

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**  
**Highway & Transportation Committee Minutes**

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*Friday, May 10, 2013 – 9:00 am*  
*Highway Building Conference Room*  
*1605 E. Main St. St., Urbana, IL*

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Michael Richards

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), John Cooper (Asst. County Engineer), Linda Lane (Administrative Assistant)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary called roll and the following members were present: Alix, Carter, Cowart, Jay and McGuire. The chair declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting. Michaels listened via phone. Michaels and Mitchell arrived after roll call. Richards attended via phone.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Cowart asked for approval of agenda for meeting. **MOTION** by Carter to approve agenda; **seconded** by Jay. Cowart opened the floor for discussion. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Harold Sharlow stated he travels North Lincoln 4-5 days per week. He stated he was here to voice his concerns as well as those of other nearby residents about the projected traffic that will be coming to North Lincoln. He noted projected traffic of over 3500 vehicles per day using Lincoln Avenue north of the Olympian Drive intersection. He said that the road should be 20' wide but is currently about 18'7" feet due to deterioration. He stated there will be a 32' wide road narrowing into a road that is less than 20', creating a tunneling effect where the concrete ends and the asphalt begins. He stated the residents felt that would be a problem for people using the road and thought it's a project the County should start looking at.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Cowart asked for approval of minutes from the April 5, 2013 meeting. **MOTION** by Carter; **seconded** by McGuire. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COUNTY & TOWNSHIP MOTOR FUEL TAX CLAIMS – APRIL 2013**

**MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax claims for April 2013; **seconded** by Michaels. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **PETITION/RESOLUTION – TOLONO ROAD DISTRICT**

Blue explained that the Petition/ Resolution is for replacing a 9x6 concrete box culvert on 600N. He stated the estimated cost is \$26,000 and the Township is petitioning using County bridge funds to pay for 50% of the project. **Motion** by Jay to approve; **seconded** by McGuire. Michaels asked for the total cost of the project. Blue said \$26,000; \$13,000 County funds and \$13,000 Township funds. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$750,000 FROM COUNTY BRIDGE FUND**

Blue explained the resolution is for a bridge to the west of Flatville on CR11. He said it is a pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete deck-beam bridge. He stated that the beams put in place during the 1970s have decayed and needs replaced. He stated that the project is estimated to cost \$750,000 and wouldn't be done until next year. He said they need to get started on the engineering so they can start on it next spring. **Motion** by Jay to approve; **seconded** by McGuire. Cowart asked if the project had a new structure number. Blue said it did and everyone received a copy of the resolution with the new number. Michaels stated that it seemed like a lot of money for the project. Blue stated that ½-1 million is the going price and noted that this is a long bridge. He said that the way they build bridges now with steel beam and concrete deck they will last 50-60 years rather than 20-30. Michaels asked if all of the funding was from the County. Blue said yes. McGuire asked if we had all the money. Blue said the project will take place next year and the money will be there. McGuire asked who the engineers were and how they were picked. Blue said the engineer is Sodeman, which is now Fehr Graham, a local firm that designed an almost an identical structure to this one. He noted that all contracts are set up on a percentage basis regardless of engineering firm. He also stated that contractors and engineers are chosen based on their experience with that type of project. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **RESOLUTION FOR AWARD AUTHORITY TO THE COUNTY ENGINEER**

Blue stated that he was asking for authority to award bids, for the resurfacing of County Highway 22 from 136 to the Ford County line. He said he was asking for this because the project is in the IDOT bulletin for bids which means by the time they get the bids, bring it to Committee and then go to the Board, a lot of time will have passed where the contractor could have been working on the project. Blue asked that as long as the bids are within 10% of the estimated cost that he be allowed to award the bids to the low bidder. **Motion** by Michaels to approve; **seconded** by Carter. Alix asked if there was a minimum number of bids. Blue said they will sometimes receive only one, others five. He said he expects probably two for this project. He also noted that the major dollars are in the recycling for this project, so they could end up with a recycler bidding the project. Cowart asked how many bids will be sent out. Blue explained that they place an ad in the newspaper and IDOT bulletin and only send the plans to companies that contact them. Blue stated this is a \$1.2 million project. He noted that recycle projects like this are best done in the summer to allow curing time. Michaels asked if this is Gifford. Blue said no, it's Penfield. **MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Item VII, VIII and IX are to be placed on the consent agenda.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Cowart mentioned a letter that Kurtz had written regarding IDOT District 5 funding. Blue said he thinks they are starting to get some traction on this. He noted that there are a lot of county engineers talking about it as well as county board chairmen. He said they also talked about it at the Transportation for Illinois Coalition meeting and it will be on the next MIC agenda. Mitchell asked if it could be sent to the state reps. Busey explained that the letter Kurtz is sending is to other County Board Chairs for input hoping to generate a letter they all will sign that will then be sent to all the reps. Bill Gray from the City of Champaign stated that when he and Kurtz were recently in Washington D.C. they spoke with several State representatives who pledged they would look into the issue. Gray said they also promoted additional federal funding for the Lincoln Avenue project. He said the ask is \$840,000 in additional federal funding and felt they would get a good response.

Regarding Mr. Sharlow's comments, Alix asked if the numbers were credible. He said the projections seemed high. Sharif Ullah from RPC stated that the numbers come from a model using an expanded 2010 census. He said the number is from a previous model, are part of a long mathematical calculation, and are not hard fact numbers. He noted current plans show Olympian ending at Lincoln, but that if it were to continue through to Route 45 the numbers would be less. Blue asked if the number was mainly cars, not trucks. Ullah said that was correct. Alix asked if most of the traffic would be cars using North Lincoln to other roads that would get them to Route 45. Ullah agreed and said the volumes are projected for 2015, 2025 and 2035. He noted that for rural roads the numbers can be up to 40% more or less. Jay asked Blue if these were township roads. Blue confirmed they were. Michaels said the predictions are based on growth and wanted to know where that fits and is it real when everything is moving west. Ullah said they have a land-use model that they put the data into based on future developments, then figure worst-case scenario to be better planned. Alix asked what the count is now. Ullah said about 300. Rita Morocoima-Black said the number is the worst-case scenario projected for 2035. Michaels asked if the numbers were per day or per month. Morocoima-Black said per day. Jay stated that he thinks people will find alternate routes. Blue felt that Curtis Road to First Street probably has similar traffic to this.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting declared adjourned at 9:34 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lane  
Administrative Assistant