

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation
Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center

November 10, 2005

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart (Chair), Bensyl, Carter, Gross, Jay,
Langenheim

MEMBERS ABSENT: Feinen, O'Connor, Weibel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Debby Wagner, Tracy
Wingler, Deb Busey, Barb Wysocki, Susan
McGrath, Chris Doenitz, Marvin Johnson,
Rick Wolken

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. Declaring a quorum present, the Chair proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Bensyl. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2005; October 7, 2005 Closed Session; August 23, 2005 Closed Session; August 31, 2005 Closed Session

MOTION by Bensyl to approve the minutes of October 7, 2005 as presented; seconded by Carter.

Mr. Jay stated he was present at the October 7, 2005 meeting but his name is not included with the members present.

MOTION carried as amended.

MOTION by Jay to approve the closed session minutes of October 7, 2005, August 23, 2005 and August 31, 2005 as presented; seconded by Gross. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Langenheim arrived at 9:08 a.m.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports – County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims

MOTION by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for October 2005; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Langenheim to receive and place on file the County Final Bridge Reports; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

When asked if these bridges are complete, Mr. Blue explained they are complete and paid for and there will be no more money paid to these contracts.

County Engineer

Ordinance for the Establishment of an altered speed zone in Philo Road District

Mr. Blue explained, at the request of the road commissioner, a speed study was done on 1500 East, just to the west of Philo Road. As a result of that study, and the request from the Township Road Commissioner, they are recommending a 40 mile per hour speed zone in that area.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Ordinance for the establishment of an altered speed zone in Philo Road District; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

New Highway Department Facility

Mr. Blue explained that after the joint meeting with Facilities in October, the Architects downsized the building 9,000 square feet and presented a new cost of \$7,085,691.00. The new project was approved by the committees and forwarded to the County Board. He explained there are still some issues to be worked out with the CAC, before the County Board meeting, but that Mr. Inman is working to resolve them

Ms. Busey explained that the approval to move ahead with the facility does not mean the financing will be moving ahead at this time, although everyone has an understanding of how the financing will work when that time comes.

Fringe Roads

Mr. Blue presented each committee member with a handout explaining there are 2 different goal and recommendation sheets, one from the cities of Urbana and Champaign dated September 9th and one he prepared on behalf of the County. The information from the Cities is the same as what they brought to the table in order for us to meet our obligations, as they see them. Their first recommendation was that the million dollar cap be removed; they are also recommending County funded projects include non-STU federally funded streets. He believes the county has no funding mechanism to fund those types of projects, MFT can be used on County roads or things related to County roads or on federally funded projects that go through the MPO but nowhere does it allow us to use it on municipal streets that are not federally funded. Our county highway fund is set up by statute and can only be used on County Highways. They also recommend that projects be prioritized within the communities and a committee be formed that will come up with a way to prioritize projects County wide, Mr. Blue stated he doesn't believe there is an equitable formula we could come up with that could compare county roads to city streets. They believe their recommendations could be the basis for a new fringe road agreement, He agrees there needs to be something formulized showing future commitments to projects so he has also created a goal and recommendation list. He believes we must develop a county wide pavement/asset management system to aid the County in making fiscal decisions with respect to the local transportation system. He suggests the County work closely with the cities, villages, university and state to accurately assess the financial commitment needed from the County to complete the projects which have current signed agreements. He also believes CUUAT S must examine the current funding split of 50/50 federal to local on STU projects and he recommends each entity explore any funding options available. He agrees a committee should be created to formalize information exchange between all entities and a new fringe road agreement must be approved with each entity.

Ms. Gross reported she attended a BigSmallAll discussion and one of the priorities stated was to control urban sprawl. She believes these fringe roads will only encourage urban sprawl and that we should not increase our fringe road spending.

Mr. Langenheim stated he would endorse the suggestion of impact fees because this places the cost of the fringe roads on the people who initiate the cost, and work should be done to get those established.

County Engineer Cont.

Mr. Bensyl stated he cannot understand how the cities are thinking when they want us to pay more money and remove our cap and they also want us to continue to enter into future agreements when we don't have the money to do what we have now. He stated that signing papers doesn't do any good if there is no money to spend.

Mr. Jay stated it is obvious our cap was a last ditch effort to salvage our integrity and it should stay in place and move forward. He stated we shouldn't lose sight of the North Prospect area as an example of what was going to be a 2 lane road that turned into a bigger issue, he also pointed out North Prospect was a Township Road until the County decided to get involved.

Mr. Blue stated he wanted to make sure the committee was still behind him on this issue, he also explained there will be a guest commentary published in the News-Gazette in response to a letter from Mayor Prussing.

Pavement Management Program

Mr. Blue explained he is bringing this before the committee as a direct result of the fringe road discussion. He believes we need to do a better job as a County formalizing our needs, from a viewpoint broader than his own. He went to a local firm, Applied Research Associates who is well known for their pavement management programs, and asked if they could help us, and as a result they provided him with a presentation which explains their services. He summarized the program, explaining that pavement management includes regular tasks of inventory and monitoring pavement condition, updating data bases and costs, improving performance model and optimizing decision making. This will allow us to plan and program and do economic analysis of projects and our system as a whole. The approximate cost, to do our entire system of 200 miles, is \$76,550.00. He feels this is a relatively inexpensive cost to justify our decisions and in addition the federal government, who is looking for a test county to do the rolling weight deflect testing, has about \$15,000 they would also contribute to this project making our bottom line cost around \$62,000. They can use MFT money to fund this with the annual cost around \$20,000 to keep the program going. He feels it is justifiable to spend this money and explained that once we get a firm hold on what we need to be doing, it will save us money in the future.

MOTION by Langenheim to provide the County Engineer with the authority to begin contract negotiations with Applied Research Associates to begin the process of implementing a pavement management/pavement asset program for Champaign County; seconded by Jay.

County Engineer Cont.

When asked if this project needs to go through the RFP process, Mr. Blue explained this is the only firm in the Country that does this type of work and they don't have to go through the RFP process although it will come back to committee and on to the full board for approval.

MOTION Carried.

Resolution for Award Authority for Township Materials Letting

Mr. Blue explained that there is a material letting set for Wednesday, November 16th at 10:00 a.m. for all aggregate materials for Champaign County. New rules from IDOT state they cannot make any formal award of contract until 8 days after a letting therefore he would like approval to accept the low bidder as long as the commissioners in each Township concur, it will then go before the Board in November.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for Contract Award Authority Furnishing Materials for the 2006 maintenance of various road districts in Champaign County with the County Engineer accepting the low bid for materials on behalf of Champaign County in concurrence with the recommendation of the Road District Commissioners; Seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

Mr. Blue stated his thanks to everyone who attended the joint meeting with Facilities and for their support of the new building.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6 A and E on the November 17th County Board Consent Agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary