



**Champaign County Board
Highway & Transportation Committee
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

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MINUTES – Approved 10/3/2014

DATE: Friday, August 8, 2014
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Lorraine Cowart (Chair)	
Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair)	
	Christopher Alix
John Jay	
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
Max Mitchell	
Michael Richards	

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Rita Morocoima-Black (RPC), Ashlee McLaughlin (RPC) Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Keith Brandau (Illinois Society of Professional Engineers)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

A. Highway & Transportation Committee Meeting – August 8, 2014

MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

IV. Public Participation

Keith Brandau from the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers presented Mr. Blue the 2014 Illinois Government Engineer of the Year award. He stated that every year the State gets nominations from Federal, State, County, and Municipal engineers and this year Mr. Blue was chosen to receive the award. Mr. Brandau stated that Mr. Blue’s name will be forwarded to the National Society of Professional Engineers for consideration of the national award.

42 **V. Approval of Minutes**

43 A. June 6, 2014

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45 **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the June 6, 2014 Highway & Transportation meeting minutes;
46 seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

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48 **VI. County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – June and July 2014**

49 **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for June
50 and July 2014; seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

51
52 **VII. Resolution Appropriating \$28,978 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the County’s Share of CUUATS**
53 **Fees for the Period July 1, 2014 thru June 30, 2015 – Section #14-00000-00-ES.**

54 Mr. Blue explained that this is their equalized share of the funds for CUUATS. He stated that they do
55 many things for us including a multitude of highway safety improvement projects. He stated the money
56 spent for CUUATS wouldn’t begin to cover outside professional services. **MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to
57 approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

58
59 **VIII. LRTP Presentation**

60 Ms. Morocoima-Black briefly explained the Long Range Transportation Plan 2040. She stated this is an
61 update of the work they have done so far. She said they will bring this back to committee in two months
62 for a resolution of approval of the document. Ms. Morocoima-Black said the plan need to be approved by
63 the CUUATS technical and policy boards in order for member agencies to get federal funding in the
64 following years. She then turned it over to Ms. McLaughlin.

65
66 Ms. McLaughlin summarized how they gather data, how it is all put together, and why it is necessary. She
67 said two new things in this plan are an extensive community outreach and increased statistical modeling
68 capabilities. She summarized how they did the community outreach. Ms. Michaels wanted to know why
69 Rantoul was not included. Ms. McLaughlin explained that they are not in the MPO at this time. She
70 explained many things are included such as transportation, bicycling, land use, population, age, health,
71 air and water quality, employment, and ethnicity, and summarized how each relates to the report.

72
73 Ms. McLaughlin reported that very few workers walk to work and safety is an issue. She stated that
74 pedestrian/vehicle crashes have increased in the last 10 years. She commented that the public has said
75 that better sidewalk access and connectivity are needed. Ms. McLaughlin said that there is still some
76 confusion on bicycles and vehicles sharing the road safely. She also noted that MTD ridership has
77 increased significantly. Ms. Michaels asked if it was only MTD or included CRIS. Ms. McLaughlin said it
78 was only MTD. She stated that feedback showed people wanted more service, higher frequency, more
79 direct routes and safer bus stops.

80
81 Ms. McLaughlin said that complete streets, access management, and roundabouts are the three main
82 guidelines they use for roadway development. Mr. McGuire inquired if roundabouts would be part of the
83 plan. Ms. McLaughlin replied not at this time. Ms. Michaels felt this was more about what MTD would
84 like to do and stated that she would like to see more about how the entire county is part of this plan
85 rather than just the MTD needs. She also asked what CUUATS wanted from the Highway Committee. Ms.
86 Morocoima-Black said they want nothing now, but are presenting this information to them as a member
87 of CUUATS. She said that the plan is a federal requirement that needs to be approved by all the entities
88 working as part of CUUATS. Ms. Michaels felt it wasn’t proportional to the entire County and noted that
89 Rantoul and St. Joseph were not included. Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that they were not included
90 because of federal regulations for funding, but that as part of the LRMP there is a suggestion to develop a
91 Champaign County Plan.

94 Ms. McLaughlin continued by stating that there is not much congestion, but noted that most complaints
95 about congestion are for North Prospect. She noted that while Amtrak ridership is up, plane travel is
96 lower. She stated that people talk about having high-speed rail and would like more flights to bigger hubs.
97

98 Ms. McLaughlin indicated the critical issues are focused to six areas; safety and security, balanced
99 development, multi-modal connectivity, accessibility and affordability, healthy neighborhoods, and
100 resilient economy. She gave a brief summary of each. She noted that some projects in the 2035 plan will
101 carry forward to the 2040 plan. Ms. McLaughlin stated the final steps that will be presented next time are
102 future funding projections and project implementation. She said they need to finalize the 2040 vision and
103 figure out the details of what the financial feasibility of what the different projects are. Mr. McGuire
104 asked if using an MTD bus predisposed the responses. Ms. McLaughlin answered yes to some degree, but
105 that they made it clear that they were not part of MTD and were collecting data about all modes. Ms.
106 Morocoima-Black also said that they went to several events without the bus present to collect surveys.
107

