

Minutes of the Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee of the McLean County Board met on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Bass, Members Hoselton, Baggett, Dean, O'Connor, and Cavallini

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Members Present: Mr. John Zeunik, County Administrator;
Ms. Christine Northcutt, Recording Secretary,
County Administrator's Office

Department Heads Present: Mr. Jack Mitchell, County Engineer,
Mr. Eric Schmitt, Assistant County Engineer

Others Present: Ms. Connie Johnson, Accounting Specialist II,
Auditor's Office; Ms. Christine Brauer, Regional
Planning Commission

Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. He stated that he would entertain a motion to approve the minutes of the August 15, 2006 meeting.

Motion by Hoselton/Cavallini to recommend approval of the minutes of the August 15, 2006 Transportation Committee Meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass stated that the next item is the approval of the bills from August, 2006.

Motion by Hoselton/Baggett to recommend approval of the bills for August, 2006 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass informed the Committee that the first item for action is an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Bloomington and McLean County and an Engineering Agreement with the Farnsworth Group for the construction and implementation of traffic signals on the corner of Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that currently, there are signals on Towanda-Barnes Road at the intersections of Route 9, Ireland Grove Road, G.E. Road and Ft. Jesse Road. Last year, a child care business located on Oakland Avenue had contacted the Highway Department requesting that a light be added at that intersection. In response, the County conducted a traffic study. The study did not warrant traffic signals at that time, but agreed to conduct yearly traffic studies at that intersection. Upon testing the intersection again this year, traffic signals are warranted at this time. The City of Bloomington and the County have agreed to split the cost of engineering, construction and right-of-way of this project 50/50. The County owns both the north and south leg of Towanda-Barnes Road. The City of Bloomington owns the west leg of Oakland Avenue and conceded that there will likely be development on the east leg of Oakland Avenue soon. That development would likely be annexed into the City of Bloomington. The agreement also outlined the maintenance and energy costs should be shared at 50/50 on this intersection and added intersection of Towanda-Barnes and Ireland Grove Road. That intersection was previously 100% the County's responsibility.

Mr. Cavallini asked what a project like this will cost. Mr. Mitchell stated that will not be known until after an intersection design study is completed. That will determine where turn lanes are needed and so forth. Mr. Mitchell estimated that the cost will be between \$250,000.00 - \$300,000.00.

Mr. Hoselton asked why this engineering work will not be done in house. Mr. Mitchell responded that the County does not employ an engineer with the expertise to complete an intersection design study. It will take someone who is experienced in traffic engineering. The traffic signals themselves are also very complicated. Mr. Mitchell stated that the City of Bloomington always hires out for engineering design as well.

Motion by Dean/Cavallini to recommend approval of an Intergovernmental Agreement between McLean County and the City of Bloomington and an Engineering Agreement with the Farnsworth Group for an Intersection Design Study for Traffic Signals at the intersection of Towanda-Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue. Motion carried.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the next item is an Altered Speed Zone Resolution for the Village of Colfax and for the Village of Stanford. Mr. Mitchell explained that residents of a subdivision in Colfax requested the altered speed zone in Colfax. The Village Board of Stanford requested the altered speed zone in Stanford. Mr. Mitchell noted that County Highway 13 in Colfax goes through a subdivision that wasn't previously there. At the residents' request, the Highway Department ran a speed study and learned that the speed should be reduced to 40 MPH from 55 MPH.

The Village of Stanford has annexed some land to the south located on County Highway 59. They are expecting some development in that area. There is already a fertilizer plant in that area. The Village Board has requested the speed limit be lowered to 30 MPH from 55 MPH. Mr. Mitchell stated that he recommends approval of both of these requests.

Motion by Hoselton/O'Connor to recommend an Altered
Speed Zoned Resolution for the Village of Colfax and
the Village of Stanford. Motion carried.

Chairman Bass asked Mr. Mitchell to present the project summary. Mr. Mitchell stated that the work is complete of the Ellsworth Wind Farm Box Culverts. They are awaiting material inspection for the final payment.

The resurfacing work has been completed in the Horizon Wind Farm Resurfacing project. There are radii that need to be completed.

The hot-mix work on Old 150 or White Oak Road is now complete. The shoulder work is still being worked on and the signals are still incomplete at the College Ave. intersection.

The piers have been driven and the caps have been poured on the bridge replacement project on White Oak Road. Mr. Baggett asked how much longer the bridge will be closed. Mr. Mitchell estimated an additional six weeks.

The work on the Peacock Bridge is almost completed. Mr. Mitchell informed the Committee that Entler Excavating did a very good job on their first County project.

The Letcher Street Culvert in Chenoa is complete. The project only needs final dressing.

The Fairfield Culvert should be completed soon, weather permitting.

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Mr. Mitchell stated that there is nothing new to report on the East Side Highway Study.

Chairman Bass asked if there were any other questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northcutt
Recording Secretary

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