

**Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, September 5, 2007 - 9:00 A.M.
McHenry County Division of Transportation
Main Conference Room
Woodstock, Illinois 60098**

Chairman Dan Shea
Vice Chairman Ed Dvorak Mary Lou Zierer
 Virginia Peschke Lyn Orphal
 Sandra Salgado Anna May Miller

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Shea called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman Dan Shea, Ed Dvorak, Virginia Peschke, Lyn Orphal and Mary Lou Zierer

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Anna May Miller and Sandra Salgado

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator – Finance; Paula Yensen, Village of Lake in the Hills Trustee; Jay Kadakia, Village of Huntley; Bob Rollings, Bollinger, Lach & Associates, Inc.; Brian Smith, CTE Engineers; Laura McGovern, Alfred Benesch & Co.; Chris Manheim, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation; Iris Bryan, Town Crier Publication; Allison Markel, County resident; Cherri Roney, County resident; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Dave Hansen, Division of Transportation Shop Supervisor; Loren Schmitt, Division of Transportation Road Supervisor; Randy Morin, Division of Transportation Vegetation Supervisor; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Walter Dittrich, Division of Transportation Design Manager; Mark Dammyer, Division of Transportation Construction Manager; Cha Lee, Division of Transportation Consultant Project/Design Engineer; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation Principal Transportation Planner; Chalen Hunter, Planning Liaison; and Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mr. Chris Manheim of the EDC updated the committee members on the *Better Roads Coalition* rally regarding Illinois Routes 62/31, held on August 07, 2007 that attracted 125 participants and approximately 75 cars. Also, Illinois House Bill #572 was voted against by legislators in its form, as to how taxes should be used.
- Ms. Allison Markel, 4126 South Country Club Road in Ridgefield voiced her concerns regarding safety issues and damaged property resulting from traffic incidents at her location of residence. Ms. Markel presented a petition for the record, requesting an intersection reconfiguration.
- Ms. Cherri Roney, 4120 County Club Road in Ridgefield reiterated concerns made by Ms. Markel. Ms. Roney noted vehicle damage at her residence also and a drunk driving incident that caused property damage.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JULY 18, 2007

On a motion by Ms. Zierer, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the August 15, 2007 meeting minutes were approved as presented.

A vote was taken with all members present voting “aye”; motion carried.

PRESENTATION

FY2007-2008 Budget

Key financial elements of the FY2007-2008 Division of Transportation budget were discussed by Mr. Ralph Sarbaugh. He stated that this budget was most challenging because of recent issues that were approved by the County Board.

Mr. Korpalski reviewed the Supplemental Requests of the budget. He briefly discussed the new *Special Counsel* program. This position would work in coordination with the McHenry County State's Attorney Office (SAO) regarding engineering contracts, construction contracts, intergovernmental agreements, claims by and against the Division, labor union, and land acquisition/condemnation proceedings. The handling of the Division's legal needs presently is undertaken by the SAO. By having Special Counsel afforded to the Division directly, the burden upon the SAO will be reduced while the Division can work in an expeditious manner to address the many legal issues raised.

Discussions ensued.

On a motion by Ms. Orphal, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the FY2007-2008 budget was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

BID APPROVAL

Resolution Awarding Remote Weather Information System (RWIS) Contract

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution awarding the construction contract and the appropriation of funds for the construction of the Remote Weather Information Systems (RWIS) in Marengo Township and Riley Township.

This project is included in the FY2006-2010 Highway Improvement Plan (HIP). The County has determined that in order to effectively administer and manage the snow and ice removal operations of the County highways, reliable information is necessary on local weather and pavement conditions throughout McHenry County on the County highway system. The project is funded with County Option Motor Fuel Tax funds. The project is scheduled to be completed this year and will provide valuable information for the upcoming winter months. The project consists of the installation of two (2) Remote Weather Information Systems at the Harmony Road bridge crossing I-90 and on the Kishwaukee Valley Road bridge over Rush Creek.

The engineering cost estimate for the installation was \$223,785.00 and the low bid received from Bodine Electric of Decatur, Illinois was for \$279,875.85. As has been standard practice, 15% will be added to the bid price for the appropriation to cover contingencies and unexpected extra costs. The additional funds can be covered by the contingency line item for construction.

On a motion by Ms. Orphal, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the resolution approving the award of contract for two (2) remote weather information systems to Bodine Electric was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SALARY OF THE COUNTY ENGINEER AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

Mr. Austin asked the committee's consideration for the establishment of the salary for the County Engineer and the appropriation of funds. The intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation utilizes a portion of the Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds available for the purpose of payment of the salary of the County Engineer and is pursuant with the IGA. Mr. Austin went on to explain cost sharing between the State and the County.

On a motion by Ms. Zierer, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the resolution establishing the salary of the County Engineer and the appropriation of funds was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO METRA COMMUTER RAIL

The McHenry County Division of Transportation staff requests the approval of a resolution in support of improvements to the Union Pacific Northwest commuter rail line as detailed in the Alternatives Analysis conducted by Metra.

An alternatives analysis, in accordance with the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts Planning and Project Development process, was conducted by Metra with the participation of a technical advisory committee including representation from the McHenry County Division of Transportation.

The alternatives analysis conducted a screening process and produced a final list of feasible alternatives for the Union Pacific Northwest commuter rail line. The final list includes extending service to new stations in Johnsburg, Ridgefield, and Prairie Grove and building new rail yards in Johnsburg and northwest of Woodstock.

These improvements (estimated at \$144,000,000.00 in total) have the potential to expand service from nineteen (19) trains per day to twenty-four (24) (eight (8) reverse commute) trains per day providing Metra more flexibility in service and allow for more travel options for commuters. These improvements are estimated to draw some 4,100 additional riders onto the Metra line by the year 2030.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Zierer, the resolution supporting improvements to the Metra commuter rail was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

Mr. Manheim announced that the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation was in full support of the improvements to the Metra commuter rail line and that a similar resolution was also passed by the EDC.

A vote was taken with all members present voting "aye"; motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Algonquin Road Construction Update

Mr. Dammyer gave an update on the current status of the Algonquin Road reconstruction project.

NEW BUSINESS

New Staff

The McHenry County Division of Transportation is pleased to welcome the addition of Jeff Harvey to our staff as a Maintenance employee. Jeff has been assigned to the Division's Vegetation section where he will assist in the day to day operations of the Division of Transportation. Mr. Harvey comes to us with a great deal of experience in the forestry industry. He has previously worked for Asplundt and Wright Tree Service as a certified power line tree trimmer. Mr. Harvey has also worked for the Village of Round Lake Beach in the Forestry Division performing tree removals and municipal maintenance including snow removal. He is a member of the International Society of Arboriculture achieving the status of certified Arborist. Mr. Harvey is an avid bass fisherman and is a resident of Ingleside.

The McHenry Division of Transportation is pleased to welcome the addition of Ms. Chalen Hunter to our staff as our new Planning Liaison for the McHenry County Council of Mayors. Ms. Hunter comes to us from the Northwest Municipal Conference which is made up of the municipalities of northwestern Cook County where she has worked for the last 4 ½ years. While at the Northwest Municipal Conference she most recently served as the Program Manager for Transportation and

Environment where she served as the planning liaison for the North Shore Council of Mayors overseeing over \$4 million in annual federal funding for transportation projects. She also was involved with numerous boards and committees including the Poplar Creek and Upper Salt Creek, North Branch Chicago River and Lower Des Plaines River Watershed Planning Councils and the Northwest Transit Corridor Task Force. Ms. Hunter is a graduate of Western Illinois University in Macomb, Illinois and is currently a resident of the Village of Algonquin.

The McHenry County Division of Transportation is pleased to welcome the addition of Mr. Don Giese to our staff as a Maintenance employee. Don has been assigned to the Division's Road Maintenance section where he will assist in the day to day operations of the Division of Transportation. Mr. Giese comes to us with over 30 years of experience in the road building and construction industry. He has previously worked for Plote Construction and Thelen Sand & Gravel as a Crew Foreman and as a Field Superintendent, including snow removal. Mr. Giese enjoys winter sports and belongs to the McHenry County Snowmobile Association and is a resident of Johnsburg.

APWA – Donald C. Stone Award for Excellence in Education

Mr. Korpalski referenced several articles that Mr. DeVries was interviewed for and distributed the August edition of the American City and County magazine to committee members. He also referenced two (2) other articles regarding the upcoming APWA Congress and Mr. DeVries' presentation. There will also be two (2) more articles, written by Mr. DeVries, that will appear in the October issue of the APWA Reporter.

Mr. Korpalski announced that Mr. DeVries has been nominated and is this year's recipient for the Donald C. Stone Excellence in Education Award. This is a National award for the top educator in Public Works. The award bears the name of the person who founded the American Public Works Association. Mr. Korpalski went on to read a letter submitted as part of the nomination process in support of Mr. DeVries.

Ms. Laura McGovern who serves as the APWA Chicago Metro Chapter Awards Chairperson was introduced and had many kind words about Mr. DeVries. Ms. McGovern spoke of how important National recognition is to both the Chapter and the County. Ms. McGovern went on to praise the County for having the vision to identify the resource they have in Mr. DeVries.

Mr. DeVries thanked everyone for their support and the flexibility given to him to share the experiences and innovations achieved at the Division of Transportation.

Congratulations were offered to Mr. DeVries and Mr. Korpalski stated that Mr. Koehler and he would be attending the award ceremony in San Antonio, Texas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Orphal, the meeting went into Executive Session at 10:20 A.M. to discuss minutes.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the meeting went into Regular Session at 10:26 A.M.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

Chairman Shea noted that "no action" was taken in Executive Session.

NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

9:00 A.M. on September 19, 2007 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the meeting was adjourned at 10:31 A.M.

A vote was taken with all members present voting "aye"; motion carried.