108 Mr. Mitchell expressed interest in separating the airport from the University of Illinois and bringing in
109 some no-frills airlines. Ms. Morocoima-Black stated they have proposed more development around the
110 airport. Ms. McLaughlin explained that by making all roadways more accessible to all users doesn't mean
111 they are removing or constructing roadways for cars, it means that they take into consideration the desire
112 for people to walk and bike.
113

114 Mr. Mitchell asked if they had studied the infrastructures of the municipalities around Champaign-Urbana
115 to see what the capacities are. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they work with the comprehensive plan that
116 was developed. She said that there is coordination among the different agencies of CUUATS on the
117 different project. Ms. Michaels thought that one of the municipalities or MTD would have been the lead
118 agency for this and then it would be enhanced. She felt the study was more about what is going on with
119 transportation in the city, and the County would enhance by helping out around. She said she doesn't
120 care for the fact that the County is in charge. Ms. McLaughlin replied that their agency is a coordinating
121 agency for seven municipalities. Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that only certain areas qualify for
122 federal funding. Ms. Busey stated that the Regional Planning Commission coordinates planning for the
123 entire region including the municipalities. She said that just because this project doesn't focus on the
124 rural areas it's still a County initiative that has to be planned through the Regional Planning Commission
125 which is a County entity.
126

127 **IX. Petition – Somer Road District**

128 Mr. Blue summarized the petition for replacing a culvert in the Somer Road District with an approximate
129 cost of \$47,000 and asked for the committee's approval. **MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve; seconded
130 by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.
131

132 **X. Resolution Appropriating \$250,000 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for De-icing Salt.**

133 Mr. Blue reported that the quote they received this year for de-icing salt is \$108/ton. He noted the
134 money he is requesting will get them 2300 tons, which is less than the 3500 tons they normally get. Mr.
135 Blue said that to purchase the needed amount would have put them over budget. He indicated that all
136 salt should be delivered by December 1. He also said they used the same bid to get salt for Mahomet
137 Township and the Village of Savoy. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell.
138

139 Mr. Richards asked for the actual total. Mr. Blue didn't have the exact figure, but Mr. McGuire did the
140 math and said \$249,044. Mr. Richards asked what the cost was last year. Mr. Blue replied 3500 tons at
141 \$54/ton, which Mr. Richards said was about \$189,000. Mr. Blue said the difference is a result of supply
142 and demand. Ms. Cowart asked if they could bid a year ahead. Mr. Blue replied that they use CMS for
143 bidding and have to have the number of tons to them by late April. He said they may try bidding on their
144 own earlier to see what they can get. He noted that if it's too high they can still go through CMS again.
145

146 Mr. Jay asked if the townships have been able to address their needs. Mr. Blue answered that more rural
147 townships don't use much salt, that it's used more in the more urbanized areas. Mr. Jay asked about
148 using cinders and wanted to know if that was still an option. Mr. Blue said they could use it on rural roads
149 but they don't have the facility to mix it. He said they share the dome with the City of Urbana and they
150 don't want cinders on the city roads. He said that if this becomes a long term issue they probably need to
151 look at having their own facility where they can mix it. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**
152

153 **XI. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

154 Items VII, IX and X are to be placed on the consent agenda.
155

156 **XII. Other Business**

157 Mr. Blue said the October 10, 2014 meeting conflicts with the Illinois Association of County Engineers
158 annual meeting and he would like to move the meeting to October 3, 2014. Ms. Busey suggested putting
159 it on the September agenda so a motion can be made to change the meeting date.
160

161 Mr. Blue provided a handout for the Olympian Drive ground breaking ceremony. He noted the ceremony
162 will be August 12, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the corner of Olympian Drive and Apollo Drive.
163

164 Mr. Blue passed out a press release about the ribbon cutting ceremony for the re-opening of Lake of the
165 Woods bridge. The ceremony will be at the north end of the bridge on August 15, 2014 at 10:00 am.
166

167 Mr. Blue handed out a budget amendment that is on the finance agenda for the COW. He explained that
168 \$250,000 is for the salt, \$400,000 is for the City of Urbana Philo Road project and \$750,000 for CH20 &
169 CH11 projects that were done this summer. He noted that when they did the FY2014 budget they did not
170 include cold-in-place recycling for two projects, but once work began they found that recycling could be
171 done. He said the handout is for informational purposes only of what would be at the COW meeting.
172

173 **XIII. Adjournment**

174 There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.