

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
COMMITTEE MINUTES

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**HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

Friday, June 15, 2007 – 8:00 a.m.

Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cowart, Beckett, Carter, Jay, Knott, Langenheim,  
Melin, O'Connor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bensyl

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue, Deb Busey, Pius Weibel, Barb Wysocki,  
Susan McGrath

**Call to Order**

Chair Cowart called the committee to order at 8:00 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum present.

**Approval of Agenda/Addendum**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by Carter.  
**Motion carried.**

**Approval of Minutes – April 5, 2007, May 11, 2007**

**MOTION** by Beckett to approve the minutes of April 5, 2007 and May 11, 2007 as presented; seconded by Carter.

Ms. Melin stated on page 2 of the May 11, 2006 minutes there is a typo where a dollar sign was replaced by a number four.

**Motion carried** as amended.

**Public Participation**

There was no public participation.

**Monthly Reports**

**County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – May 2007**

**MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for May 2007; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

## **ARA Pavement Management Study Presentation & County Engineer Comments**

Mr. Blue reminded the committee that Applied Research Associates were hired last year to do a study, in response to all the fringe road issues he wanted to get a handle to know how to sustain our road system.

Dr. William Vavrick of Applied Research Associates stated that early on Mr. Blue was clear about his goal which was to provide a tool to inventory, assess and manage the county roads therefore they wanted to develop a system to do what he wanted, to determine future needs and wrap it all up into a program. There are limited funds and the County needs to optimize them and this system allows for a lot of what if games.

He explained they collected different types of information using rolling wheel deflectometer, video images and a laser van to monitor how smooth the road is. They looked at the distress and broke down the County road by road assessing overall condition. They looked at the distribution of how the roads are and discovered they have fairly evenly distributed conditions. The smoothness numbers are good, 70% of the network is very good. Structurally, if your roads that are poor happen to be along a place where things are growing you need to get those roads improved because they will fall apart at an even faster rate. He explained they take all the information and build a system and the components of that system are: input data, generate results and link to GIS. They show a matrix of what can be done to fix the roadway; they are trying to predict the future, understanding what we can do and the costs associated then they start looking at budgets. He explained that the rolling wheel deflectometer is the first of the kind in the country and we have an opportunity to take this information and talk to others.

Mr. Beckett stated the data we have is of great benefit to other counties and the ARA and asked if we give our blessing to them to share the data, which will help their firm, what the County will get.

Mr. Langenheim asked what our annual expense will be to update this information each year.

Dr. Vavrick stated that will depend on how often we want to collect the data, for governments like this every two years would be sufficient. The City of Champaign does 1/3 each year so every three years they hit the full load.

Mr. Blue stated ARA did a great job, this is real data from our county, real numbers that show our budget is pretty close to where we need it to be and the \$80,000 we spent up front he feels was worth it. Mr. Weibel stated if the County Board is willing to let them use our data we need to be sure that anything put forth has Jeff as a co-author and we don't want to release anything that would put our County in the wrong light.

Mr. Beckett stated he is not thinking the firm should have to pay us to use the data, maybe consider a longer relationship because this could be a win-win situation for everyone.

### **County Engineer**

#### **Resolution for award of contract for Champaign-Ford County Bridge**

Mr. Blue explained that this is County Highway 22 north of the Forest Preserve. The Engineers estimate was \$205,000 and the low bidder was Newell construction at \$194,327.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for award of contract for Champaign-Ford County Bridge; seconded by Knott. **Motion carried.**

#### **Resolution for award of contract for Champaign-Douglas County Bridge**

Mr. Blue explained that this is to the west of Longview on County Road 0 North in conjunction with Douglas County. This is a township bridge project with the engineers estimate at \$164,000. The low bid came in at \$170,926 which is 4% over the estimate.

**MOTION** by Knott to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for award of contract for Champaign-Douglas County Bridge; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

#### **Resolution for award of contract for a pedestrian bridge at new maintenance facility**

Mr. Blue explained this is a unique item at the new maintenance facility. It is a walk bridge over the holding pond in the front of the building, it wasn't in the overall big bid but it was included with the plans. It is a 50 foot long and 8 feet wide metal bridge with wood decking.

The walkway comes up in front of the building and the ponds separate Main Street from the building. The bridge has to be there as a way to get over the ponds. He had estimated it would be \$50,000 having never done one before, they received two bids and the low bidder was Allpro out of Mahomet for \$49,600. This is planned toward the end of construction since the ponds can't be constructed until the CAC is removed. The bridge will be set in place in November or December. When asked, Mr. Beckett stated this item does not need to go to the Facilities committee.

**MOTION** by Jay to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution for award of contract for a pedestrian bridge at the new maintenance facility; seconded by Beckett. **Motion carried.**

**Resolution for contract award authority for parking lot at new maintenance facility**

Mr. Blue explained he had a conversation with Mr. Beckett and asked if this was appropriate for Facilities since there is not a meeting in July and they agreed it was ok to send to County Board in July. They have it in the contract for the timeline to start October 1 and be done by November 15. They will skip over this item and send it straight to the County Board.

**Resolution appropriating \$641.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the CUUATS Greenways Plan Implementation – Section #07-00000-01-ES**

**MOTION** by Knott to recommend County Board approval of the Resolution appropriating \$641.00 from County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for Champaign County's share of the CUUATS Greenways Plan Implementation – Section #07-00000-01-ES; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried** with Jay opposed.

**St. Joseph-Flatville Road & Royal Road – 4 way intersection warning lights/intersection study**

Mr. Blue explained that there was another accident at the St. Joseph-Flatville Road and Royal Road intersection on May 28<sup>th</sup> where a car ran through the stop sign. The way it is set up, the road coming from St. Joe up to the intersection is State then the Royal Road is County. There are stop signs north and south and rumble strips built in. In April they became aware of the history there so they did some traffic counts and all of the legs of the intersection are equal.

It appears people are just not stopping; they talked to IDOT and they have given us a few options. We could put in bigger stop signs or the State will help us and will be a partner in putting flashing lights up. When compared to similar intersections the accident history is higher because there are only 500 cars a day coming to the intersection. The committee advocates putting flashing lights up.

### **Curtis Road Update**

Mr. Blue explained they are still in negotiations with land owners the Lowes and the Hendersons. With the Lowes he believes a lot of their issues will be ironed out, with them it will come down to money. Regarding the Henderson property, there was a memo sent from their attorney on May 25<sup>th</sup> asking questions. They hired a consultant out of Jacksonville and between them, himself, Ms. McGrath and Clark Dietz they took the task to answer the questions posed and he provided their responses for the committee.

They had a meeting yesterday with them and went over those responses. The Hendersons are looking for a way that the ditch that cuts through their property can become non-existent, there are 60 acres there and the Finney branch has been an open channel with another part a grass waterway. They would like their property to look the way it looks today when we are done with construction. He explained we proposed to cut a channel from Curtis to Windsor through their property; the Henderson's have no future development plans and they don't want to lose the 4 acres we show as an easement to cut that ditch through their property. We looked at that and came up with seven different options, not all good but all were investigated. The first is the cutting of the ditch which is the one they don't care for. The second is to cut a ditch from Curtis Road to the south edge of their property and try to be able to bring that ditch to an end at their south property line and after they would construct it to have a grass swale and some under land flow. The third option, which is not a very good one, is to outlet that box culvert as it currently does under Curtis Road and let it daylight into their fields. The problem is that they can't get the culvert high enough to let it outlet into their field, there would have to be a channel dug on the north side of Curtis Road. They looked at constructing detention ponds downstream from Curtis Road which would catch the water and they looked at redirecting all the water over to Mattis then north to Windsor but that quarter mile from the Finney Branch going to the west there is no good way to cut a ditch. The option that really came to the forefront was the one where they would bring the ditch to the south edge of the Henderson property and pipe it underground so he had Clerk Dietz take a look at their model to see what we could do to make it work. They found that we could dig the ditch as shown in original plans from Curtis Road to the south property line of the Henderson's, construct a box culvert type structure, 30 square feet of opening, from the south property line up to where it would dump into their open ditch then build a grass swale over the top of it.

They discussed this with the Henderson's and it seemed to be a solution they embraced. Their property would look just as it does now a couple years after we are done building it. The cost to cut the ditch from the south side of the property to the current ditch will range from \$75,000 to \$100,000; we were also going to provide a structure so they could cross from one side of their farm field to the other which would cost between \$60-\$70,000; to put in the pipe culvert we are looking at around \$600-\$700,000. They did not lead them down a path to say this is the option we are going to approve, told them we would bring this information to the county and city.

Ms. Wysocki asked who would be responsible for the cost. Mr. Blue stated it would likely be \$250,000 County \$250,000 City.

Mr. Jay stated he thinks this is a good solution and in the long run will be money well spent. Ms. McGrath stated they need to bring this to the committee in August with the comparison figures and what the city has agreed to do, for right now this is information only. Mr. Blue stated the City hasn't seen this information and he is hoping they will be acceptable to it.

### **Construction Update**

Mr. Blue explained that on County Road 9 they are done breaking up old concrete and are doing an asphalt overlay right now. They are looking for that one to be done by July 4<sup>th</sup>. County Road 22, for the ethanol plant, is still a go and the plant is still coming to Royal. The bid letting for the asphalt on that project is today. They have a completion date in November. They have cut the ribbon for the first section of Curtis, which is complete, now working toward next piece.

### **Building update**

Mr. Blue explained that the majority of the roof is on, they had come cracking problems with some of the panels and we asked them to be replaced. We had some trouble but got them to agree it was their responsibility to reproduce but we should get them next week. Once that is finished up they can do inside work and concrete, we are still on schedule for a winter move in.

### **Other Business**

Ms. Melin stated a concern was brought up to her about the increased speed limits on Old Church Road. Mr. Blue explained they don't have any authority on those roadways; it is up to the township road commissioner.

**Determination of Consent Agenda Items**

There will be nothing placed on the County Board consent agenda.

**Adjournment**

Chair Cowart declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary