

## **Minutes of the Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Hoselton, Members Black, Caisley, Cavallini, Soeldner and McIntyre

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Terry Lindberg, County Administrator, Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer, Mr. Mike Steffa, Director Parks and Recreation, Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission, Ms. Connie Johnson, 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 July 6, 2010 meeting.

Motion by Soeldner/Black to recommend approval of the minutes from the July 6, 2010 meeting of the Transportation Committee.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton asked the Committee to review the bills for July 31, 2010. The prepaid and fund total for July 31, 2010 is \$420,137.39.

Mr. Cavallini asked for an explanation of three entries for paint. Mr. Eric Schmitt responded that the entry is for one semi load of paint, each entry represent a specific number of barrels of paint.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the Department receives this amount of paint annually. Mr. Schmitt, County Engineer, advised that all County Highways are painted every year. In the future the State may enforce requirements for pavement markings. One way to insure that we meet those requirements is to paint once a year.

Motion by Cavallini/McIntyre to recommend payment of the July 31, 2010 bills as submitted by the County Auditor.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the first Item for Action is the Historic Route 66 Bike Trail, Grant Funding.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that in June, 2010 the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced the solicitation of projects for the 2010 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). IDOT accepted applications two years ago; however project funding was not awarded until last year when we received the Stimulus money for the current Bike Trail project. In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreement for Route 66 Bikeway Development and Maintenance, the Department intends to apply for funding. He advised that the funding is for a 4.2 mile section of Historic Route 66 Bike Trail from the curve on

Shelbourne Drive in north Normal to County Highway 29, Towanda Overpass. This section of trail will be connected to the Constitution Trail in Bloomington-Normal near the Town of Normal. Mr. Schmitt advised that this section is part of the overall larger project that will eventually stretch from the South side of the County line to the North side of the County. He pointed out that this is a joint project with McLean County Parks and Recreation and the Highway Department. The Highway Department will provide the engineering and Mr. Mike Steffa, Director, Parks and Recreation will oversee the maintenance of the trails. Mr. Schmitt explained the path of the bike trail. He advised that the estimated cost of the project is \$1,937,500; broken down in three phases:

- \$148,500 – Phase II Engineering
- \$132,000 – Phase III Construction Engineering
- \$1,657,000 – Construction

Mr. Schmitt stated that the funding is 80% Federal and 20%, shared local match. The County's share, over a two year period would be \$96,487.50. He noted that other parties to the agreement have been notified of the Department's intention to apply for the August 31, 2010 deadline funding.

Motion by McIntyre/Black to recommend approval of the Historic Route 66 Bike Trail Grant Application.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next Item for Action is a Resolution and Letting Results from the July 28, 2010 County Non-Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Construction Section.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that the letting results for the rip rap project on County Highway 59 over Sugar Creek came in significantly over the estimates. He advised the Committee that the Department is recommending rejection of the bids. Mr. Schmitt noted that the contractors believe the estimates were lower than the bids because the Department had a time frame of 10 working days, a tight time frame to complete the project and because of the sandy bottom, more prep work is required. He noted that most of the contractors are booked up for the season and suggest the project be done as a winter project. Bidding the work as a winter project would also reduce the costs. Mr. Schmitt stated that parameters and specifications would be changed and the project would be rebid. He recommends rejecting the following bid:

2010 Non-MFT Construction Section:

McLean County      Sec 10-00047-01-BR                      CH 59 Over Sugar Creek  
The successful bidder on the above section was:

Stark Excavating, Inc . \$237,125.00  
1805 W. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

Mr. Black asked if waiting to do the project in the winter would possibly impact any problems or increase the costs. Mr. Schmitt responded that this type of work has been done in Tazewell County during the winter. He does not foresee any problems.

Motion by Caisley/Cavallini to recommend rejection of the Resolution and Letting Results from the July 28, 2010 County Non-Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) Construction Section and the Rebid of the Project.  
Motion Carried.

Chairman Hoselton advised that the next Item for Action is an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance.

Mr. Schmitt noted that the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance is for the engineering projects to build the previously started Lake Bloomington (2004), Money Creek (2004) and Anchor (2001) bridges next spring. The Ordinance will add to the appropriation budget of the County Bridge Fund 0120 the following appropriation:

	<u>ADOPTED</u>	<u>ADD</u>	<u>AMENDED</u>
County Highway Department Unappropriated Fund Balance 0121-0055-0056-0400-0000	\$0.0	\$87,000.00	\$87,000.00
County Highway Department Engineering and Design Expense 0121-0055-0056-0716-0002	\$117,000.00	\$87,000.00	\$204,000.00

Chairman Hoselton asked why the engineering process was not completed. Mr. Schmitt noted that they are Township Bridge Programs (TBP) and it has taken 3 ½ years of TBP funding to fund the Townships' share of the project.

Mr. Cavallini pointed out that there seems to be a number of Emergency Appropriation. He noted that just coming out of a situation where wages were frozen, positions eliminated and with concerns for the overall budget, why do we see Emergency Appropriations?

Mr. Lindberg explained that this appropriation is for projects only: there are no salary expenses involved. The County Highway fund balance has grown over the last two years. He advised that at the end of 2008 the fund balance was \$1,700,000, against

a \$1,800,000 annual expenditure. By the end of Fiscal Year 2009, because of project delays and postponements, the fund balance had grown by another \$700,000, bringing the fund balance to \$2,474,000. The requested appropriation of \$87,000 is a relatively modest amount to be taken from the fund balance. Mr. Lindberg noted this Emergency Appropriation will not affect the overall budget.

Mr. Soeldner asked if the funds are able to be used for anything else. Mr. Lindberg responded that this is the Bridge Fund, to be used solely for bridge-related expenses.

Mr. Bill Wasson, Assistant County Administrator stated that the Department did budget for these projects before; however, due to delays in the Capitol projects we did not expend the money in the fiscal year the projects were budgeted.

Mr. McIntyre compared the Emergency Appropriation to a transfer of monies.

Mr. Soeldner pointed out the report showing in 2007, \$120,000 was budget and only \$11,000 was used. Mr. Schmitt added that for several years, not all the monies budgeted were used. He advised that this year there are several projects that the Department will be getting ready to go to letting.

Motion by Soeldner/Caisley to recommend approval of the Emergency Appropriation Ordinance Amending the McLean County Fiscal Year 2010 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Fund 0121 McLean County Highway Department 0055  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton advised that the next Item for Action is Engineering Agreement with Lewis, Yockey, and Brown (LYB).

Mr. Schmitt pointed out that this Engineering Agreement is done annually for various projects.

Mr. Black asked if any of the expenses, such as photo copying could possibly be done in house. Mr. Stokes, Assistant County Engineer, stated that the copying cost include larger and mylar copies.

Motion by Soeldner/Black to recommend approval of the Engineering Agreement with Lewis, Yockey, and Brown.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next Item for Action is an Ordinance for Altered Speed Zone, County Highway 31 (CH 31), Pipeline Road, Northtown Road to North of Ziebarth Road.

Mr. Schmitt noted that Pipeline Road is a joint project with the Town of Normal. He stated that with the design of the curve, design policy requires that the speed zone be posted at 45mph. The current speed limit is 55mph. Mr. Schmitt advised that this will be a permanently altered speed zone. He recommends approval of the Ordinance and Resolution for the Establishment of an Altered Speed Zone.

Mr. Caisley added that he has received calls referring to the danger when merging from Northbridge Subdivision onto the highway.

Motion by McIntyre/Cavallini to recommend approval of the Ordinance for Altered Speed Zone, County Highway 31 (CH 31), Pipeline Road, Northtown Road to North of Ziebarth Road.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton advised that the next Item for Action is the LeRoy Fall Festival 5-K Permit.

Mr. Schmitt referred to the handout presented to the Committee showing the change of route for the LeRoy Fall Festival 5-K. He pointed out there was concern with one section of the route. The route has been moved one block south. This removes the route from all County Highways. Mr. Schmitt stated that due to the change, there is no need to approve the permit.

Chairman Hoselton suggested that Mr. Schmitt notify the organization, in writing that the County Highway Department is officially not involved with the LeRoy Fall Festival 5-K. Mr. Schmitt noted that he would notify the organization.

Chairman Hoselton stated the last Item for Action is the Tier Approach to Corrective Action Objectives Agreement, Evergreen FS, Inc, 102 South Main Street, Arrowsmith, Illinois.

Mr. Schmitt advised that Evergreen FS in Arrowsmith at one point operated a gas station. The underground tanks have caused some contamination on site, directly adjacent to the right-of-way. He stated that Evergreen FS is working with the Environment Protection Agency (EPA) and has asked us to give this Tier Approach to Corrective Action Objective Agreement. Mr. Schmitt stated that the primary obligation of the Department is; anyone requesting a permit from the County Highway Department, to work in the right-of-way, the party doing the excavation will be notified

of the possible contamination. If removal of contaminate soil is required, Evergreen FS will participate, up to \$10,000, in the clean up.

Mr. McIntyre voiced his concern that the \$10,000 would be enough to cover the problem, should one occur. Mr. Schmitt responded that work of this kind was required on another project. The cost to remove the gas tank was around \$2,500. He does not for see any problems.

Motion by Black/Caisley to recommend approval of the Tier Approach to Corrective Action Objectives Agreement, Evergreen FS, Inc, 102 South Main Street, Arrowsmith, Illinois.  
Motion carried.

Chairman Hoselton stated the next items to come before the Committee are Items for Information.

Mr. Schmitt informed the Committee that construction on the Old Route 66 Bike Trail continues. All aggregate base is down and paving should begin next week on the south section. Dirt work and preparing for paving is ongoing on the north section.

Mr. Schmitt referred to the July 30, 2010 Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) letting results on the Pipeline Road (CH 31) from Ziebarth Road to the Hudson Road. He reported that Rowe Construction Company was low bid at \$1,115,501.54, 14.97% under our estimate of \$1,311,848.00. The project will begin in late August, 2010 with work completed by late September, 2010. Mr. Schmitt stated that cost will be divided as follows;

- Federal STR funding \$892,401.23
- TARP funding \$182,400.00
- McLean County funding \$44,700.31

Mr. Schmitt continued with the IDOT letting results for the Lawndale Township Bridge Project, Hammitt Bridge. The Hammitt Bridge is the only closed McLean County bridge He advised that Stark Excavating Inc was low bid at \$280,126.10, 5.02% under our estimate of \$290,920.00. The project will begin in late August, 2010 with completion expected by late October, 2010. . Mr. Schmitt stated that cost will be divided as follows;

- Federal HBP funding \$224,920.00
- Lawndale Township funding \$28,012.61
- McLean County funding \$28,012.61

Mr. Schmitt introduced Ms. Jennifer Sicks, Transportation Planner, Regional Planning Commission for a presentation on Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

Ms. Sicks refreshed the Committee on the function of the McLean County Regional Planning as a Metropolitan Planning Organization. She stated that McLean County is one of 14 Metropolitan Planning Organizations in Illinois. Under State law, any urbanized area with a population of more than 50,000 must have a MPO in order to access certain Federal Programs for transportation funding.

Ms. Sicks reported that McLean County's urban area population is approaching 130,000, much of which is in our MPO area; Bloomington, Normal, Towanda, Downs and Shirley. With the possible 2010 changes, the current MPO's likely growth area may extend west on Route 9.

Ms. Sicks explained that the MPO is a policy making planning body formed to facilitate effective transportation planning and operations with the following structures:

- Policy or Executive Board Committee
- Technical Committee
- Citizens Advisory Committee – Transportation Advisory Committee
- Director and Staff – McLean County Regional Planning Commission

She noted that the organizations and agency are:

- Elected Officials – County Board
- State Agencies – IDOT, IDNR, IEPA
- McLean County, Bloomington, Normal, Downs, Towanda
- BNPT, Show Bus, YWCA, Marcfirst
- Public
- Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration
- ISU IWU, Major Employers, Development Community
- Farm Bureau, Chamber of Commerce and other Community Interests

Ms. Sicks stated that the MPO is put in place to help the various entities work together in prioritizing what all the participants feel is important for each urbanized area. Regional Planning provides information and technical support. She noted that Cooperative tasks include matching the need to projected resources and resolving conflicts in resource allocation. Facilitating joint projects benefit the entire area as recipients of Federal transportation funding. In addition to the framework provided, the MPO provides a 20 year horizon long range transportation plan.

Ms. Sicks advised that essentially in the coming forward we will see Air Quality Conformity. With the new ozone standard, it is expected that Bloomington-Normal the urbanized area will fall out of compliance. In the future transportation planning, we will now be required to take into account air quality management and conformity.

Ms. Sicks stated that the participants are continually reviewing issues brought forward by a number of groups and brings them forward to the Policy Committee to help them arrive at policies that are appropriate and useful for all of Bloomington-Normal and McLean County. She advised that she would answer any questions the Committee might have.

Mr. Black asked if there were any ideas as to how to address the issues of air quality. Ms. Sicks responded that some of it is looking at how the MPO decides on new facilities. She noted that this is a new area and how we address this, we will be learning over the next year and a half.

Mr. Soeldner stated that the rural areas, Downs and Towanda, need to be involved so that they have the insight to know what funds are available to them. He asked Ms. Sicks to discuss the issue concerning Raab Road.

Ms. Sicks recalled that there has been discussion on Raab Road in the past. She noted that the issue with Raab Road is a jurisdictional issue. The kind of connection needed would be predominately in the jurisdiction of the Town of Normal. It would be at their discretion as to whether or not to proceed. Ms. Sicks advised that Regional Planning did contact IDOT to see what would be involved in constructing the connection. Unfortunately getting across Veterans Parkway would be a hugely expensive and require major engineering. IDOT suggested that it would require a structure to cross Veterans Parkway and a secondary structure to cross Route 66 and the Rail Road. The estimated cost would be in the \$30,000,000 - \$40,000,000 range. The Town of Normal felt it did not have the funding it would take to connect Raab Road. She stated that as an agency they do not have the authority to require the local entities to build the connection or the jurisdiction to request the support to fund such a project.

Mr. Caisley stated that there are several jurisdictions involved. Raab is a single road extending from the west County line to beyond Normal Community High School. Part is Yuton Road, a County Highway, part is a Normal Township Road, and part is a city street in the Town of Normal. He noted that the connection would improve traffic and benefit the local Baseball Team and two High Schools. Mr. Caisley pointed out that IDOT stated that when they improved the interchange between Veterans Parkway and Interstate 55, it would be possible to go every direction on every highway coming into the area.

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Ms. Sicks advised that the section requiring the work is largely in the Town of Normal.

Chairman Hoselton asked if the Committee had any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Ms. Sicks.

Chairman Hoselton stated that the next Transportation Committee Meeting will be Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

Chairman Hoselton asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 9:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn  
Recording Secretary