



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

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**MINUTES – APPROVED 11/7/2014**

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DATE: Friday, October 3, 2014  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

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**Committee Members**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
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)

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**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:11 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 – October 3, 2014

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IV. Public Participation**

None

**V. Approval of Minutes**

A. August 8, 2014

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve the August 8, 2014 Highway & Transportation meeting minutes; seconded by Richards. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**VI. County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – August & September 2014**

43 **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for  
44 August and September 2014; seconded by Mr. Jay. Ms. Michaels asked for clarification about the number  
45 of right-of-way purchases. Mr. Blue said they were for Dewey-Fisher Road. Upon vote, the **MOTION**  
46 **CARRIED unanimously.**  
47

48 **VII. Petition & Resolution – Pesotum Road District – Bridge Repair – Two Bridges**

49 Mr. Blue stated that this repair is for erosion control repairs for two bridges that will be repaired with rip-  
50 wrap. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Mr. Maxwell asked if it will be stabilizer  
51 or a regular repair. Mr. Blue replied it will be stabilizer. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**  
52

53 **VIII. Approval of Long Range Transportation Plan**

54 Mr. Blue explained that this resolution was drafted by the CUUATS staff for approval of the Long Range  
55 Transportation Plan. He noted that part of it was presented here and the full LRTP was presented at the  
56 last County Board meeting. He said they are asking for approval of the LRTP. He noted that Ms.  
57 Morocoima-Black is available to answer any questions. **MOTION** by Mr. Richards to approve the Long  
58 Range Transportation Plan; seconded by Mr. McGuire.  
59

60 Mr. McGuire asked if it was the plan that was presented to the Board or was it the same one presented  
61 here. Ms. Morocoima-Black said more was presented to the Board. She noted that the last five chapters  
62 that included the different projects and the budget had been added. She stated the document was put  
63 out three days ago for public comment and will be out for one month. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they  
64 sent letters to everybody letting them know the document is out. She noted the presentation at the  
65 September County Board meeting was more extensive than what was presented here.  
66

67 Ms. Michaels commented that she didn't understand the parameters of the plan and wanted to know if  
68 they were asking for approval that they've done a study and they're presenting a plan, or to approve the  
69 items that are going to be put into effect. Ms. Morocoima-Black replied they are asking for approval of  
70 the document which includes projects that will be implemented in the future. Ms. Michaels said that she  
71 didn't think she will support that at this time.  
72

73 Ms. Busey commented the plan is posted on the web site and there are a couple of weeks before the  
74 County Board meeting where there will be an official vote on it. She said if this committee is not  
75 comfortable in voting yes or no she strongly urged them to vote to forward it to the County Board for  
76 consideration.  
77

78 Mr. McGuire inquired if there is a reason it has to be voted on at the next County Board meeting. He said  
79 he can't vote for something that he hasn't looked at that was brought to the committee two days after it  
80 was done. Ms. Busey stated it will have been posted for nearly four weeks by the time the County Board  
81 will be asked to vote on it. Mr. McGuire stated that this committee is being expected to vote for it now.  
82 He noted that he has said many times that he has had problems with this document from the time it was  
83 first presented to them and that he doesn't know what's in it. Ms. Morocoima-Black stated that when  
84 they made the presentation to the committee they gave the link to the document on the website. She  
85 pointed out that the plan needs to be approved by the end of November by the RPC Board and by early  
86 December by CUUATS. She said if the document is not sent to the Federal Highway Administration they  
87 won't receive funds for planning or any projects for the community beginning January 1.  
88

89 Ms. Michaels asked if there was a summary of the document. Ms. Morocoima-Black answered that the  
90 last two chapters have the funding, projects, and allocations. She said those chapters were not presented  
91 here but were added in September. Ms. McLaughlin clarified that chapter 10 is future condition, chapter  
92 12 is the vision, chapter 13 is funding, and chapter 14 is implementation.  
93

94 Mr. Richards said that there is a long bureaucratic process for this but it has nothing to do with  
95 implementing projects. He noted they are not voting to approve anything in the plan, but something has  
96 to be on the books. He stated it is a check box the feds have to do before federal transportation money is  
97 given. Mr. Richards said they could still possibly get state money. He explained that any project would  
98 have to be voted on by the appropriate bodies and said approval of the plan is not giving the go-ahead for  
99 an item in 2027.

100  
101 Mr. McGuire said this is a plan to determine what they are going to do through 2040 and they are being  
102 asked in three days to decide if they want what's in the plan. He said that he doesn't know if he wants  
103 everything that's in the plan because he hasn't been told what it is until now. He felt it was unfair to the  
104 representatives of the County Board. He felt the people from Mahomet are underserved because Lincoln  
105 Avenue was a mess and noted that Mahomet is part of this study. He felt the document is overly focused  
106 on bikes and mass transit. He said he has no idea from the presentation how much automobile use will  
107 increase in the next 20-30 years and how much their ability to move those types of transportation  
108 through the County will be. He felt it was unfair because it could drastically harm the ability of our  
109 economy. He felt that bringing this to them three days before and asking them to vote on it is a problem.  
110

111 Mr. Richards stated they can pass this to the Board and said he doesn't want everything that's in it either.  
112 He pointed out that this is not obligating them to do any of the projects and said that will be for future  
113 County Boards to decide. Mr. Richards acknowledged that this has been a long process and asked what  
114 could be done to change anything in the plan. Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that the plan is just a  
115 vision for the future in the community. She confirmed that any project that is part of the future plan will  
116 still have to go through the proper committees and agencies for approval.  
117

118 Mr. Jay stated his suggestion was to move it to the County Board without recommendation. He pointed  
119 out that if they don't like it at the County Board level they can vote against it. Ms. Michaels commented  
120 that it gets confusing when approved projects are mixed with visionary projects. She felt they would be  
121 voting for potential projects because they are meshed with the approved projects. Ms. Morocoima-Black  
122 explained that they are voting for future ideas that will be brought to the Board to discuss in detail. Mr.  
123 Jay said he disagrees with what they've been told. He said if this is passed they will say that Highway  
124 approved it when that is not what they really want to do. **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to amend the motion  
125 and send it to the Full Board; seconded by Mr. Richards.  
126

127 Mr. Maxwell asked if a project comes up that isn't in the document but rises to the top, can it still be  
128 done. Ms. Morocoima-Black replied that this plan is done every five years and they can amend the plan to  
129 include a new project if it is for federal funding. Ms. McLaughlin clarified that the funding is only for  
130 urbanized areas.  
131

132 Mr. McGuire said the problem he has with the situation is it seems they have a whole study but only have  
133 a short time to discuss the program itself before making a decision. He thought it unfair that they don't  
134 have time to digest what is being sent to the federal government. He said that because of the time it  
135 takes to get a project going, changing or adding something after they've approved it is almost impossible.  
136 He stated they aren't given any opportunity to change or add to it and felt that it's unfair to them or any  
137 of the communities involved.  
138

139 Mr. Blue pointed out that this is not a process that Ms. Morocoima-Black and her staff came up with. He  
140 said it's been handed down from FHWA. He said they didn't come up with this yesterday but have been  
141 working on it for 2-½ years. Mr. McGuire said he was talking about it coming out three days ago and  
142 having to vote on it, and then going to the County Board two weeks later. Mr. Blue noted that 80% was  
143 already approved in the 2035 plan and that only 20% is new to the 2040 plan. Ms. Morocoima-Black said  
144 there are no details about the projects for the additional five years. Ms. McLaughlin remarked that the  
145 plan has been out for some time and the Committee and Full Board were provided with links. Ms.

146 Michaels asked if the links were provided by email. Ms. McLaughlin said they were provided in memos in  
147 August and September, but not by email. Mr. McGuire stated that he couldn't find it with all the other  
148 information on the website and the direct link has only out for three days. Ms. Morocoima-Black replied  
149 that it has only been out for three days for public comment, but the committee has had access since the  
150 August presentation. Ms. McLaughlin asked that she be emailed if anyone has trouble with the link or  
151 would like a full copy dropped off to them. Mr. Blue felt it would be a good idea to send the link to the  
152 Full County Board. Ms. McLaughlin said it was in the memo to the Full County Board.  
153

154 Mr. Richards suggested it would be good to have a separate email with the link sent to the Board  
155 regarding this issue only. Ms. Morocoima-Black agreed to send an email with the link to all County Board  
156 members. Upon vote, the **amended MOTION to send to the full board without recommendation**  
157 **CARRIED.**  
158

159 **IX. Illinois Jobs Now – Possible Funds Transfer**

160 Mr. Blue summarized the projects involving Illinois Jobs Now (IJN) money and said the map shows the  
161 Olympian Drive and North Lincoln roadway plan. He said Project A, Apollo Drive to North Lincoln, is under  
162 construction. He stated project C, Clearview subdivision to Duncan Road is proposed to be constructed  
163 next summer. He said the projects are all IJN and federal money with no local funds. Mr. Blue noted that  
164 Project A came in under the engineer's budget. He stated that Mr. Gray from the City of Urbana sent a  
165 letter to Representative Naomi Jakobsson and Senator Mike Frerichs asking that up to \$1.7 million of IJN  
166 money be transferred to the Lincoln Avenue Project (project X), reducing the local share of \$1.1 million in  
167 funds needed.  
168

169 Mr. Richards inquired if our contribution was in-kind staff time or if there is actual money involved. Mr.  
170 Blue said the Lincoln Avenue project has an intergovernmental agreement where the County has pledged  
171 \$1.1 million. Ms. Michaels thought there was no local funding involved, that it was all in-kind for the \$1.1  
172 million. Mr. Blue said it was very clear that there was money involved for Lincoln Avenue. He said that  
173 Olympian Drive was in-kind.  
174

175 **X. Resolution Appropriating Funds for Hensley Township Structure**

176 Mr. Blue explained that this project is unique because a township structure is usually a 50/50 share of  
177 costs. He said there is a State statute that allows a County to pay entirely for a township project. Mr. Blue  
178 said the reason the County is paying the entire cost for this structure is that this replacement is tied  
179 directly to the Dewey-Fisher project. He said it's believed that the under sizing of this structure is causing  
180 some of the flooding on that road and that the County is who wants it replaced. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to  
181 approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**  
182

183 **XI. Resolution – County Engineer's Salary**

184 Mr. Blue explained that they have a six year contract through 2016 for his salary, but that they have to  
185 pass a resolution every year appropriating the MFT and asking that half the funds be taken from federal  
186 dollars. He said attached to resolution is an agreement that says the County will provide half through the  
187 MFT and the State will offset that with half from federal funds. He said it was passed when his contract  
188 was approved and sent it to IDOT, but IDOT never signed it. Mr. Blue said IDOT won't accept the copy we  
189 signed because Mr. Weibel is no longer the board chair which makes it an inappropriate document for  
190 the IDOT director to sign. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon vote, the  
191 **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**  
192

193 **XII. Closed Session Pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) to consider the purchase of real Property for use by**  
194 **Champaign County**

195 **MOTION** by Mr. Jay at 9:39 am to enter closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) to consider the  
196 purchase of real property for use by Champaign County. He further moved that the County Engineer,

197 County Administrator and Recording Secretary remain present; seconded by Mr. Richards. Upon roll call  
198 vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

199  
200 Ms. Cowart declared the meeting back in open session at 9:48 am.

201  
202 **XIII. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes**

203 **MOTION** by Mr. Jay at 9:49 am to enter closed session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)21 to conduct the semi-  
204 annual review of closed meeting minutes of the County Highway Committee. He further moved that the  
205 County Engineer, County Administrator and Recording Secretary remain present; seconded by Ms.  
206 Michaels. Upon roll call vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

207  
208 Ms. Cowart declared the meeting back in open session at 9:51 am. **MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to keep the  
209 closed meeting minutes closed; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

210  
211 **XIV. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda**

212 Items VII, X and XI are to be placed on the consent agenda.

213  
214 **XV. Other Business**

215 Mr. Blue reported that they are getting close to acquiring the 116 parcels for the Dewey-Fisher project.  
216 He said they started in June and hope to have all documents signed, recorded and paid for by November.  
217 He said he would like to have the project on the State bid letting January 16, 2015 and a contract done by  
218 March or April. Mr. Blue felt the contractor could start in April or May and get 90% of the project done  
219 towards the end of summer.

220  
221 Mr. Jay asked if they had any serious roadblocks acquiring the property. Mr. Blue answered that have  
222 settled agreements for all the properties, but all the documents aren't in hand. Mr. Maxwell asked if the  
223 price was reasonable. Mr. Blue replied that is was. Mr. Maxwell asked if they were dealing with anyone  
224 out of the country. Mr. Blue said one person is in Europe, but that documents can be accepted via fax and  
225 email that couldn't be accepted before. Mr. Maxwell inquired about utilities going across. Mr. Blue said  
226 Eastern Illinois Electric is on the north end and Ameren on the south end, and they are working with both  
227 to make sure power lines get moved to the backside of the right-of-way. He said Frontier  
228 Communications and AT&T are also involved.

229  
230 Mr. Michaels inquired if Mr. Blue had noticed any cracks in the Highway building. Mr. Blue said there are  
231 a few but didn't feel they were structural. He said they are working with Facilities to get the cracks re-  
232 sealed. Mr. Jay asked how long the seal would last. Mr. Blue answered he hadn't talked to a contractor  
233 yet and is waiting for quotes from Facilities. Mr. Jay remarked that more money needs to be put toward  
234 facilities. He said without it he's not sure they can stay ahead of the deterioration. Mr. Jay gave credit to  
235 Ms. Busey and Mr. Brenner for getting an assessment of the condition of the buildings. Ms. Cowart asked  
236 if there is any money in Mr. Blue's budget for any repairs needed. Mr. Blue answered yes.

237  
238 **XVI. Adjournment**

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

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
Highway & Transportation Committee  
Closed Session Minutes**

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*Friday, October 3, 2014 – 9:00 am  
Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 E. Main St. St., Urbana, IL*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lorraine Cowart, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Michael Richards

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Max Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Linda Lane (Administrative Assistant)

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay at 9:49 AM to enter into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)21 to conduct the semi-annual review of closed meeting minutes of the County Highway Committee. He further moved that the following individuals remain present: County Engineer, County Administrator, and Recording Secretary, **seconded** by Ms. Michaels. **MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote with Cowart, Jay, McGuire, Michaels, and Richards, voting yes.**

Ms. Busey stated she thought Mr. Blue had a concern about opening previous closed session minutes because they are about land transactions with an owner they are currently dealing with. Ms. Busey said it was up to the committee if they wanted to follow the State's Attorney recommendation or to decide not to follow the recommendation and maintain the minutes as closed.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Cowart declared the meeting reopened at 9:51 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane  
Administrative Assistant

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
Highway & Transportation Committee  
Closed Session Minutes**

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**Friday, October 3, 2014 – 9:00 am**  
**Highway Building Conference Room**  
**1605 E. Main St. St., Urbana, IL**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lorraine Cowart, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Michael Richards

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Max Mitchell

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Linda Lane (Administrative Assistant)

**MOTION** by Jay at 9:39 AM to enter into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2 (c) to consider the purchase of real property for use by Champaign County. He further moved that the following individuals remain present: County Engineer, County Administrator, and Recording Secretary, **seconded** by Richards. **MOTION CARRIED by roll call vote with Cowart, Jay, McGuire, Michaels, and Richards, voting yes.**

Mr. Blue explained they are looking to purchase 5.61 acres from the Lo family at the west end of Olympian Drive. He noted that the school district paid \$40,000 per acre. Mr. Blue said Ms. Lo won't move from \$42,000 per acre. He noted that they paid \$35,000 per acre on the other end of the project and said he isn't comfortable going over \$40,000. Mr. Blue said he would like to go to Ms. Lo with a final offer of \$40,000 and that if it's not accepted they will go to a condemnation vote by the County Board. He asked for committee approval to allow him to convey to Ms. Lo that if \$40,000 isn't agreed upon he is going to ask for approval to use eminent domain.

Ms. Michaels asked what they gave him last time and if it was the same as on Olympian Drive. Mr. Blue replied \$35,000 but it was for property end the east end. He said this is the first time for this property. Ms. Michaels stated she didn't like going higher than before and didn't care if they had to go to eminent domain. Mr. Blue pointed out that an immediately adjacent property appraised at \$40,000. Mr. Jay commented that he didn't like \$40,000 but felt it was realistic because that is what the school district set. He said he didn't want to go higher than that. Mr. Blue commented that this is typically the way the Lo family operates, saying okay right before getting to the courthouse steps. Mr. Maxwell clarified that they don't have an appraisal by hiring an appraiser, but they do have one that will represent the \$40,000. Mr. Blue said there is an appraisal on this particular piece of property that is \$18,000 per acre. Mr. Maxwell asked how recent it was. Mr. Blue replied a month. Mr. Maxwell asked if \$40,000 has been offered already. Mr. Blue replied yes.

Mr. Blue stated that if no response from Ms. Lo within 10 days then he will write a 60 day letter, that says they will continue to negotiate a settlement but if they can't settle within 60 days it will be filed with the court for eminent domain proceedings. Ms. Cowart asked how many agreed that \$40,000 would be the final offer. All agreed that \$40,000 would be the final offer.

Ms. Michaels asked for clarification that this 5.61 acres is for Project C. Mr. Blue answered it was and that they own all the property between where the existing road ends and Duncan. He said they would be cutting through their property. Mr. Jay suggested that putting the road through will increase the

property value for investments. Mr. Blue stated if this goes to eminent domain, future value won't be considered. He said the \$40,000 is off the table and it goes back to the appraised value. He also noted that eminent domain law says the County is not responsible for her attorney fees because she is choosing to fight.

There being no further discussion, Ms. Cowart declared the meeting reopened at 9:48 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane  
Administrative Assistant