

Champaign County Board
Committee Minutes

Highway & Transportation Committee

Friday, February 8, 2008 – 9:00 a.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Beckett, Jay, Langenheim, Melin, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bensyl, Carter, Knott

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Debby Wagner, Pius Weibel

Agenda Item

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Melin to approve the agenda and addendum as presented; seconded by Jay.
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes – November 9, 2007

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of November 9, 2007 as presented; seconded by Melin.
Motion carried.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – November 2007, December 2007, January 2008

MOTION by Beckett to receive and place on the file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for November 2007, December 2007 and January 2008; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Beckett to approve the final bridge reports; seconded by Jay.

Ms. Melin asked why the contractor is the same for all the bridges. Mr. Blue explained they have one contractor, Newell Construction, who bids on all the smaller projects.

Motion carried.

County Engineer

Petition – Mahomet Road District

Mr. Blue explained this is Turkey Farm Road, near 150. The road needs to be widened over the top of a box culvert. The estimated cost is \$90,000 and the County will help with a 50% share of that cost.

MOTION by Beckett to recommend County Board Approval of the Petition requesting and the Resolution approving appropriation of funds from the County Bridge Fund for Mahomet Road District; seconded by Langenheim.

Mr. Beckett asked what our relationship and responsibility is with the Townships. Mr. Blue explained that the bridge fund, by statute, is to be used to help Township Bridge Projects first and when those have been funded the money can be used on County bridges.

Motion carried.

Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #08-00000-00-ES.

Mr. Blue explained the total is \$22,705.00 from Motor Fuel Tax Funds for our share of CUUATS.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board Approval of the Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #08-00000-00-ES; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the salary and estimated expenses of the County Engineer for the period from December 1, 2007 thru November 30, 2008

Mr. Blue explained this is authorizing half the salary commitment be taken from the surface transportation fund for December 2007 thru November 30, 2008

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the salary and estimated expenses of the County Engineer for the period December 1, 2007 thru November 30, 2008; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Douglas County for the replacement of Structure #010-3322 located on the Champaign-Douglas County Line and appropriating funds for this agreement – Champaign County Section #07-08938-00-BR

Mr. Blue explained this bridge is on the county line and anytime that happens, the statute obligates the Counties that are adjacent to jointly pay for the bridge. Payment is based upon assessed evaluation and we are obligated to just over 92% and Douglas County is obligated for the remaining 8%. We will use Township Bridge Funds to help with the cost of that structure and the rest will come from County bridge funds.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board Approval of the Resolution authorizing the County Board Chair to sign an Intergovernmental Agreement with Douglas County for the replacement of Structure #010-3322 located on the Champaign-Douglas County Line and appropriating funds for this agreement – Champaign County Section #07-08938-00-BR; seconded by Beckett.

Mr. Blue explained the state statute reads that if any bridge is within 80 rods of the County line it is considered to be a county line bridge.

Motion carried.

Addendum

Resolution appropriating \$450,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Drainage Improvements to County Highway 17 – Section #07-00420-00-DR.

Mr. Blue stated this is for their major construction project for this year. This is a federal Aid Project and they are going to be overlaying the road from Ivesdale to Sadorus. The total cost is a couple of million dollars and the drainage improvements exceed the money IDOT has appropriated. They are pulling the under drain work out of the contract and let it as a separate contract in March, the day before the next Highway meeting. This resolution appropriates the money to do that.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$450,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Drainage Improvements to County Highway 17 – Section #07-00420-00-DR; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

CLOSED SESSION

MOTION by Beckett to enter into closed session pursuant to 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (5) for the purpose of discussing whether real property should be leased for the use of Champaign County; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried** with a 6/0 roll call vote. Voting yes was Cowart, Beckett, Jay, Langenheim, Melin and O'Connor. There were no nay votes.

The committee entered into closed session at 9:42 a.m.

The committee entered into open session at 9:53 a.m.

Building Update

Mr. Blue explained they are getting close to the end of contractor work within the building and it appears the majority of that work will be completed in March. He feels it would be best not to move in until there is asphalt which will be the last thing done before they move in, which he believes will be April or May. He offered a tour to any committee member interested in seeing the building.

Curtis Road Update

Mr. Blue explained they have the majority of land owners taken care of, the Henderson issue has been taken care of and they have come to an agreement. They are in various stages of quick take authority with a few of the land owners. He stated they are on track to do the utility relocations this summer and fall, the gas pipeline from the U of I needs to be relocated before October. Once they get the right of way taken care of, then it is the utility relocations then the project is set to be bid in January 2009 and begin work when weather allows in the spring of 2009. The next thing coming is the financing of the utility relocation and construction work on Curtis Road. He provided the committee with a spreadsheet, broken down into monthly commitments, showing what the total costs will be for the County's share. The County has a 50% share of the right of way with a cost of \$850,000 that was budgeted for in 2007 and 2008 so we have \$850,000 set aside in MFT through an agreement. Our share for the utility relocation is \$553,000 and the County's construction share is 2 million. They intend to do all the construction engineering with the city and not hire a consultant so all the dollar amounts shown under that are internal costs. Dennis Schmidt has asked him for a spreadsheet with our money and funds so they can take that to their finance people with our availability and timeline and work on an agreement to finance the project.

The spreadsheet shows no cash flow out of MFT or any other funds through 2009 because Windsor and Monticello Roads will be in that timeline and we don't have the 2009 cash flow to use MFT money to fund those. When he did cash flow projections with MFT, if we were to commit \$700,000 to this project per year we would be able to make it cash flow with our MFT funds, showing \$80,000 payment in the months from April 2010 thru November 2010 and in December 2010, \$23,000 to finish construction and do record drawing. In June of 2011 it shows we could pay a \$700,000 commitment toward the project and in June of 2012 that would be the balance of our commitment to that project. Looking beyond the scope of the project, there are 1 million dollars that we are going to be asking the City of Champaign to cash flow for us. He has been adamant that we don't want to pay any interest and he doesn't know if they will be open to that but we told them we wouldn't be able to cash flow this a few years ago so this isn't new. This information is what he is going to present to Mr. Schmidt.

Mr. Becket asked how unusual it is for us to ask for this and for the waiver of interest. Mr. Blue stated we have never done this with the City of Champaign nor asked any other entity to cash flow for us but when we did the Lierman Avenue project that was a 3 year pay back from the City of Urbana with no interest charged at all. This is where we are at, they are in the preliminary draft stage for an agreement for the utility relocation and construction funding and this is the information they are going to use to try and draft that agreement.

Other Business

Mr. Blue stated he had a conversation with the Chief Financial Officer for Heartland Ethanol who is the chief for the Royal site. He was told that Royal is still a viable place to put a plant and they have spent money to develop the site but it is on hold and he doesn't know if it will ever come; they cannot get the financing to build the plant at this time.

With that information he talked to IDOT about the Economic Development Funds and if the plant doesn't come the money doesn't come. This means the money already spent is the smallest of our problems. In the agreement there was a stipulation that guaranteed the County 80% of the total construction contract out of state funds. The agreement read that there will be a lump sum paid from TARP money, 50% of the money left after was to be paid for with the Economic Program Funds and that number is about \$380,000. The third line says 80% can come out of federal funds but comes after EDF funds meaning what we thought would cost us nothing is now going to cost about \$150,000. The part of the project that is going to be more of a money burden are the two bridges that were bid last year; contractors have had pre-construction meetings and are ready to start in March. Regardless if there is going to be a plant or not, those bridges needed to be replaced and we were going to get money to do that but now we are not. The amount is 1.1 million dollars and half the money was to come from MFT, that leaves us with a \$500,000 shortfall of money that we will need to come up with out of the bridge fund, the good news is we have a balance in our bridge fund for things like this.

If the project does happen in the future we would still get the money. The agreements would still be good.

Mr. Beckett stated at the Facilities meetings they have been talking about an open house to take place on a Saturday morning after the asphalt is laid. They can discuss it more at next months meeting.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

All action items will be placed on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary