

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE MINUTES

Highway & Transportation

Friday, March 10, 2006 – 9:00 a.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Cowart

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Blue, Debby Wagner, Barb Wysocki, Chris Doenitz

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Jay called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Weibel to approve the agenda; seconded by O'Connor. There was no addendum for the meeting. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 10, 2006

MOTION by Weibel to approve the minutes of February 10, 2006 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – February 2006

MOTION by Carter to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for February 2006; seconded by Langenheim. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY ENGINEER

State's Attorney opinion on funding uses

Mr. Blue explained that Chair Wysocki had asked Steve Ziegler, of the State's Attorney's office, to write a formal opinion on the use of our MFT, Highway and Bridge funds. He received the opinion, which he included in the agenda, explaining that he didn't see anything in the letter that he disagreed with. It basically confirmed what they have always thought to be true, that the highway fund is to be used on the county highway system. There are some specific things you can use it for on township and road district highways but there is nothing in the provision that allows its use on municipal streets.

County Engineer cont.

The opinion states that all money derived from the highway tax shall be placed in a separate fund to be known as the county highway fund and shall be used for no other purposes. He stated there has never been a lot of controversy over the bridge fund and the opinion confirmed that it may be used for township and county bridges for their construction and investigation. They have known that the motor fuel tax fund can be used for municipal streets as long as they are federal aid urban highways and they are federally eligible transportation projects, he explained that we have used our MFT on urban and fringe road project through CUUATS. He explained that we have always talked about the uses of this money, but with this opinion, we now have it in writing so we can provide it to anyone.

Mr. Langenheim stated he feels it would be beneficial to send this information to other entities. Mr. Weibel stated he agrees and asked what our MFT intake is, per year. Mr. Blue responded that our estimate for this year is 2.8 million although it is based on how much motor fuel is sold. Ms. Feinen stated she feels that sending this information to other entities would be stirring the pot because things have calmed down a bit.

Ms. Gross arrived at 9:10 a.m.

Mr. Blue explained that a widespread distribution, to all public entities in Champaign County, would be appropriate. He stated we would explain that, due to conversations about the use of highway funds, we asked the State's Attorney to write an opinion and it is provided for their use and knowledge. He feels it needs to be sent to everyone and not just the cities.

Committee consensus to forward the State's Attorney's opinion on funding uses to all public entities in Champaign County.

Intergovernmental Agreement for Curtis Road

Mr. Blue reminded the committee that at the last meeting they discussed a letter received from the city of Champaign which stated their desire to have a new updated intergovernmental agreement for the Curtis road, phase 2, project. The committee discussed the fact that we are in the beginning stages of our pavement study but came to the conclusion that the Curtis road project does need to begin. The city had sent, to the committee, a contract with Clark Dietz for engineering services which he, along with Ms. McGrath, reviewed. He has provided the committee with the final version of conclusions we have come to with the cities and Savoy which lays out an agreement for the engineering services for phase 2. He explained the city understands we want to wait until our pavement management study is complete before we make any larger commitments to the construction of phase 2 and a time commitment as far as those dollars go. He explained that phase 2 is from Wynstone to Wesley, Phase 1 has been awarded and will start on March 20th and we should see that completed by May 2007.

County Engineer cont.

The money for the construction for phase 2 is in the high priority project funds and these are the fees to do the engineering and design for phase 2. The estimate for outside engineering and land acquisition documents is \$875,000 which includes a contingency of 5.3% and leads him to believe that the estimate is a pretty good number. The document states the county shall reimburse the city for 50% of the actual engineering and project management costs with our portion estimated at \$462,500. He explained he had them include information stating the city will provide reasonable documentation to the County to allow us to pay for this out of county motor fuel tax funds. They have started the survey work for phase 2 and this would give them the authority to move ahead with the design. In reference to our million dollar cap, he reminded the committee that we budgeted 1.7 million for phase 1 of Curtis road and this would be an additional \$462,500. He feels this is a reasonable amendment to the intergovernmental agreement.

MOTION by Langenheim to recommend County Board approval of Amendment #1 to an Intergovernmental Agreement for the construction of Curtis Road between the city of Champaign, Village of Savoy and County of Champaign; seconded by Carter.
Motion carried.

Staley Road Corridor Study

Mr. Blue explained he should have, at the next meeting, an agreement for what will be the Staley rising corridor study. A grant was applied for in 2003, between the cities and the county as well as Hensley Township, for a corridor study to determine how we should handle the growth in south western Champaign. The County Engineer, in 2003, wrote a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation supporting the plan stating he believed the County Board would agree and would be willing to commit matching funds, around \$5,000.

When asked how far south the study goes, Mr. Blue stated they are working on the scope but he believes it will go all the way to Monticello Road. Mr. Jay asked why there is only one township involved. Mr. Blue explained that was the original agreement when they applied for the grant. Mr. Doenitz explained that Hensley Township is north of route 10 by 3 or 4 miles. Mr. Blue stated the study areas is 9 miles from Hensley road to old Church road, 2.5 miles wide from Baker Street to Interstate 57 and will include the new interchange. He stated he believes CUUATS staff would be the people the city would contract with to do this corridor study.

Windsor Road Intergovernmental Agreement

Mr. Blue explained that the public works director from the city of Urbana sent him an intergovernmental agreement, between the city and county, for the Windsor Road project between Philo and Rt. 130.

County Engineer cont.

The agreement is all inclusive, and based on the opinion that came out of this committee at the last meeting, he responded to the director stating we would rather see a minor agreement for the engineering services on Windsor at this time and that we didn't feel we were in the position to make long term commitments for funding of construction of that project until we have some other things in place. He stated he assumes he will bring back an agreement with Urbana at the next meeting, agreeing to the engineering services, which would be almost 100% with the city of Urbana because they have hired an engineer who will be in charge of the project. They will be doing it almost entirely in house and will be seeking reimbursement of half of the costs to design that project.

Mr. Jay asked if we are reimbursed for our engineering fees when we enter into these projects. Mr. Blue stated the majority of the projects we do are for townships and they do pay 50% of our engineering fees. We are to be the lead agency for phase 3 of the Curtis road project and we will be asking for 50% of the engineering costs for that project.

Mr. Blue informed the committee that Ms. Cowart's mother passed away earlier this week and the funeral is tomorrow. Mr. Jay stated, on the committee's behalf, he took the liberty of sending an arrangement to Ms. Cowart.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Determination of consent agenda items

Committee consensus to include item 6 B on the County Board consent agenda.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Jay declared the meeting adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott
Administrative Secretary