



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

***MINUTES – Approved 6/5/2015***

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DATE: Friday, May 8, 2015  
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
	Shana Harrison
John Jay	
	Jim McGuire
Diane Michaels	
Max Mitchell	

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Tracy Winger (County Highway Department), Rita Morocoima-Black (CCRPC/CUUATS Planning and Community Development Director), Zoe Keller (CCRPC/Champaign County Program Compliance and Oversight Monitor), Eileen Sierra (CCRPC), (Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Patti Petrie (County Board Chair), Gary Maxwell (County Board), Drew Bargman (CU MTD)

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***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**II. Roll Call**

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

**III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

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

**IV. Approval of Minutes – April 10, 2015**

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**V. Public Participation**

None

**VI. Communications**

Ms. Busey stated that Mr. Alix had sent notification that he would not be attending today. Mr. Blue said Mr. McGuire did as well.

**VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – April 2015**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for April 2015; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**VIII. C-CARTS Grant Application for FY16 – Rita Morocoima-Black**

Ms. Morocoima-Black said what they are bringing today is the usual grant application for IDOT for funding C-Carts operation. She said IDOT asked them to put together two budget proposals this year, one with the full funding and one with the proposed cut funding. Ms. Morocoima-Black gave a brief overview of the service and said that all of Champaign County is currently serviced from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, and have about 90 trips per day. She noted that in 2011 most of the trips were medical but today 47% are employment trips. She also said the number of senior trips have decreased with the increase in employment trips. She said their high number of denials is because they are running at capacity.

Ms. Petrie asked if they knew what alternative the people denied have turned to. Mr. Bargman said they are not able to capture that data at this time. Ms. Keller said they did a survey that said about 45% would not be able to make the trip if C-Carts wasn't available. Mr. Jay asked if priority was given for medical over employment. Ms. Morocoima-Black no, that it's all first come first served.

Ms. Morocoima-Black said they did a survey as a requirement for the grant application and said they will also be having public meetings next week in Mahomet and Rantoul. She stated that people are rating the service very good at over four points on a five point scale.

Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that IDOT asked them to prepare two budgets, one with 65% State funding and the other with 55% State funding. She said at the 55% level they are including additional cuts proposed by the governor, which is basically a 40% cut in funding from the State. She said Champaign County is one of the hardest hit. Mr. Maxwell wanted to know how much federal participation there is. Ms. Morocoima-Black answered \$154,000 and the match is coming from State and local. Mr. Maxwell asked if the State match is cut will that translate backward into a federal aid cut. Ms. Morocoima-Black said you need to match the federal funding you are going to receive. Mr. Blue asked if it is a 50/50 match. Ms. Morocoima-Black said it is 50/50 for operations but 80/20 for administration. Ms. Michaels wanted to know the reason given for the cuts to the County. Ms. Sierra replied that the amounts were very inconsistent how much got cut from each county's budget and there wasn't an explanation provided.

Ms. Morocoima-Black pointed out that some of the implications of funding cuts would be to change operation to 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and/or run only four days per week. Ms. Michaels wondered if ridership is concentrated to a certain area could employers contribute. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they are working on that. She said they are also proposing to have a dedicated fixed route. Mr. Mitchell asked if they could keep the early and late hours and reduce the mid-day hours. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they are looking at that also. Mr. Maxwell wanted to know the possibility of a private company picking up the ridership and privatizing it. Ms. Sierra said the private industry available in Rantoul isn't accessible except for precious cargo. She said precious cargo won't run Medicaid and a large portion of healthcare trips are Medicaid. She also noted that while a number of riders loved Green Transport's 24 hour service, they aren't reliable and it is more expensive.

Ms. Morocoima-Black stated that the contract with Health Alliance was cut because MTD is not Medicaid certified. She said they are working with EDC to meet with Rantoul companies to have service contracts with C-Carts. She noted they are also talking to Parkland College and trying to get more local match. Ms. Petrie asked if the Medicaid requirements are so complex they can't be surmounted. Mr. Bargman said MTD is not a Medicaid provider for transportation and there are a lot of reporting requirements that MTD is not able to take on right now. Ms. Petrie wanted to know why. Ms. Sierra replied that the OIG's office has been famous in auditing of Medicaid transportation providers and that businesses tend to struggle when payments from the State come in so late.

Ms. Morocoima-Black noted the first memo that was handed out is requesting the approval of the grant applications and the second is regarding local match. She said they are looking for any local match money that will keep the service at the current level. She suggested one way the County can help is to pay for insurance, which currently would be about \$12,000 per year and will count as a local match to be able to draw down more state funding. Ms. Petrie noted that the \$12,000 is for seven vehicles and wanted to know if they are talking about \$25,000 when the fleet is 15 vehicles. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they need to provide the vehicle information before they can get a quote. Ms. Busey said that would probably be close to the amount. Ms. Michaels asked if with the cuts they can still purchase extra vehicles. Ms. Morocoima-Black replied that the vehicles are paid for with a grant. Mr. Mitchell asked if they can sell marketing space. Ms. Morocoima-Black said yes. Mr. Bargman stated the possibility is there but it's not something they are currently doing. Mr. Morocoima-Black said they would accept any ideas on how to come up with more local money.

Mr. Jay commented that he isn't anxious to commit county funding to any new programs. He thought Ms. Morocoima -Black's team could work this out themselves given enough time. He asked Ms. Busey where the money would come from if the County participated. Ms. Busey replied that they would have to seriously consider the issue because it would be adding an expenditure to the general fund and they would have to ask all the general fund department heads to cut their budgets.

Ms. Morocoima-Black said one resolution is authorizing them to submit the applications, the special warranty is assuring they will treat the employees and service according to the Federal Transit Act, and the ordinance is to provide public transportation in Champaign County. **OMNIBUS MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve both resolutions and the ordinance; seconded by Mr. Carter. Mr. Jay wanted to make sure there is no additional liability to the County. Ms. Morocoima-Black replied that is correct. Ms. Sierra replied that the liability insurance is already part of the program. Ms. Busey said the program will continue to be funded with program funds. She said they would have to vote separately to vote to approve paying for the liability insurance out of the general fund instead of out of the program fund. Ms. Morocoima-Black stated that they are not changing anything from the past four years. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**IX. Resolution of Award Authority – Brown #14-02008-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated that items IX and X are both resolutions for award authority but for two different projects.

**X. Resolution of Award Authority – Ogden #14-17016-00-BR**

Mr. Blue explained that they have two bridges where the plans for the item IX and X projects are in different states of being approved by IDOT. He said the IDOT local road engineer position is in transition and he doesn't want to hold up bidding. He pointed out that both projects are time sensitive and need to be done before harvest. Mr. Blue said he is asking for award authority as long as the project is within 10% of the engineer's estimate. **OMNIBUS MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve both award authority resolutions; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**XI. Resolution Awarding Pavement Striping – Section #15-00000-02-GM (letting to be held May 7<sup>th</sup>, to be distributed at the meeting.**

Mr. Blue noted the bid opening for the striping contract was opened yesterday and passed out the resolution. He said this is the annual striping contract and they typically get one bidder. He noted the bid is down by .004 from last year. He said the engineers estimate was \$134,660 and the bid from Varsity Striping, who is local, came in at \$102,072.40. Mr. Blue stated there are other entities involved including the Village of Mahomet, the Village of Savoy, Mahomet Township and others that enter into the contract with the County. He said only about \$90,000 is for the County. Mr. Blue explained that they stripe between one third and one half of their roads every year because it wears off. Mr. Jay asked if Mr. Blue was satisfied with the job Varsity has been doing. Mr. Blue replied that he was. He explained that several years ago another contractor from St. Louis got the contract and ended up not being able to do the job because of paint shortages and other excuses. He said that job went to Varsity and they had no problem

completing it. Mr. Blue said they give Varsity a map of the roads that need striping and Varsity does them without having to have an engineer along. He noted that Varsity will do small sections after they have completed a job elsewhere if there is time left in the day. He said they also get out to do the seal coat roads very quickly. Mr. Jay asked how long the striping lasts. Mr. Blue answered about 2-3 years depending on the traffic. He said they stripe 70-100 miles of road per year. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve awarding of contract; seconded by Ms. Michaels.

Ms. Michaels asked if the areas that said didn't bid were things they didn't need. Mr. Blue said those were things they didn't bid last year because there wasn't the need. Ms. Cowart asked how long they had been working with Varsity. Mr. Blue replied it's been a very long time. Mr. Maxwell asked if Varsity is a female minority business. Mr. Blue said they are. Mr. Maxwell commented they are very good at their job. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

#### **XII. Olympian Drive Update**

Mr. Blue reported that the west approach of the bridge on Olympian Drive was just paved. He also said the piling work was done. He noted that they don't have an engineer on this project at this time because they had to do some shifting due to a serious illness of one of the engineer's spouses. He said the City of Champaign has covered with one of their engineers.

Mr. Blue said the west end of Olympian Drive, which hooks from Duncan over into the Clearview subdivision was bid a few weeks ago. He noted the estimate was \$1.5 million and came in under \$1.2 million. Mr. Blue said the contractor plans to start in June and should be done in about two months. Mr. Mitchell wanted to know if any power lines were involved. Mr. Blue replied no. He said the good news coming in under budget is the money goes back into the CUUATS pool and could help save local costs on Lincoln Avenue.

#### **XIII. IDOT Update**

Mr. Blue passed around a notice of a public hearing/open house at Parkland on May 14 from 3pm to 6pm regarding the I74/I57 interchange. He noted that Hansen has been contracted for the design. He also said it is rumored that it will be under contract by 2020.

Mr. Blue commented that IDOT is going around the state doing listening tours about transportation needs. He said he is hearing a lot of positive things at the liaison committee about transportation funding and mentioned some of the sources those funds could come from. Mr. Mitchell wanted to know how the meetings at the other locations compared to the one in Champaign. Mr. Blue said there were about 70 in Danville, about 100 people in Bloomington, and Champaign had about 150. He stated a positive thing is that no matter what happens with transportation funding, the Secretary is adamant about keeping things equal for local and State.

Mr. Jay commented that he's noticed there aren't as many accidents at I74/I57 since traffic was slowed. Mr. Blue said a friction course aggregate was put down to help slow traffic and they are putting it down on a stretch between Champaign and Danville.

#### **XIV. Other Business**

Mr. Blue commented that after 37 years with the County, 35 of which were with the Highway Department, Accountant Debby Wagner is retiring on May 29. He introduced Michelle Carter as the new accountant. Ms. Wagner said that she has enjoyed her time working with the Highway Committee and in the Highway Department. Everyone wished her well in her retirement.

#### **XV. Chair's Report**

None

#### **XVI. Designation of Items to be placed on consent agenda**

Ms. Cowart stated that items VIII, IX, X, and XI, are to be placed on the consent agenda.

#### **XVII. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am.