

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, November 3, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Soeldner, Members Buchanan, Harris, Metsker, Martin and Robustelli

Members Absent: Member Finch

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator, 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. The first item for action is approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2015 Transportation Committee Meeting.

Ms. Harris noted that Enbridge does not have external monitors on the pipeline. She asked if there is an update as to Enbridge. Mr. Wasson, County Administrator responded that Building and Zoning, the Highway Department and legal staff concurred that the ICC has the authority to regulate pipelines. We have no local authority.

Motion by Buchanan/Martin to recommend approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Committee.

Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner asked the Committee to review the bills and budget appropriation transfers for October 31, 2015. The prepaid total is \$816,442.50.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

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AS OF 11/1/2015

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Transportation Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0006	SHOW BUS		\$290,000.00	\$290,000.00
0120	HIGHWAY		\$246,817.90	\$246,817.90
0121	BRIDGE MATCHING FUND		\$242,879.33	\$242,879.33
0123	MOTOR FUEL TAX		\$148.92	\$148.92
0501	TOWNSHIP MOTOR FUEL TAX		\$36,596.35	\$36,596.35
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			\$816,442.50	\$816,442.50



COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Robustelli/Harris to recommend approval of the bills and budget appropriation transfers for October 31, 2015. The prepaid total is \$816,442.50.

Motion

Chairman Soeldner presented the first item for action, Sec 13-00029-03-BR – Arteman Bridge, Rock Road – CH 40, Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation.

Mr. Schmitt reported that this agreement provides the federal funding for the replacement of the structure with a three-span, cast-in-place continuous reinforced concrete slab bridge. The existing bridge walls create a safety hazard and a choke point for agricultural traffic traveling the roadway. He advised that the total cost of the project including engineering, right-of-way, construction and construction engineering is estimated at \$865,000. Construction costs of \$800,000 will be funded with:

- 80% STP – Bridge Federal Funds
- 20% Local Match

The County's share is estimated at \$160,000. The project will go to the March IDOT Letting.

Ms. Harris asked how federal funding is obtained for bridges. Mr. Schmitt responded that federal funding is received based on square footage of structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridges in the County vs the number of square footage in the State.

Motion by Robustelli/Metsker to recommend approval of Sec 13-00029-03-BR – Arteman Bridge, Rock Road – CH 40, Local Agency Agreement for Federal Participation.

Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the Sec 15-00161-04-RS – Gridley Road – CH 29, Motor Fuel Tax Resolution.

Mr. Schmitt stated that this Road Resurfacing MFT Resolution is to appropriate the funding for in-house engineering of the resurfacing of Gridley Road from US Route 24 to 2700 North Road. The existing pavement is showing significant distress and wide spread cracking. The current ADT (average daily traffic) is 1,675. The cost of the project is estimated at \$1,960,000.

Motion by Robustelli/Harris to recommend approval of the Sec 15-00161-04-RS – Gridley Road – CH 29, Motor Fuel Tax Resolution.

Motion carried.

Chairman Soeldner continued with the items for information. He presented the project summaries.

Mr. Schmitt reported that the hot mix base course on the Towanda Barnes Road widening project is in place on the 2 ½ new lanes and the curb and gutter is poured on the west side. The binder will be placed over the new lanes this week in preparation to switch traffic to the new lanes for winter. He stated that modification will be made to the phase II traffic plan to help with snow operations and increase the safety of the project.

Mr. Robustelli thanked Mr. Schmitt for the update on the Towanda Barnes Road. He suggested that with large scale projects such as this, having a page on the County website that provides the public with project updates and scheduling would be beneficial. Mr. Schmitt responded that project notices are on the County Highway website.

Ms. Metsker stated that with the delays in the project and the change in the traffic pattern, will this increase the engineering costs with Hanson. Mr. Schmitt responded that there will be additional costs. It was anticipated that all five lanes would be completed by winter. The weather was the major factor in pushing the project back.

Ms. Metsker asked if the new pavement will be compromised by the heavy equipment or salt. Mr. Schmitt responded that it would not.

Chairman Soeldner asked why there is such a variance in the elevation in some areas. Mr. Schmitt responded that the rise and fall in the road was removed. The road was also elevated slightly to assist in snow removal.

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Mr. Schmitt updated the Committee on the Bike Trail from Shelborne to Towanda Avenue and Normal to Towanda. He advised that they have paved the first 1 ½ inches from Towanda to Airport Road. 3 inches of mix will be added this week. He advised that the project may not be completed this season.

Chairman Soeldner stated that Member Finch sent him a link to a report on the Federal Transportation Bill funding. The State is working a six year bill, funded for the first three years. The Senate bill is slightly higher than the house. Both are funded at current levels plus inflation.

Chairman Soeldner presented an article in the Pantagraph stating that there is \$101,000,000 in fuel tax owed to cities, counties and municipalities. MFT continues to be collected. He stated that at the Town Hall Meeting with the Governor he pointed out to the Governor that a quarter of the County Highway Department Revenue comes from MFT. The Governor implied that there is no reason why the County would not receive the MFT funding once a budget is in place.

Mr. Robustelli stated that rural transportation systems such as SHOW BUS are struggling under the lack of a budget. He asked how much longer SHOW BUS can continue without State appropriations. Mr. Stokes, Assistant County Administrator, responded that the State Comptroller has allowed funds to be released. For FY 2016, SHOW BUS Grant funds will be reverted back to the 2015 levels.

Chairman Soeldner stated that the next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 in Room 400.

Chairman Soeldner asked if there was any other business to come before the Committee. Hearing none, Chairman Soeldner adjourned the November 3, 2015 Transportation Committee Meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary