



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

***MINUTES – Approved 5/6/2016***

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**DATE:** Friday, April 8, 2016  
**TIME:** 9:00 a.m.  
**PLACE:** Highway Building Conference Room  
1605 East Main, Urbana, IL

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**Committee Members**

**Present:** Lorraine Cowart (Chair), Chris Alix, John Jay, Jim McGuire, Max Mitchell  
**Absent:** Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair), Shana Harrison, Diane Michaels

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Deb Busey (County Administrator), Tracy Winger (County Highway Department), Rita Morocoima-Black (CCRPC/CUUATS Planning and Community Development Director), Zoe Keller (CCRPC/Champaign County Program Compliance and Oversight Monitor), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Pattsy Petrie (County Board Chair), Drew Bargman (CU MTD)

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***MINUTES***

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:06 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. Alix to approve the agenda; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**IV. Approval of Minutes – February 5, 2016**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2016 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 – February and March 2016**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for February and March 2016; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously.**

**VIII. C-Carts (rural transit) Fiscal Year 2017 Grant Application**

Ms. Keller explained this is the same grant application brought to the committee every year. She said the application includes projected ridership and vehicle miles. She noted ridership is up 10-15% this year and vehicle miles are down 10%. She summarized what else is included in the application. Ms. Keller reported that they received a 10% increase in Downstate Operating Assistance funding this year, with overall funding up \$70,000. She stated that with the service contract from Rantoul they will be able to utilize more of the downstate funding they've been given, opening up possible future funds. She

remarked that they fell significantly short of their estimated goal of \$85,000 in service contracts, mainly due to the loss of the Health Alliance contract and other items.

Mr. Bargman stated this is the third year they've presented a budget for this program and they are still fine-tuning the process. He noted that training costs as well as health insurance costs are up. Mr. Alix asked if MTD's insurance group covered the C-Carts employees. Mr. Bargman said they are district employees. Mr. Alix asked if they are insured on their own, in with the City of Champaign, or part of another group. Mr. Bargman said they are in a pool and thought it was with other transit providers in the State.

Mr. Bargman stated they are currently operating out of a temporary site, leasing the old Mid-Illinois Concrete and Davis Houk building for C-Carts. He noted the lease expires soon and at that time, C-Carts will move into the new expanded MTD maintenance facility with an office and covered parking for the vehicles. He commented that lease costs are up slightly for this year due to start-up costs, but will decrease next year. He also mentioned an increase in casualty and liability costs.

Ms. Petrie remarked that roughly everything is bumped up by \$28,000 and wanted to know the percentage increase on the budget. Mr. Bargman said the budget reflects C-Carts being able to fully access the entire allotment of the Downstate Operating Systems funding, which they have not done to date. He said last year's budget was \$852,000 and this year's is \$922,000. Mr. Bargman summarized some of the other reasons for the increase. Ms. Busey stated the overall increase is 8%.

Mr. Alix cautioned the C-Carts group to keep an eye on the cost escalations at MTD. He said they want the money to go to rural transit, not to buy office furniture and covered parking. Mr. Alix said this is good if it will result in a higher quality of service to rural customers, but not if it continues year after year as a revenue subsidy for MTD. He went on to say the relationship with MTD is beneficial, but the primary goal for these dollars is delivering service. Mr. Alix then asked about consolidating dispatch with MTD. Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that can't happen because of funding regulations.

Mr. Bargman confirmed they are in talks with the Village of Rantoul to contract for services. He said there is interest in fixed route services from 5:00-8:00 a.m. and 2:00-6:00 p.m. He noted the fare in the Village would remain at \$2.00 for a one-way trip. He explained that there would be two 14-passenger vehicles during these times that would run at about 30-40 minute intervals. He stated that C-Carts would still run the current demand-response service between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Mr. Bargman said they have had two public meetings, one with the general public, and another with the industrial employers. Ms. Morocoima-Black said they are scheduling another public meeting with the Village the beginning of May.

Mr. Mitchell asked if this works out in Rantoul are there plans to do this in other parts of the County. Mr. Bargman replied yes. Mr. Mitchell asked if there were any grant funds available to increase the size. Mr. Bargman said the Village of Rantoul has committed to half of the operating costs. He said the other half of the funds are coming from the Downstate Operating Systems funding, and this allows them to leverage those dollars a bit further.

Mr. Alix asked whom the expected users are and if it was mostly people commuting to work. Ms. Keller replied that is what started the conversation. Mr. Alix noted that this is getting into more urban type of transportation and commented that it will be interesting to see how the ridership changes. Mr. Bargman pointed out that four or five of their seven vehicles currently go back and forth to Rantoul. He said it is their hope that by having this service contract it will free up more vehicles to serve other parts of the County. Ms. Keller showed a map of the proposed route. Ms. Morocoima-Black explained that input from the community determined the route and stops.

**MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve the application for the grant and if awarded, the acceptance; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IX. Petition & Resolution for Compromise Township #16-06030-00-BR**

Mr. Blue explained that this is to replace a 50-year-old 144” corrugated pipe in Compromise Township. He said they are going to put in a longer pipe to widen the road. He stated the County’s share is 50% of \$30,000.00. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**X. Petition and Resolution for Crittenden Township #16-05034-00-BR**

Mr. Blue stated this structure is at the intersection of the south county line road. He handed out a revised resolution explaining that per State Statute, if a project is within a quarter mile of the County line, the County is responsible for 100% of the cost. **MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XI. Resolution for CR20 Bridge #16-00035-00-BR**

Mr. Blue noted this bridge is on Hensley Road near Market Street and I57. He said there is a new Federal rule that has been passed down to IDOT for structures of this age. He noted this structure was built in 1945 and it used to be up to engineering judgment if the bridge was adequate. Mr. Blue said the FHWA passed a mandate that they can no longer use engineering judgement, and that structures now need to be rated using a computer formula that IDOT uses. He said using this rating system that this bridge needs to be posted. He noted there is a lot of development happening around there. He said they are hoping that only the superstructure, or deck, needs to be replaced. Mr. Blue estimated the engineering cost and deck replacement at \$400,000.00. He said they are hoping to do this in a very timely fashion because he expects a letter soon stating the bridge needs to be posted, after which they have 30 days to put the signs up.

Mr. Jay asked what the bridge would be posted at. Mr. Blue guessed 20-30 tons. He explained that they were planning to replace this within the next five years, but they don’t have any recourse but to do it now. Mr. Jay asked what the weight limit on the new structure will be. Mr. Blue replied there won’t be a limit. He said it will be designed to the new standards of 93,000 pounds, but will be able to carry a couple hundred thousand pounds.

Mr. McGuire asked if Mr. Blue thought the pilings were good. Mr. Blue said they hope so, but unfortunately there isn’t much construction data for a bridge this age. He said some engineering judgment will have to be used to decide that, but whatever they decide they will make sure it won’t come back to haunt in the future. Mr. McGuire asked the cost if it’s more than the just replacing the deck. Mr. Blue replied it will be about a \$650,000.00 project. Mr. Alix asked if they could get it done this construction season. Mr. Blue answered yes if the deck replacement is all they need to do. He stated that if they need to do the entire bridge it will take longer because the EPA will have to get involved because it will touch the stream. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XII. Bituminous Material Letting Bid Tab**

Mr. Blue reported that costs have gone down this year. He explained that they have two bids, one to furnish and spread material from Illiana, and one for FOB from Emulsicoat. He summarized the different materials and costs. He said with the lower prices the County and Townships can do more seal-coat work this summer. He also said they are still worried about MFT beyond this budget cycle, but there are enough MFT funds from the previous bid cycle to do the work this summer.

**XIII. Resolution Awarding of Contract for the Furnish and Spread on the Road of Bituminous Material for 2016 Maintenance of Various Road Districts in Champaign County**

Mr. Blue said this resolution goes with the one in item XIV.

**XIV. Resolution Awarding of Contract for the Furnish of Bituminous Material from the Plant for 2016 Maintenance of Various Road Districts in Champaign County**

**MOTION** by Mr. Jay to approve the resolutions for furnish and spread and FOB of bituminous materials; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XV. Lincoln Avenue Right-of-Way**

Mr. Blue reported that they have settled for the price agreed upon by the committee. He said they are in the process of putting the closing documents together, which will be done by the end of the month because they have to have right-of-way certification by April 29. Mr. Blue said the project will be on the State's June letting, with contracts by the end of July. He said they could start construction the beginning of August, and commented this is a 200-plus working day project. He said it will not be completed this year and they will put staging requirements in the contracts so the road isn't closed all winter. Mr. Blue said they will tie it into Olympian Drive next year and that they won't open Olympian until Lincoln is done.

**XVI. Tuskegee Airmen Celebration**

Mr. Blue commented that Ms. Busey, Ms. Petrie, and several committee members were present at the celebration. He reported that four of the seven signs entering the County are up and they hope to have the remaining three up by the end of next week. He said he isn't involved with the interstate signs and has no idea when they might be going up.

**XVII. Other Business**

- A. Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes – **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to maintain closed session minutes as closed; seconded by Mr. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.
- B. Change Upcoming Highway Committee Meeting Dates – Mr. Blue said he would like to change the dates for the June and July meetings. Ms. Busey noted that the July meeting is typically cancelled and suggested they only change the June meeting date for now. She said they can cancel or change the July meeting at the June meeting if needed. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to change the June 10 meeting to June 3; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XVIII. Approval of Closed Session Minutes – February 5, 2016**

**MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve the closed session minutes of February 5, 2016; seconded by Mr. Jay. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XIX. Chair's Report**

None

**XX. Designation of Items to be Placed on Consent Agenda**

Ms. Cowart stated that items VIII, IX, X, XI, XIII, and XIV are to be placed on the consent agenda.

**XXI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:15 am.

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