



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

MINUTES – Approved 10/2/15

DATE: Friday, September 4, 2015
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	
	Shana Harrison
John Jay	
Jim McGuire	
Diane Michaels	
Max Mitchell	

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

Others Present: Patti Petrie (County Board Chair)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:05 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 August 7, 2015

MOTION by Mr. Carter to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2015 meeting; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – August 2015

MOTION by Mr. Carter to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for August 2015; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

VIII. Petition and Resolution for Colfax Township #15-05027-00-BR

Mr. Blue stated that a structure on County Road 1300 N needs to be replaced and is in Colfax Township. He also said that engineering will begin this fall with the hope that if they start receiving TBP money again before next spring then construction will move forward next spring and summer. **Motion** by Mr. Mitchell to approve; seconded by Mr. Jay.

Mr. Alix asked if we really needed all these mile roads that no longer provide access to a home with a full section of farm ground on each side. Mr. Blue said the roads are still used by the farmers. Mr. Alix noted the road doesn't cost much, but if there's a bridge then it starts to add up and wondered if they could start thinning the grid. Mr. Blue replied that was up to the township highway commissioners, who would have to go through a vacation process. He said if anybody protested it wouldn't be vacated. Mr. Alix asked if most were easements. Mr. Blue answered yes.

Mr. McGuire asked if they did a survey to see how much traffic there is. Mr. Blue said they have traffic counts on 90% of the roads that are done every 5 years and the information is on the IDOT website. Mr. Alix asked who did the counts. Mr. Blue said IDOT used to do it, but that the last few years IDOT has passed the responsibility down locally. He explained that IDOT gives them a book stating where traffic counts in the county have to be done. Mr. Blue said last time they hired two summer help workers through RPC. He said they survey every county and state road every five years, but not every township road. He's not sure if IDOT will do the count when it's due in 2016 or if it will be done locally.

Ms. Michaels commented that she hopes IDOT doesn't bill us if they do the survey. Mr. Blue said he's never seen a bill for traffic counts.

Mr. Jay pointed out that in an emergency situation, taking a road off the grid creates a liability. He also felt it wouldn't save much money. Mr. Alix stated he was thinking about the bridges on those roads. Mr. Jay commented that the land is flat with many drainage ditches, so there are many bridges. Mr. Blue said there are 600 bridges in Champaign County and thought about 70 are on the County system with the rest on township systems. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

IX. Petition and Resolution for Condit Township #15-07026-00-BR

Mr. Blue said this structure is on 2700 North just east of the Dewey-Fisher road. He said it's a 20' box but will end up being over 20' once designed. He said they are going to make sure they get the TBP money before they move forward with bidding and construction of this project, but will most likely be done next spring and summer. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

X. MFT Distribution

Mr. Blue reported that the State is still not releasing MFT funds to any of the local entities. He said they received about \$200,000 in April, in March they received half, and they are short about \$500,000 so far for 2015 allotments. He said the Illinois Association of County Engineers is being very vocal to the governor and state representatives about the ramifications of counties not receiving MFT funds. Mr. Blue said he sent a letter to the governor explaining that many counties are starting to figure budgets for next year and that if they don't receive MFT money until January or February it will kill the maintenance for the entire 2016 year. He noted this not only hurts the counties and townships but also the contractors who do work for them. Mr. Blue stated the unobligated balance in the MFT fund is \$1 million and if they have a hard winter they will be down to bare bones come March.

Mr. Alix asked if there had been discussions with other engineers or townships about going to court. Mr. Blue said they have talked about the counties taking the State to court. Mr. Alix commented that he didn't see how they could be collecting at the pump and not remitting. He thought if they'd suspended the tax, they might have an argument. He commented that with MFT there is no federal money involved so it is entirely a State issue. Mr. Blue stated the law says money will be remitted the month after it is collected. He said that a class-action lawsuit had been discussed at the last board of directors' meeting.

Ms. Michaels wanted to know with all the contracts we have in the background if we won't have people starting jobs and not being paid. Mr. Blue said they won't start jobs anymore. He indicated that the townships have over committed to Illiana Construction and if all the work that is scheduled is done, the townships will be in the hole this year.

Mr. McGuire noted the pressure this puts on the counties and suggested they talk to legislators. Mr. Blue said there won't be any county road projects statewide next year for contractors to bid on and felt that would be an incentive for them to complain. Mr. McGuire felt the State won't do anything because they're saying they can't spend more than they receive in their budget. Mr. Blue read the MFT statute and said he doesn't understand how it's decided what gets withheld and what doesn't.

XI. CR 16 Bridge – to be posted 15 tons

Mr. Blue explained that this bridge is on County Road 16 just west of IL Rt 130. He said that because of the deterioration he requested IDOT inspect this bridge and they came back with a 15-ton load rating. He said the school districts, METCAD, and the Sheriff have been notified and a sign has been posted. Mr. Blue noted that he has already submitted it for major bridge program dollars, which is any bridge over \$1 million, but there is a 5-year waiting period, which would mean this bridge wouldn't be replaced until 2020 if approved this year. He stated that he is worried that the bridge will continue to deteriorate and hoped it wouldn't have to be closed. Mr. Blue said the bridge now needed to be inspected every three months.

Mr. Alix asked if there were any options to generate money for emergency bridge repairs, such as bonding or federal loans. Mr. Blue said not from FHWA or IDOT and they would have to talk to the County Administrator for county-based options.

XII. Change Date of Next Highway Committee Meeting to October 2, 2015

Mr. Blue stated that the Board of Directors for the Illinois Association of County Engineers is meeting the same day as the next scheduled Highway Committee meeting on October 9, 2015. He said he is on that board and asked for the meeting to be moved to October 2, 2015. **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

Mr. Blue said he had a follow up conversation with the City of Champaign about Staley Road. He reported that Dave Clark from the City said it is not in the capital improvement plan for the next 10 years to add a left turn lane at the gas terminal. Mr. Blue said that it had been discussed in 2003 at the time the road was turned over to the City from the County.

XIII. Other Business

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

Ms. Cowart reported that the State's Attorney did not recommend any closed session minutes be reviewed for opening at this time. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to accept the State's Attorney's recommendation; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

XIV. Chair's Report

None

XV. Designation of Items to be placed on consent agenda

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

Mr. Blue stated that a budget amendment would be on the agenda for the next Finance Committee meeting for the Rising Rd and Cardinal Rd intersection project.

XVI. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:37 am.

***Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*