

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation

Friday, May 11, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Beckett, Bensyl, Carter, Jay, Knott,
Langenheim, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Melin

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Pius Weibel, Susan McGrath

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Beckett to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – April 2007

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

County Engineer

Petition – Rantoul Road District

Mr. Blue explained this is work needed to stabilize the slope underneath the bridge. The cost is \$16,640.00.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the petition requesting and resolution approving appropriation of funds from the County Bridge Fund for Rantoul Road District; seconded by Langenheim.

Mr. Blue explained this money is out of the bridge fund and is set aside for township projects like this, our portion is \$8,000.

Motion carried.

Resolution appropriating \$21,624 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #07-00000-00-ES

Mr. Blue explained that this is our share of CUUATS and is an annual thing we do in order to fund our portion.

MOTION by Beckett to recommend County Board approval of the resolution appropriating 421,624 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #07-00000-00-ES; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution for Contract Award Authority for 2007 Pavement Striping Section #07-00000-01-GM

Mr. Blue explained that we stripe 90% of our roads every year as well as some township and village roads. They will open the bids on May 17th but for timeliness issues, to get it done as soon as possible, he would like the authority to award it as long as it is within 10%.

MOTION by Beckett to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for Contract Award Authority for 2007 Pavement Striping Section #07-00000-01-GM; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Petition – Kerr Road District

Mr. Blue explained this is for stabilization of some bank that has washed out around the bridge.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the petition requesting and resolution approving the appropriation of funds for Kerr Road District; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Report to Committee on MFT Construction including fringe roads

Mr. Blue stated at the last meeting Mr. Gray from the City of Urbana attended with a request for us to help fund a portion of Washington street extension. He was directed at that time to come back with information to report on our financial situation. He has updated the cost shares from the City of Champaign and Urbana, updated Curtis Road all phases as well as Windsor Road and developed a spread sheet which shows our commitments and where they put us. Curtis Road phase 1 ends in 2007 and we are 95% complete with that project.

Into the right of way portion of Curtis Road Phase II, the 2008 costs for phase II will be the utility adjustments and 2009 and 2010 is the actual construction of phase II. Curtis Road phase III will be a project we fund jointly with the Village of Savoy and it seems that will be around 2014. The numbers shown are the best estimate we can have right now. There is also a big project putting in an underpass under a railway and the ICC to this point is committed to fund up to 60% of this project. The Windsor Road project had some engineering done in 2005 and 2006; the 2007 money is primarily for that with construction in 2009 and 2010. Our MFT commitment is 1 million dollars, by resolution.

In talking with Bill Gray, the City's thought was that we have this resolution for funding of fringe roads and they would like to know how we would split it up between the two communities. Our best assumption would be by population so we looked up census numbers and it is a 65/35 split based on that. Mr. Blue then took our MFT commitment and split it between the communities as a baseline for dividing the money. Urbana, with only Windsor Road, stays above water with our 35% contribution but Champaign dips into the red. He explained we are headed for a large deficit, assuming we don't do any real major construction in 2012 and 2013 we can come out of that deficit but if we were to do Curtis Road phase III prior to any Urbana project which may come up there is a significant amount of our funds going to Champaign projects.

He would like the committee to review this spreadsheet and think about the County's position.

Mr. Beckett stated the request for Washington Street from Urbana is more like a good neighbor agreement than a fringe road agreement. He stated it is not fair for a County Board in 1994 to say our funds are committed to these forever, we have to take care of our own roads but we also need to be good neighbors.

Mr. Blue stated beyond these two projects, the only ones that have ever been put into an agreement are Olympian Drive and there is some reference to Philo Road south of Windsor in the original agreement with the City of Urbana, other than that these projects complete the original list.

Mr. Jay stated the whole purpose with our cap was to get a handle on where we are headed. He stated we should not enter into any further agreements until we get ourselves in better shape.

Ms. McGrath stated that fringe road agreement only contains the four items Mr. Blue mentioned. The request from Urbana is not mandated by the agreement or any subsequent agreement, it is up to the committee but she feels it would be a courtesy to respond to their request; we can wait until we have the pavement study presentation or we can do it now.

Mr. Weibel stated we should wait until after the pavement study presentation to respond to Urbana.

Committee consensus to move the June meeting to 8:00 a.m. to allow for the pavement management study presentation. Committee consensus to move the June meeting back one week to June 15th.

MOTION by Langenheim to place the report presented by Mr. Blue on file; seconded by Bensyl. **Motion carried.**

Curtis Road Update

Mr. Blue explained they removed one of the parcels, the Hendersons, from the condemnation and quick take resolutions that were before the board last month. Since that time they have been working with Clark Dietz and staying in contact with the Henderson's who own the property, to come to a resolution. They had seven different engineers look at this and they can't come up with a better solution and only other possibility is to put an underground box culvert in which is estimated to cost 1 million dollars. The city can no longer allow Curtis to be a dam to that water because what happens in a rain event, it is a traffic hazard for cars on the road. He and Ms. McGrath met with the Henderson's yesterday and they feel it would be appropriate to have a peer review done of Clark Dietz work and we will hire another firm who has expertise in doing that. This is information only for the committee.

Mr. Jay stated he wants to be sure we do the right thing and he is concerned that we won't get an unbiased opinion.

Mr. Blue explained the Henderson's attorney requested we use a non local firm for this. Regardless of what they do, there will be an easement.

Committee consensus for the County Engineer to move forward

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus that all items will be placed on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary