

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present:	Chairman Hoselton, Members Black, Caisley, Soeldner, McKibbin and Cavallini
Members Absent:	None
Other Members Present:	None
Staff Members Present:	Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary
Department Heads Present:	Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer
Others Present:	Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer, Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission, Ms. Rita Bane, Deputy County Auditor.

Chairman Hoselton called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. He stated that the first Item for Action is approval of the minutes from the April 3, 2012 Transportation Committee Meeting.

Motion by Caisley/Black to recommend approval of the minutes from the April 3, 2012 meeting of the Transportation Committee.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills for April 30, 2012. The prepaid total is \$433,507.74.

Mr. Scott asked about payment to Computer Solutions. Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer, responded that Computer Solutions raised the tower height to increase the Department's microwave signal. The increase in height improved the signal by 5 times.

Mr. Soeldner asked if payment to the McLean County Sheriff was for overweight enforcement. Mr. Schmitt advised that the Sheriff is paid for overweight enforcement. He added that every year overweight violations are reduced.

Mr. Caisley asked if advertising costs could be reduced by posting required lettings on the website instead of in the Pantagraph. Mr. Schmitt stated that publication postings are required by statute. All Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) projects are also required to be posted in the Motor Fuel Tax Bulletin published weekly by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Motion by Cavallini/Soeldner to recommend
payment of the April 30, 2012 bills as
submitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the first Item for Action is the Resolution and Bid Tab for April 25, 2012 County Non Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Letting.

Mr. Schmitt presented letting held on April 25, 2012. He noted that the Hickory Creek II Bridge is located by Carver's Corner at Lake Bloomington.

Chairman Hoselton noted that recently all bids are coming in below the estimates. He asked if there is a particular reason we are seeing a decrease in bids. Mr. Schmitt pointed out that this bid tab is 6% below the estimate rather than the 13.67%

reflected on the incorrect bid tab included in the Committee Packet. He advised that he revised the numbers and lowered the estimate based on the bids received for the bridge on County Highway 23. Competitive pricing is resulting in lower bid prices. There is little hot mix and road work available in McLean County.

Mr. Wasson, County Administrator, added that there are no State repaving projects in McLean County. Mr. Schmitt stated that the State's Transportation Improvement Program for next year shows no hot mix work in McLean County.

Chairman Hoselton referred to the section of the Lexington/LeRoy Road, from South Street to the bridge, asking the condition of the road. Mr. Schmitt responded that the Department has done pavement preservation maintenance on the road. This section of road is the only road in the County the Department has not overlaid.

Mr. Schmitt recommended approval of the following bid:

2012 Non-MFT Construction Section:

McLean County	Sec 04-00073-08-BR	Hickory Creek II Bridge
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The successful bidder on the above section was:

Stark Excavating Inc.		
1805 W. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL 61701		\$836,878.00

Motion by Soeldner/Caisley to recommend approval of the Resolution and Bid Tab for April 25, 2012 County Non Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Letting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton reported that the next Item of Information is the State of Illinois Department of Transportation Agreement for Local Agency (LA) Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Improvements – Bellflower/Saybrook Road (CH5).

Mr. Schmitt noted the location of the Norfolk Southern Railway crossing in Saybrook. Because the crossing is on a County Road the County is required to approve the work. The only obligation of the County per the Agreement is to provide, at the County's expense, any necessary advance warning signs and pavement markings as required by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control. The County has requested a set of project plans.

Mr. Soeldner stated that Lincoln Street is at an angle and the crossing is dangerous. The crossing signals will improve the safety of the intersection.

Motion by Cavallini/McKibbin to recommend approval of the State of Illinois Department of Transportation Agreement for Local Agency (LA) Railway-Highway Grade Crossing Improvements – Bellflower/Saybrook Road (CH5).
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next Item for Action is the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education of Olympia Community Unit School District No 16 for two Solar Powered Flashing Beacons on County Highway 18 in Danvers.

Mr. Schmitt presented the Intergovernmental Agreement with Olympia School District for the installation of flashing yellow beacons on the school speed limit signs. The School District will purchase the beacons at a cost of \$2,500 each. The County will maintain the sign and sign post as well as the beacon programming of the school calendar. The beacons are solar powered.

Mr. Schmitt added that when tickets are issued, State Statute allows for part of the fine to go to the School Safety Fund to maintain these signals.

Mr. McKibbin acknowledged the Department for the handling of the process.

Motion by Soeldner/Black to recommend approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement with the Board of Education of Olympia Community Unit School District No 16 for two Solar Powered Flashing Beacons on County Highway 18 in Danvers.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton continued with the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance for FY 2012 – Fund 0120.

Mr. Schmitt stated that Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer, and himself, in preparation of the 5 Year Plan and FY2013 Budget, have completed the annual ride around. This year, areas needing skip patching have reduced. The County usually budgets \$50,000 annually for skip patching over culverts. This year there is only approximately \$25,000 of skip patching required on County Roads. The Department would like to use the remaining \$25,000 to repair the County Highway Department's

parking lot. Mr. Schmitt presented slides showing the deteriorating condition of the Department's parking lot. The Department has done some patching but no major improvements have been done for some time. The Emergency Appropriation will move funds from the Maintenance line item to the Capital line item for improvements at the facility.

Chairman Hoselton asked if the project will overlay the existing lot or remove the asphalt. Mr. Schmitt responded that the Department will remove some material in areas of severe deterioration, and fill will be added to correct drainage. The lot will then be milled out 6 inches and 6 inches of hot mix will then be applied. The 6 inches of milled material will be recycled for shoulder work. The project will go to letting at the end of May, 2012. The work will be done in June – July, 2012. The Department will do the base work.

Mr. Schmitt recommended approval of reducing the appropriation budget of the County Highway Fund 0120, Highway Department 0055 by the following appropriation:

	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>REDUCE</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
County Highway Department Maintenance of Roads/Drainage Structures 0120-0055-0056-0716-0001	\$125,000	\$25,000	\$100,000

Mr. Schmitt recommended approval of increasing the appropriation budget of the County Highway Fund 0120, Highway Department 0055 by the following appropriation:

	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>ADD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
County Highway Department Capitalized Assets 0120-055-0850-0001	\$298,000	\$25,000	\$323,000

Motion by Cavallini/Caisley to recommend approval of Emergency Appropriation Ordinance for FY 2012 – Fund 0120.
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton presented the final Item for Action, the Historic Route 66 Bike Trail, Grant Funding.

Mr. Schmitt stated that on January 24, 2012 the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced the solicitation of projects for the 2012 Illinois Transportation

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Program (ITEP). The Department will apply for funding for a section of Historic route 66 Bike Trail in accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement for Route 66 Bikeway Development and Maintenance. This section of the trail is from County Highway 29 in Towanda to 2.51 miles north where the old alignment of Route 66 ends. The estimated cost of the project is \$1,000,000. The funding is 80% federal funds and 20% local match. The 20% local match shared by the parties of the Intergovernmental Agreement would be \$200,000. McLean County's share is 24.9%, \$49,800 due in late 2014 or early 2015. The Department has notified all parties in the agreement of the County's intent to apply for the funding. The application deadline is May 29, 2012.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the existing alignment will be overlaid to a 10 foot trail with shoulders. The only variable in the project is the trail crosses a bridge. The bridge is posted for no vehicle traffic. The State will determine if the bridge can be used for pedestrian and bicycle traffic. If that is not possible, there is funding to replace the bridge.

Mr. Caisley asked if it is possible to continue the Trail to Lexington. Mr. Schmitt responded that this section will complete the North end of the Phase I Alignment Study and the Intergovernmental contemplates continuing north. There are also still parts of the southern section to be completed.

Mr. Black added that when discussing the trail, there is always positive feedback from the public.

Motion by Black/Caisley to recommend
approval of the Historic Route 66 Bike Trail,
Grant Funding.
Motion carried.

Mr. Caisley asked if, when continuing north with the Bike Trail, will the County be required to purchase right-of-way? Mr. Schmitt noted that it is yet to be determined in the next phase but we have been able to use Route 66 right-of-way to date.

Chairman Hoselton suggests that there may be a possibility that the trail could be located west of Route 66, between the fence and Route 66. If possible this would be a tremendous savings to the County.

Mr. Soeldner pointed out that if the Bike Trail connected to Lexington, it would require another crossing over Route 66. Staying on the west side of Route 66 would be more economical.

