

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Soeldner, Members Cavallini, Harris, Metsker, Pyne and Robustelli

Members Absent: Buchanan

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant State's Attorney Civil, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary

Department Heads Present: Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer

Others Present: Mr. Jerry Stokes, Assistant County Engineer

Chairman Soeldner 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 October 7, 2014 Transportation Committee Meeting and the September 16, 2014 Transportation Committee Stand Up Meeting.

Motion by Robustelli/Metsker to recommend approval of the minutes from the October 7, 2014 Transportation Committee Meeting.
Motion carried

Motion by Cavallini/Pyne to recommend approval of the September 16, 2014 Transportation Committee Stand Up Meeting.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner asked the Committee to review the bills for October 31, 2014. The prepaid total is \$1,087,991.37

Motion by Robustelli/Pyne to recommend
Payment of the October 31, 2014 bills as
submitted by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner stated that the first item for action is the Joint Bridge Construction Petition – Downs Road District – Sec 2014 Downs Road District Joint Culvert #1.

Mr. Eric Schmitt, County Engineer, reported that the Department inspected the culvert located on 2000 East Road. The existing joint culvert is rusted on the bottom, is undersized and has significant erosion problems. The existing 18” corrugated metal pipe will be replaced with triple 36” precast arch corrugated metal pipe. The estimated cost of the project is \$13,000; the County’s share will be \$6,500. Downs Road District is taxing above .0125% in their Road and Bridge Fund and the cost of the project is more than 0.02% of the EAV of the Road District.

Mr. Robustelli asked if the Township Road Commissioners are solely responsible for the inspection of their own Township Bridges and culverts. Mr. Schmitt responded that this culvert is under the jurisdiction of the Township. The County is the bridge inspection authority for all Township Bridges over 20 feet. The County encourages the Townships to post required bridges, however only the State has the authority to close Township bridges.

Ms. Harris asked if inspections are mandated regularly. Mr. Schmitt responded that all structures over 20 feet are inspected biannually. If conditions ratings drop below a designated number or the bridge is over 50 years old, the bridge can no longer be on a biannual inspection schedule. He added that there are five bridges in the County that have a Plan of Action (POA). In the event of a high level storm, notification from the State of Illinois is received to inspect the bridge for possible posting or closure.

Ms. Harris noted that the County is losing Township Bridge funding. Mr. Schmitt stated that the County's primary funding is the Township Bridge Program which allocates \$15,000,000 to Illinois Counties. The TBP has not been adjusted since the program began in the 1970's.

Motion by Cavallini/Harris to recommend approval of the Joint Bridge Construction Petition – Downs Road District – Sec 2014 Downs Road District Joint Culvert #1.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner presented the Towanda Barnes Road, CH 29 – Sec 07-00113-04-EP - Engineering Services Agreement – Hanson Professional Services, Inc.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Supplemental Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement for Federal Participation for Towanda Barnes Road from Fort Jesse Road north to Raab Road was originally approved in September, 2007. Due to right-of-way negotiations and adjacent landowner concerns there was a need to modify the plans. Also factoring into the increase in the cost of the engineering services provided has been the seven year duration of designing the project and the increased cost of salaries for the consultant's employees. The original engineering agreement was for \$412,900 and the supplement is for \$6,002. He added that construction of the project is planned for the summer of 2015. Mr. Schmitt recommended approval of the Supplement No. 1 of the Preliminary Engineering Agreement for Federal Participation.

Chairman Soeldner asked if this extended time is unique. Mr. Schmitt responded that it takes time to build the funding for a large federal project.

Motion by Robustelli/Harris to recommend approval of the Towanda Barnes Road, CH 29 – Sec 07-00113-04-EP - Engineering Services Agreement – Hanson Professional Services, Inc.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner presented the 2015 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) – County – Maintenance Resolution and Estimate of Maintenance Costs.

Mr. Schmitt advised that this annual resolution appropriates the MFT funds for maintenance of our County Highway System during calendar year 2015. The Estimate of Cost sets up the categories of maintenance work, the estimated quantities, unit costs and funds to be used in each category. He reviewed these categories and explained their use:

- Oil and chip work
- Shoulder maintenance materials
- Cold patch material
- Signs and posts
- Salt and calcium chloride
- Crack filler
- Paint and glass beads
- Labor for five maintenance operations in the amount of \$231,342.59
- Equipment rental - \$395,000

He added that this work is vital to the overall maintenance of the County Highway System.

Mr. Cavallini asked why there is a different price for the same material. Mr. Schmitt responded that Group 14 is bid and stockpiled on site; however if chip work is being done in an area closer to the pit or quarry and material is needed, the material will be purchased from the pit or quarry increasing the cost.

Mr. Robustelli asked if the FY 2015 Budget is generated based on MFT funds available or the actual need based on current conditions of County Roads. Mr. Schmitt advised that, for a budgetary number, some materials are calculated based on miles of roads to be done. Oil and chip roads are on a 6 year rotation and slag seal is on a 25 year rotation. He noted that oil will increase 10% in 2015 and we are looking at salt prices possibly doubling in 2016. These costs are not sustainable without addition revenue. Mr. Schmitt advised that the Department could definitely use additional funding.

Mr. Robustelli stated that, with these increases, in FY 2015 we are not doing the level of maintenance on county roads that were originally planned. Mr. Schmitt agreed. Mr. Robustelli noted that being subject to declining MFT funds prevents the maintenance needed on county roads. He suggested the Department track or even create a separate budget which reflects the actual need of maintenance to County Highways. MFT is not adequate and the County is not able to budget for the actual need. Mr. Schmitt responded that he is preparing a presentation that will give the Committee a snap-shot of where the Department is and what the future looks like.

Mr. Cavallini asked how the cost of oil can increase while the cost of gas is decreasing. Mr. Schmitt stated that oil currently coming from North Dakota is only producing about 5% asphalt, a byproduct of gas. Oil from other locations is producing 25% asphalt.

This lowers the price of gas because you are producing more of this type of product but the cost of asphalt increases.

Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, advised that Mr. Matt Sorensen, County Board Chairman, addressed the challenges of the MFT at the Chambers State of the County Address. He noted that this is not only a dilemma relating to county highways, but also with township roads. Collar counties have addressed the issue of the lack in MFT by having a county wide MFT in addition to the state MFT. There are no gas pumps in the majority of the County Townships. There is no way to impose a MFT that will derive revenue. The need is for a type of sharing mechanism across the State to fund these rural Townships. We continue to address the issue.

Ms. Harris asked if any progress was made meeting with state legislators. Mr. Schmitt responded that he was able to share specific County MFT revenue verses the County's costs. He believes that the numbers helped the legislators to understand the need for increased funding. Mr. Schmitt reported that the Transportation for Illinois Coalition has put together a proposal to increase funding.

Mr. Robustelli asked if projects that are not being done due to lack of funding are put into a long term plan. Mr. Schmitt stated that the Department has a list of unfunded projects. He noted that in 2007-2008 material prices began to increase significantly. There has been no increase in revenue. The Stimulus Plan and the Jobs Now Capital Bill have helped to supplement revenue.

Mr. Wasson advised that since 2007 steps have been taken towards pavement preservation. The County continues to take steps in extending the life of County and Township Roads.

Chairman Soeldner added that Labor was also represented at the State of the County. He noted that not only do road projects suffer from insufficient funding, but the labor force does as well. Less labor hours are available.

Motion by Robustelli/Cavallini to recommend approval of the 2015 Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) – County – Maintenance Resolution and Estimate of Maintenance Costs.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the Route 66 Bike Trail – Sec -11-00001-02-BT:

- 1). Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation.
- 2). Resolution to Appropriate Funds – Town of Normal and Village of Towanda.

Mr. Schmitt reported that this project has been delayed due to addition coordination required by the High Speed Rail project on the adjacent Union Pacific Railroad property. The agreement is with IDOT and sets forth funding terms for the project. Addenda #3 is an Appropriation Resolution by the County for the Local Match for the project. He

advised that the project is funded locally by the Intergovernmental Agreement for Route 66 Bikeway Development and Maintenance approved in November, 1999 between the County, Cities of Bloomington, Lexington, and Chenoa, Town of Normal, and the Villages of McLean and Towanda. The County's total share of this project is \$128,221.31, 24.9% of the local match budgeted in the County Parks & Recreation Department budgets from FY 2012 - FY 2015. The project is scheduled for a January, 2015 IDOT letting with construction planned for the summer of 2015.

Mr. Schmitt stated that a Resolution appropriating the local match is a new IDOT requirement for all federally funded projects. McLean County is the lead agency and will be reimbursed based on population, for the construction project.

Motion by Cavallini/Robustelli to recommend approval of the Route 66 Bike Trail – Sec -11-00001-02-BT:
1). Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation.
2). Resolution to Appropriate Funds – Town of Normal and Village of Towanda.
Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the Items of Information, Project Summaries.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the Meadows Road surfacing project is complete.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Lexington LeRoy Road resurfacing project is complete. Final paperwork needs to be completed. There was a 4% over run in the cost due to additional shoulder rock.

Mr. Schmitt stated that the Holder Bridge construction on CH 36 is complete and final paperwork needs to be completed.

Mr. Schmitt continued with the Hudson Stuckey Road widening and resurfacing project. He reported that the HMA binder course is complete. This project has been buttoned-up for the winter. The HMA surface course and aggregate shoulders will be completed next spring.

Ms. Metsker asked if there is a liability risk involved. Mr. Schmitt responded that shoulder work was done first to correct a slope problem. The shoulder now meets required specifications.

Mr. Schmitt updated the Committee on the progress of the shed rebuild. He advised that the project is almost completed. They will be moving in this week. Mr. Schmitt added that the Department is awaiting shipment on equipment sent out for inspection.

Chairman Soeldner stated that the next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 Room 400.

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Chairman Soeldner asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none he adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary