Associates for Section 02-00160-01 BR. The agreement provides engineering services for repairs to a bridge that is in section V, Townline Road, which is off of Route 9 that turns into 122. The bridge is about 2 miles from the County line. The bridge has some bad timber pilings. The State wants the bridge to be reviewed every six months due to the pilings. The bridge was built between 1930 and 1950. Chairman Bass added that there are less than 30 bridges remaining in the County from that time period.

Mr. Owens asked what is the cost for designing the bridge. Mr. Mitchell replied the structure costs are \$300,000.00. The design costs are \$20,000.00. Mr. Owens asked if the repairs will be completed this year. Mr. Mitchell replied that the repairs will take place in 2003.

Motion by Emmett/Owens to recommend approval of a Preliminary Engineering Agreement with Rice, Berry and Associates for Section 02-00160-01 BR. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the proposed Eagle View Agreement. Eagle View subdivision is on the East Side of Towanda Barnes Road at Fort Jesse, directly across Towanda Barnes Road from Eagle Crest East subdivision. A new road is needed to go into Eagle View to allow for access onto Towanda Barnes Road. The City of Bloomington would like to install a sewer main crossing and two water main crossings are needed as well. The agreement is timed so that the work by the City can be completed prior to the County paving Towanda Barnes Road. Mr. Selzer asked if any other crossings are needed, such as cable or telephone. Mr. Mitchell replied that there might be other crossings that are needed for the subdivision, but those crossings would not be as significant as the sewer and water main crossings. The fee for this is a \$120,000.00. Eagle Crest East paid \$20,000.00 for the entrance, but had to dedicate 50 feet of right-of-way for the length of the subdivision, due to improvements to Towanda Barnes Road. The City of Bloomington was given a road improvement fee for the Hawthorne Hills subdivisions from the developer. The City will pay this fee to the County. Limited access will be allowed onto Towanda Barnes Road.

Motion by Selzer/Owens to recommend approval of the proposed Eagle View Agreement. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Agreement with the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District. The Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District is located on West Oakland Avenue. The Bridge, which is in the County five-year plan, is in front of the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District and is ready for construction. The County needs right-of-way from the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District. The Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District is donating the needed easement.

There is a decorative brick wall, a wrought iron fence and some lilac bushes near the easement, which the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District would like the County to agree to repair if damaged. The bridge project is not going to damage the landscaping. However, the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District is concerned that if later on, the County or City of Bloomington begins improvements on Six Points Road or Oakland Avenue, that the landscaping will be damaged. The Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District is giving the County the right-of-way for the length of the property, so that the County will not have to form another agreement later on for the improvements to Oakland Avenue or Six Points Road.

Mr. Hoselton asked what is the longevity of the agreement. Mr. Mitchell replied that the agreement does not have a term as neither the County nor the City knows when improvements will be made. Mr. Selzer noted that the County would never agree to an open ended term for repairs on private property. Mr. Mitchell agreed that normally the agreement would not be done. Mr. Selzer stated that if the repairs are not done for 15 to 20 years that the repairs could cost millions of dollars. Mr. Hoselton suggested adding a term to the agreement, yet making it renewable. Mr. Selzer asked if the agreement would be in place if the City of Bloomington were to take control of the roads. Mr. Mitchell replied that the agreement would be transferable with the property. Mr. Selzer stated that he would agree to a 3-5 year term on the agreement. Mr. Mitchell stated that traditionally, the County buys the right-of-way, this is just a way of putting of payment if something is damaged.

Mr. Selzer asked who would get the most use of the road. Mr. Mitchell replied that the landfill has significant use of the road, but the road has a lot of general use.

Chairman Bass asked who drafted the agreement. Mr. Mitchell replied that the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District's attorney wrote the agreement. The County would pay for the landscaping anyway to get the right-of-way. Mr. Owens asked if a term were added to the agreement, would the agreement have to be sent back to the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District. Mr. Mitchell replied that the agreement would have to go back to the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District.

Mr. Hoselton stated that the agreement says that the repairs are in the "temporary easement area". Mr. Mitchell replied that the wording should be corrected to say "within the dedicated right-of-way".

Mr. Selzer indicated that he would like to see the agreement either time bound or dollar bound. Mr. Selzer asked how much is the cost to make repairs to the landscaping in the current market. Mr. Mitchell responded that he is not sure without having the project bid.

Mr. Selzer stated that he didn't want to recommend the agreement without a term added. He stated that he does not want to tie the hands of future County Boards.

Chairman Bass asked if Mike Callahan is the head of the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District. Mr. Mitchell replied that Mr. Callahan is the head of the Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District. Chairman Bass noted that the Mr. Callahan is easy to work with.

The Committee agreed to a 10-year term with the option to renew if both parties are in agreement at the end of the 10-year term. Mr. Mitchell noted that a stand-up meeting would not be needed. The Transportation Committee can review the agreement in September.

Chairman Bass asked if the bridge is on the 5-year plan. Mr. Mitchell replied that it is scheduled for this year. At some point Six Points Road and Oakland Avenue will need improvements made to them. The bridge will accommodate 3 lanes. It is not know at this time if the County or City of Bloomington will be making the improvements, as there is currently no agreement.

Mr. Mitchell asked that the Agreement with the City of Bloomington for Signal Maintenance be removed from the agenda. Three sets of signals are being installed on Towanda Barnes Road. The first set, on Ireland Grove Road, was turned on August 5, 2002. By the end of the year, the other signals at Fort Jesse and G.E. Road will be turned on. The City of Bloomington has one or two legs of the intersections at this time. The City would be involved in the maintenance and energy costs of those signals. The City has their own signal maintenance department. The County has been working with the City for six months to reach an agreement, but it is not complete yet. Until the agreement is finished, if there are problems with the signals on Ireland Grove Road, the County will have to pay Leasch to do repairs. Mr. Selzer asked how much Leasch would charge for a service agreement. Mr. Mitchell replied that he is not sure, but since the City of Bloomington has their own signal maintenance department, the City would not agree to an outside agreement on the other two signals. Mr. Mitchell replied that he would check with Leasch to see how much a service agreement would be for the traffic signal on Ireland Grove Road.

Mr. Mitchell presented the Special Events Road Closure Permit for the City of Lexington "Taste of Country" and for the Village of Ellsworth "Labor Day Celebration". The insurance for the "Taste of Country" was passed out separately.

Motion by Selzer/Johnson to recommend approval of the Special Events Road Closure Permit of the City of Lexington "Taste of Country" and for the Village of Ellsworth "Labor Day Celebration". Motion carried.

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Mr. Mitchell presented an update of the roadwork status on Towanda Barnes Road. On section 97-00165-00-FP is from route 150 to Ireland Grove Road, the contractor is paving with binder now on the last lip. The curbing and gutters are installed. The surface will be put down next week.

For Section 96-00168-00-FP, Ireland Grove to Route 9, the surface is down. The shoulder is complete and the signal is turned on. Entrance and striping work still need to be completed.

Section 98-00113-03-FP, which is from Route 9 to Fort Jesse Road, the liming is almost complete. The curb and gutter on the west side is the next step. After that, the next step is to pave the binder.

Mr. Selzer asked whose responsibility is it to put signals on the intersection at the entrance to the Palace Theater. Mr. Mitchell replied that if the intersection is determined to warrant traffic signals, the City Bloomington and the County both would be responsible. The City owns Vic Drive and the County owns Towanda Barnes.

Mr. Selzer stated that the intersection at Vic Drive and Towanda Barnes is a dangerous intersection, especially for inexperienced drivers. Even without the construction, there is a high rate of speed on Towanda Barnes Roads. Mr. Mitchell replied that once the left turn lane is complete, the turn lane will help to diffuse some of the problems.

Mr. Mitchell stated that southbound traffic is more dangerous than the northbound traffic. Mr. Selzer agreed. Chairman Bass stated that if there were that much traffic at sporting events, personnel would be hired to direct traffic. Mr. Selzer stated that a caution sign with flashing yellow lights would be helpful. Mr. Hoselton replied that at night, the intersection is very dark. Overhead lights at the intersection would light up the area. Mr. Mitchell asked the Committee to allow the County to study the intersection for a couple of months in order to decide the best approach for safe guarding the intersection. Mr. Selzer stated that he did not have a problem with doing the study. Mr. Selzer noted that he didn't want to wait until there is a major accident for the County and City to become involved.

Chairman Bass asked who would be involved in deciding if the traffic lights are needed. Mr. Mitchell explained that in order to install traffic lights, an engineering study has to be done. Mr. Selzer asked that the County be proactive in allowing further access onto Towanda Barnes Road. Mr. Mitchell replied that the County will watch the intersection carefully for the next few months to see what can be done to make the intersection safer.

Mr. Mitchell presented an update of the roadwork on the Lexington-LeRoy Road. On section 99-0044-06-WR, stock piling has begun on Route 9. The project is moving  
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along. On Danvers Road, section 02-00038-04-WR, the County has begun working in town. The project is two-thirds complete. Mr. Emmett asked how long the road will be closed. Mr. Mitchell replied another 6 weeks. The crews are split between two projects, so it is taking longer to complete than originally thought.

There was a head on accident on Springtown Road last week. There was a fatality. The father of Tim Streenz, a County employee, was killed. Mr. Hoselton suggested that the Transportation send a sympathy card to the Streenz family.

There being nothing further to come before the Committee at this time, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bass at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia A. Wherry  
Recording Secretary