Mr. Caisley asked if there are design specifications for the width of right-of-ways on Interstate Highways. Mr. Schmitt responded they are not specific. The County has unsuccessfully worked with the State in the past concerning right-of-way.

Mr. Wasson, County Administrator, advised that it would likely take Legislative support for the County to be able to place the bike trail between Route 66 and Interstate 55.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Department is currently working with the City of Chenoa to collect their \$3,700 payment for the first piece of the Bike Trail completed by Shirley.

Mr. Schmitt advised the Committee that the City of Chenoa has a change in leadership of the Council and the new City Council has expressed concerns over the Intergovernmental Agreement for Route 66 Bikeway Development and Maintenance.

Chairman Hoselton asked if the City of Chenoa had received money from the County for the bike trail in Chenoa. Mr. Wasson responded that \$25,000 was allocated for their bike trail. They also obtained some federal assistance and funding for the trail. The County's ERA funds were used for their local match on the bike trail construction.

Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer reported that from the time of receiving the funding to the time of the letting and through construction, the Department kept the City of Chenoa apprised of the estimated cost so that they could budget the funds. Once a final bill was received from IDOT, the City of Chenoa was sent the final bill for their share of the project.

Mr. Soeldner advised that the Mayor's Association meets quarterly. He suggested that the Department do a presentation and update on the progress and future of the bike trail. Mr. Wasson agreed that there is updated information that would be beneficial to the local Mayors.

Chairman Hoselton informed the Committee that the next items to be presented are Items of Information. The first item of information is the Meadows Road (CH23) Roseland Bridge, Sec 11-00005-01-BR

Mr. Schmitt stated that the existing Structure has been removed and all the pile have been driven. The abutment caps have been poured. The project will be completed by June 22, 2012.

Mr. Schmitt advised that the Committee Field Trip will be July 3 immediately following the Transportation Committee Meeting. The Committee will meet at the Highway Department and leave immediately after the meeting.

Mr. Schmitt referred to the map showing a timber pile bridge that required posting by IDOT following our consultant's inspection and load rating of the bridge. On April 19, 2012 the Department received notification from IDOT that concurred with our consultant, HLR's load rating for Dry Grove Township Structure Number 057-4301. On April 23, 2012 the Department helped the Township erect the signs posting this bridge with the following weight limits:

- Single Unit Vehicle 16 Tons
- Combination 3 or 4 Axles 22 Tons
- Combination 5 or More Axles 22 Tons

The Department is working with Dry Grove Township to move the bridge into construction in 2013 or 2014.

Mr. Caisley asked if the Township is levying at its maximum tax rate for their Road and Bridge fund. Mr. Schmitt responded that to be eligible for the Township/Bridge Program funding, a Township is required to be levying at .125 for the Road and Bridge fund. The Township's levy is currently above this rate. It is also required to be above .05 tax rate in the Joint Bridge fund. The Township is currently not at this rate. This bridge was planned to be replaced in 2015. With the required posting, the project is being moved up. Options available are currently being considered.

Chairman Hoselton asked if the Department is in contact with the Townships regarding funding and funding requirements. Mr. Schmitt advised that the Department sends a letter to all Townships advising them of the programs that are available. Chairman Hoselton asked that, when the letter is sent to the Townships, a copy also be sent to the Committee members.

Chairman Hoselton continued with the Presentation of recent projects on the Website.

Mr. Stokes presented a pictorial of the County Highway website showing the current road projects with pictures and a description of the work done.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Department is always looking for ways to improve the County Highway website. More information on Department policies and permits will be added.

Mr. Cavallini asked if it is possible to measure the number of hits on the County website. Mr. Wasson responded that the Information Technologies Department maintains this information.

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Mr. Schmitt distributed the Lexington/LeRoy Resurfacing Project Letting Results. The Lexington/LeRoy Road resurfacing project was on the April 27, 2012 Illinois Department of Transportation Letting. The low bid of \$651,180.02 was submitted by Rowe Construction Company, 18.08% under our estimate of \$794,902.50. The work will begin in late May, 2012 with completion expected by late June, 2012. The Lexington/LeRoy Road resurfacing project has 80% federal funding and 20% McLean County funding.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the salt shed is full. The department will continue to look into storage options for the additional salt.

The Transportation Committee will meet next on Tuesday June, 2012.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there was any further business to be brought before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:59 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary