



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

***MINUTES – Approved 1/13/2017***

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**DATE:** Friday, November 4, 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, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Max Mitchell  
**Absent:** Lloyd Carter (Vice Chair), Shana Harrison, John Jay

**County Staff:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Rick Snider (County Administrator), Linda Lane (Recording Secretary)

**Others Present:** Patti Petrie (County Board Chair), Chris Doenitz (Mahomet Township), Marvin Johnson (Compromise Township)

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**MINUTES**

**I. Call to Order**

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:05 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. Mitchell. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IV. Approval of Minutes – September 9, 2016**

**MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve the minutes of the September 9, 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 – September and October 2016**

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

**VIII. IDOT Agreement for County Engineer's Salary**

Mr. Blue said Items VIII and IX go together. He felt they should be taken as a single item but are reversed in the order they should be approved. He noted the resolution for Item IX is appropriating the MFT funds for the salary and expenses of the County Engineer. He said this resolution is unique because he was just reappointed in October, and the contract used to run December 1 through November 30. Mr. Blue stated this resolution has an extra month in it so it fits with the County's fiscal year. He said the resolution for the IDOT agreement gives the County Board Chair authority to sign the agreement, which states they will

use MFT funds to pay the County Engineer salary, but that half of the money will be reimbursed. **MOTION** by Mr. McGuire to approve; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**IX. Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for the Salary and Estimated Expenses of the County Engineer for the period from December 1, 2016 thru December 31, 2017**

See item VIII for information on resolution.

**MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire. Ms. Michaels noted that there had been trouble receiving some money. Mr. Blue replied that is not an issue now. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**X. Resolution Appropriating Additional County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for 2016 Maintenance**

Mr. Blue referenced a copy of revised estimated maintenance costs for 2016. He said the majority of the overage was for contract funds to do the seal coat program. He stated they had plenty of funds in MFT to cover everything, but the resolution fills the gap between what was estimated and what they will actually spend in 2016. **MOTION** by Ms. Michaels to approve; seconded by Mr. McGuire.

Mr. Alix asked if a budget amendment needed to be done. Mr. Blue answered no, that the money is in the maintenance line item and this is more of a bookkeeping issue for IDOT. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XI. Resolution Appropriating County Motor Fuel Tax Funds for 2017 Maintenance**

Mr. Blue pointed to the estimate of MFT funds for 2017 and said the only thing changing from 2016 is the amount is going down from the supplemental just approved. He said the cost of the seal coat they use has gone up, and is based on supply and demand. He noted there is only one company within a reasonable distance to get the material, and the company has raised the price because of this. Mr. Blue feels it is the best material to seal coat hot-mix asphalt roads, and he still plans to use it until the price becomes too high. Mr. Blue noted that the cost of salt has gone down significantly. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. Alix asked if this is consistent with the 2017 draft budget. Mr. Blue replied it is. Ms. Michaels noted that the MFT funds are getting thin. Mr. Blue responded that they did very little construction improvements with MFT but plans to be more aggressive in 2017. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XII. Illinois Transportation Legislative Initiative Resolution**

Mr. Blue explained that this is a resolution that is being taken to numerous County Boards as well as MPO's. He noted CUUATS passed it back in October. He said the resolution is an Illinois Transportation Legislative Initiative through local agencies, stating that we provide the transportation network for 40% of those travelling in the State, yet only receive 21.5% of the money. Ms. Petrie asked who the "we" is. Mr. Blue replied the local road authorities (municipalities, townships, and counties.) He said some money will go into the sweep and it will probably help if the amendment passes. He noted that the counties, townships, and municipalities get none of the motor vehicle registration fees, only MFT which he said seems wrong. Mr. Blue said he doesn't think this is going to happen at the State level, but local agencies are trying to get it out there so legislators know we're carrying 40% of the traffic but are receiving 20% of the money. Mr. Blue said it is a feel-good resolution that will be sent to the Governor and top legislators. He stated it's a push they are trying to get statewide, just to get some recognition that this is happening. He said CUUATS has sent their passed resolution to the legislators. He noted the Peoria MPO started the initiative and passed it, and said it was strongly advised to see if counties can get their county boards to pass a similar resolution.

Mr. Snider asked if there has been any discussion to change the amount of MFT. Mr. Blue replied that this will push the issue to the front and get it attention since MFT hasn't been increased since 1990, even though costs have increased. He noted that many States have gone to a wheelage tax. He said that counties don't have the ability to do MFT, although cities do. Mr. Blue mentioned other options that have been discussed.

Mr. Mitchell asked if the wheel tax is based on registered vehicles. Mr. Blue replied it is based on the vehicles in each county. Mr. Mitchell noted that more people have established residency in other states and felt there may be a better way.

Ms. Petrie asked what counties have passed the resolution. Mr. Blue thought we are probably one of the first as it was just given out in October.

Mr. Alix asked if the 80/20 split is already part of the MFT distribution formula and asked if this is proposing to shift more of MFT to highways relative to what they're getting now. Mr. Blue replied he thinks it's the road money trying to be shifted to the locals versus the total pot of the money being shifted. Mr. Alix felt it's a worthy effort but expressed disappointment that it doesn't explicitly call for doing something about the MFT. He pointed out another issue with vehicle registration fees is that we have some major highways that have traffic just moving through. Mr. Blue stated that an effort to raise MFT has been shot down so many times that they have now taken a shift in how to attack this.

**MOTION** by Mr. Mitchell to approve; seconded by Mr. Alix. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**. Mr. McGuire requested that this not be on the consent agenda.

**XIII. Move the January 6, 2017 meeting to January 13, 2017**

Mr. Blue said he is going to be in Washington D.C. on January 6 and would like to move the meeting to January 13. **MOTION** by Mr. Alix to approve; seconded by Ms. Michaels. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

**XIV. Other Business**

Mr. Blue informed everyone that there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at the Rising and Cardinal roads intersection on November 9. He noted that this was a federally funded project. Ms. Petrie asked how they can change the decision making process to correct known dangers like this before there are deaths. Mr. Blue summarized how the State gives money for a Highway Safety Improvement project, which is Federal money. He said they are working with Townships to put up stop signs up in rural areas at unrestricted intersections. Mr. Alix asked whose authority is required to put up those signs. Mr. Blue replied that he approves all requests. Mr. McGuire asked if there is a policy to look at which intersections have stop or yield signs. Mr. Blue responded that CUUATS was awarded \$38,000 for rural safety programs.

Mr. Mitchell asked if they were able to raise Rising Road and redirect the water to stop the flooding at that intersection. Mr. Blue said they put in two 6x2 box culverts and added a significant ditch.

Mr. Alix wanted to know the status of North Lincoln. Mr. Blue answered the bid is today, and the County and City of Urbana together hired an engineer, which was cheaper than a consultant, to oversee the project. Mr. McGuire asked when the project would be done. Mr. Blue replied they hope to start in March and be done around November 2017.

Mr. Blue reported that they hired 13 part-time snow plow drivers. He said they were down two people because one was injured on the job and another is going out on FMLA for surgery. He stated they settled the contract, but it hasn't been ratified by the union yet.

Ms. Michaels let everyone know there was a ribbon cutting last week for the transit system in Rantoul.

Mr. Blue said the Township party is December 7 at 6:00 pm in Gifford.

**XV. Chair's Report**

None

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

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

**XVII. Adjournment**

**MOTION** by Mr. Alix to adjourn; seconded by Mr. McGuire. There being no further business, Ms. Cowart adjourned the meeting at 9:58 am.

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