

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES
HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION**

**February 11, 2005
Meeting Room 1
Brookens Administrative Center**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cowart, Bensyl, Carter, Feinen, Gross, Jay, Langenheim, O'Connor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Weibel

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, John Cooper, Tracy Wingler, Debby Wagner, Deb Busey, Denny Inman, Barb Wysocki, Chris Doenitz, Marvin Johnson, Rick Wolken

Call to Order

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Declaring a quorum present, the chair proceeded with the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Langenheim to approve the agenda and addendum as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Minutes – January 7, 2005

MOTION by Jay to approve the minutes of January 7, 2005 as presented; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Monthly Reports

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – January, 2005

MOTION by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for January, 2005; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Final Bridge Reports

MOTION by Langenheim to receive and place on file the final bridge reports; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

County Engineer

Resolution appropriating \$16,960.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #04-00000-00-ES.

Jeff Blue explained this is for the 2004 transportation partnership with CUUATS. This resolution was never approved in 2004 although the money has already been expended and given to CUUATS for our participation in 2004.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board Approval of the Resolution appropriating \$16,960.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #04-00000-00-ES; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

Resolution appropriating \$17,808.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study-Section #05-00000-00-ES

Mr. Blue explained this resolution is for the 2005 transportation partnership with CUUATS. He noted the increase in the amount from 2004 to 2005.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$17,808.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study – Section #05-00000-00-ES; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried** with O'Connor Voting nay.

Project Update – Prospect Avenue; Curtis Road; Windsor Road & Lierman Avenue

Mr. Blue provided each committee member with a notebook containing information from the highway department including contact information, maps and projects. He suggested each member bring this information to the committee meetings and update as needed.

Prospect Avenue:

Mr. Blue stated that in the 1990's there was an agreement with the City of Champaign, in which Prospect Avenue was an item. At that time it was determined that the County would participate in the funding of the widening of Prospect Avenue, with the total estimated cost of the project being \$2.2 million dollars. He met with the City of Champaign Engineer to review the bid tab and determine which items are related to the widening of the road; they pulled those items out determining what they felt the County should be 50% responsible for. Using a formula he created, he has determined the County's share of this project is around \$560,000. The cost of phase 1 is locked in; it has already been bid and is currently under construction. Since the first meeting, the City Engineer has contacted him stating there are items the County should be participating in the payment of, that were not included in the original amount; he has not heard what those additional costs are. The City has already built a large portion of this and they are asking the County to come to a resolution regarding the amount of money we are willing to obligate to phase 1 of the project. He reminded the committee that they gave him the authority to negotiate with the City but there was not a specific motion made with a dollar amount. He agrees with the committee that the County needs to put a cap on the number, he will have information on the additional costs next month along with a resolution including a not to exceed amount.

Curtis Road Project:

Mr. Blue explained that this is a 3 phase project; phase 1, which begins at Duncan Road and goes to Windstone is scheduled for construction in 2006. Phase 2, from Windstone to the east of Prospect Avenue is scheduled for construction in 2009, and phase 3, east of prospect over to First Street is scheduled for construction in 2012. He explained that Curtis Road is also a project that the State is heavily involved in due to the fact they will be building a new interchange at I-57 and Curtis Road, actually building Curtis Road from Staley over to Duncan. The County is a participant in that project as well as the City at an estimated amount of \$540,000. In order for IDOT to build that interchange they want it established that all entities are committed to building Curtis over to First Street, they have asked that we show intent by having a letting on Curtis Road. The County is committed to being a part of the Curtis Road project due to an intergovernmental agreement signed in 2002 which commits the County to 50% of the local funding on all 3 phases. Phase I County contribution is \$2.5 million, phase II is \$5.5 million and phase III is \$4.5 million with the total County contribution to this project being \$12.5 million dollars. That amount could be reduced through a passage of a bill for high priority projects that is in the legislature; we have an application in for \$7 million dollars which would be prorated out and would be specifically targeted for Curtis Road.

Windsor Road:

The estimated building of Windsor Road from High Cross to Philo is 2009 with a total cost of 8.7 million dollars. The County has an agreement on Windsor Road stating the parties agree to split the costs 50%, leaving the County's share about \$2.5 million. These estimates are from the City of Urbana from June 2004.

Lierman Avenue:

Mr. Blue explained that there was an agreement when the County moved into the Brookens building stating that the City of Urbana would pay 2/3 of the costs and the County would pay 1/3 of the work to be done on Lierman Avenue. The County will front all the money with the City paying back their 2/3 of the costs over a 3 year period, they are scheduled to start paying next year. The estimate for this project is \$1.2 million with a \$400,000 obligation from the County and an \$800,000 obligation from City of Urbana. He explained that this construction will be done over the summer, and they are looking at building Art Bartell drive as an access to Brookens while the main entrance is inaccessible.

Mr. Blue stated the total cost of all projects, with agreements we have an obligation to, over an 8 year span total \$16.8 million. If you break that up over 8 years it is about 2.1 million dollars. We receive around \$2.8 million per year in Motor Fuel Tax, having about \$2.1 million after all expenses are taken out, to use to build roads. The County Highway fund, once you take out all expenses that fund is responsible for, leaves about \$50,000 to build roads. Our federal aid rural funds come in at about \$400,000 making the total we have to build roads about \$2.5 million dollars. CUUATS funding comes to the urbanized area at about \$1.1 million based on current allocations, by local policy that money is spent at a 50/50 match between local entities and IDOT. The policy has been that the County would have 50% of that local match. He believes we need to start looking at the possibility of capping the number for urbanized area projects at around \$1 million dollars. In addition, he has reviewed every rural roadway we have, looking at the current condition of the roadway and its possible needs over the next 15-20 years. He believes it will take \$46,237,500 over the next 15-20 years to keep the roads at their current service level. He reminded the committee that this is a rough estimate and the numbers he presented are to keep our system as it is now; if you assume that the majority of these fixes will last 15years, our need per year is \$3 million on rural roads. The end result, is that we are short on funds. He stated we need to find some way to generate revenue to build roads in Champaign County, our high traffic roads will be kept up but our lower volume roads in the Country may get worse. He mentioned the possibility of discussing a local gas tax which is a mechanism used in other counties that the City of Champaign has shown some willingness to talk about.

Mechanics Position for Highway Maintenance Garage

Mr. Blue explained that they currently have a certified master mechanic position approved, which they have interviewed candidates for. County-wide, there is a need for an automotive mechanic not only in the highway department. A survey of department heads determined that there are 116 different vehicles that they would like to see maintained from within. There is a greater need at this time for a mechanic therefore, he would like approval for the Highway Department to begin taking on the maintenance of the County wide fleet; exchanging the highway maintenance position for a certified mechanic position; hiring 2 mechanics now. He believes there is significant savings in doing this and stated this change will help them determine personnel and space needs.

MOTION by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the exchange of a Highway Maintenance position for a Certified Mechanic Position; seconded by Carter.
Motion carried.

New Highway Facility

Mr. Blue stated they he attended a joint meeting with the Cities of Urbana and Champaign and the Urbana Park District to discuss having a facility that all entities can use. On February 22nd they will meet again to discuss the feasibility of putting everyone together. He stated his concerns that building one huge building to house everyone, may get to be unmanageable and be too large, he stressed that there is a happy medium and we need to work to find it. He noted that we need a new facility and would like his entire department to be housed together while staying on the Brookens campus. There will be a joint meeting with County Facilities on March 8th at 7:00 p.m., he wants to be upfront and have some input from the County Facilities committee; his hope is to move ahead and break ground some time in the next year.

Mr. Inman explained that a consultant attended the joint meetings at no charge. This gentleman is going to look at each entity, free of charge, and provide everyone with options. At this point a study has not been implemented.

Mr. Jay stated he is in opposition to a joint venture, he feels that most of the people we would be with have no idea what the County department has to do stressing that it is different from the Cities and he believes we need to keep it under our own control.

CUUATS Action

Mr. Blue explained that the State, over recent years, has been under-funded based on federal funding they receive to pass down to local entities; the current administration has told them they need to spend down the paper balance. He provided the committee with adjusted allotments based on what we should have been receiving. The money to CUUATS has been increased, although he is not promising it will stay that high in the future. Indications are that we may have a little more money through CUUATS and we need to do a good job to be ready to spend the money.

Engineers Vehicles

Mr. Blue stated they have 3 Engineers vehicles that are in the 2005 budget to be replaced. The state bid was taken to local vendors who were unable to match it; he would like to purchase 3 Explorers, instead of pick up trucks with the total cost of each vehicle being \$21,500.

MOTION by Jay to approve the purchase of 3 Explorers for use as Engineer's vehicles; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

The current vehicles are 2001 and will have near 100,000 miles on them when the Highway department gets rid of them. He explained they have an obligation to give one of the trucks to another department, bringing on another mechanic means they will need one and the third will be sold.

Tandem Truck Bid

Mr. Blue stated there is a tandem truck in the 2005 budget; they have some reservations about going with the state bid on these large trucks and they have had very little luck with the local vendor who has the state bid. They would like to bid the truck out hoping to get a better one.

2005 Construction

Mr. Blue provided each member with a map that shows all the projects that are proposed for construction. He reviewed the projects and the plans for each stating that there are 9 different township bridges to be constructed this year.

Other Business

Semi- Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

MOTION by Jay to concur with the recommendation of the Assistant State's Attorney to maintain the closed session minutes of January 14, 2000; August 11, 2000; November 27, 2000; October 11, 2002; April 25, 2003; October 24, 2003; November 7, 2003; May 24, 2004; June 7, 2004; June 14, 2004; June 21, 2004; June 29, 2004; July 8, 2004 County Engineer Selection Committee; July 8, 2004; July 30, 2004, August 5, 2004; seconded by O'Connor. **Motion carried.**

Determination of Consent Agenda Items

Committee consensus to include items 6A & 6 D on the February 24, 2005 County Board Agenda.

Addendum

Addressed under item 6 D.

Adjournment

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary