

**Transportation Committee Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008 – 8:30 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 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

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

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

None

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Walter Dittrich, Division of Transportation, Design Manager; Chris Manheim, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC); Paula Yensen, Village of Lake in the Hills Trustee; Iris Bryan, Town Crier Publication; Mark Dammyer, Division of Transportation, Construction Manager; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Andy Schwebke, Division of Transportation, Sign Shop Supervisor; Randy Morin, Division of Transportation, Vegetation Supervisor; Hawk Helland, Division of Transportation, Sign Shop Maintenance Section; Grant Wollert, Division of Transportation, Vegetation Maintenance Section; Bob Westman, Division of Transportation, Road Maintenance Section; Ron Maas, Division of Transportation, Data/Communications Manager; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation, Principal Transportation Planner; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation, Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chris Manheim, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation advised the Committee of an Illinois Development Council Lobby Day on May 14, 2008 in Springfield, Illinois. He asked if Committee or staff members had any additional items that needed to be addressed/discussed at this event and if so, they should contact the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation with those matters.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 16, 2008

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Orphal, the meeting minutes from April 16, 2008 were approved as presented.

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

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution for the inclusion of the identified groups into the MCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program.

The groups seeking inclusion into the program are as follows:

New Groups

Crystal Lake Boy Scout Troop #168

Section of Roadway

Lakewood Road from Miller Road to Ackman Road

Spring Grove Bible Fellowship

Main Street from Wilmot Road to Blivin Street

With the approval of these agreements, MCDOT has 121 groups enrolled in the program covering 164 centerline miles of the 226 available miles in the program, which is approximately 73%.

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Orphal, the resolution approving the identified groups for inclusion into the McHenry County Division of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway Program was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET LINE ITEM TRANSFER IN THE DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION FY2007-2008 BUDGET

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution, endorsing the emergency transfer of funds for over time salaries and fuel, oil and grease.

The County experienced a record setting winter season. Snowfall totals for the 2007-2008 winter season were the highest ever recorded. The County also received several severe ice storms, blowing and drifting snow, a tornado in early January and extensive flooding this spring. The MCDOT staff was required to work every weekend in December, all but one weekend in January, all but one weekend in February and every County Board approved holiday including a major storm in March involving the Easter holiday. This has caused the MCDOT to exceed the entire budgeted amount for over time salaries prior to the construction season. The MCDOT is expecting the construction season to be its largest in many years and construction mandates that personnel be present whenever work is being performed. It is anticipated that this will lead to a large amount of over time being required for engineering staff.

The requested amount for over time salaries is for \$90,000.00, to be transferred from the Highway Fund – Fund Balance Enhancement to cover the estimated expenses for the remaining budget year ending November 30, 2008.

The requested amount for fuel, oil and grease is for \$200,000.00, to be transferred from the Highway Fund – Fund Balance Enhancement to cover the estimated expenses for the remaining budget year ending November 30, 2008.

If this is approved today, this item will be placed on the agenda for the May 13, 2008 Finance and Audit Committee meeting and on May 20, 2008 for the County Board meeting.

Diesel fuel usage has doubled compared to the same time period last year, while gasoline usage has remained unchanged. It is estimated that MCDOT will use approximately 55,000 gallons of fuel throughout the remainder of the budget period at an estimated cost of \$3.50 per gallon.

The County has been approved to receive \$95,000.00 from FEMA for the February 6, 2008 and February 7, 2008 event.

Agenda Item #5.0 and #6.0 were approved under the following motion.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Miller, the resolution authorizing a budget line item transfer in the Division of Transportation FY2007-2008 budget for over time salaries and fuel, oil and grease, were approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

The McHenry County Division of Transportation staff requests the approval of the resolution supporting an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) with the State of Illinois for Federal participation for the Crystal Lake Avenue intersection with Pingree Road/Terra Cotta Road improvement project.

Smith Engineering, Inc. was selected by the Transportation Committee on March 1, 2006 for the Phase I engineering based on the preliminary engineering they had completed for the Townships to construct an interim improvement for the intersection. The Phase II contract was approved Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at the County Board meeting and will receive 100% Federal Section 117 funds through Congressman Manzullo. The Phase I Engineering Study has been completed and approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

This is a standard agreement with IDOT for Federal participation. The agreement identifies that the County will be reimbursed 100% for the Phase II engineering services agreement.

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the resolution authorizing an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Illinois was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF ILLINOIS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS

The McHenry County Division of Transportation staff requests the approval of the resolution supporting an intergovernmental agreement with the State of Illinois outlining the cost participation for the Alden Road bridge project.

The MCDOT needs to facilitate the replacement of the Alden Road bridge in Alden Township. The bridge meets the requirements of the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) which will fund the project at 80%. This agreement outlines the funding commitment from the State to provide Federal funds to the project.

The reason for the new resolution for this project is to comply with funding processing requirements instituted by IDOT. This IGA reflects the County's share for the Phase I Engineering and Supplement #2. The Transportation Committee already approved an amended resolution to include Supplements #1 and #2; however, IDOT has requested a different accounting method to show this. The new agreement is needed so that IDOT can process Supplement #2. This is a standard agreement with the State of Illinois for Federal participation.

On a motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the resolution approving an IGA with the State of Illinois and appropriating 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 APPROVING AN ENGINEERING SERVICES AGREEMENT

The McHenry County Division of Transportation staff requests approval of the engineering services agreement with V3 Companies of Illinois, for construction engineering supervision for the improvements to Randall Road between Harnish Drive and County Line Road as part of the Oakridge Court (J. C. Penney's) permit project.

Due to the amount of permit construction projects this year and the magnitude of the Randall Road improvements, it was recommended that a consultant be brought on board (at the expense of the developer) to perform the day to day inspections for this project. This will allow staff to focus their efforts on other permit construction projects in the County while ensuring that the Randall Road project moves forward as expeditiously as possible.

Interviews were held on March 19, 2008 by the Transportation Committee for the Harmony Road/U.S. Route 20 project, in which V3 Companies of Illinois was selected as the second preferred consultant. The scope of services includes daily inspection and serving as the coordinator between the developer and McHenry County staff.

Phase III contracted amount is for just over \$62,000.00.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Miller, the resolution approving an engineering services agreement was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT FOR THERMOPLASTIC PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution accepting bids for thermoplastic pavement markings for the FY2008 program.

Bids were opened on May 1, 2008 at the MCDOT. This annual bid is funded through the Motor Fuel Tax fund.

The harsh winter and plowing operations deteriorated the existing epoxy pavement marking faster than anticipated. After inspections were performed this spring, staff felt that a different approach to pavement marking for the County highways was required. The decision has been made to use thermoplastic pavement markings as opposed to the typical epoxy material used in the past. The life expectancy for the epoxy pavement marking was anticipated to be four (4) to six (6) years; however, the MCDOT as well as other agencies in the area have discovered that the epoxy is not performing as expected and lasting only one (1) to two (2) years. Conversely, the lifespan of the thermoplastic pavement markings is lasting at least four (4) years.

Switching to thermoplastic pavement markings is part of a two (2) pronged approach staff will be using this year for roadway striping. Other roadways on the County highway system which are in need of re-striping will be painted this year by MCDOT staff using the paint purchased through the State bid process. This is being done as it is not cost effective to re-stripe all of the roadways using the thermoplastic pavement marking material.

This Committee is also aware that for the Algonquin Road project the MCDOT is using grooved and inlaid pavement markings as another approach to hopefully obtain longer lasting pavement marking and comparative analysis.

In the FY2008 program, \$180,000.00 was budgeted. The low bid came in at just over \$170,000.00, with the engineer's estimate at just over \$182,000.00. The biggest reasons for the lower prices on the bid is that staff was able to get the bid out earlier this year and there are more contractors qualified to perform thermoplastic pavement marking. Also, the apparent low bidder has numerous other projects within McHenry County.

On a motion by Ms. Orphal, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the resolution awarding a contract for thermoplastic pavement markings and appropriating funds was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

OLD/ NEW BUSINESS

Old Business

Mosquito Abatement Program

Mr. DeVries, McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT), Maintenance Superintendent explained that because of the harsh winter with large amounts of snow ultimately leads to flooding which will cause an above normal mosquito year. Mr. DeVries explained the mosquito abatement process.

In 2001-2002 when the new MCDOT facility opened, the West Nile virus became a very big issue for the County.

In 2003, a program was initiated in the treatment of catch basins, ponds and water adjacent within County right-of-ways that was done by using a certain type of pellets.

Additionally, the detention facilities had to be addressed. These were built with the intent that pooling water would dry up; however, they did not. The pond behind the facility developed into a "green swamp."

An extensive amount of research was conducted which culminated in the stocking and aeration of the ponds to address the issues associated with the ponds. By working with the Department of Natural Resources, Richmond Fisheries and professionals who treat ponds, the MCDOT found that the best treatment for this concern was "fish." Treatment of the ponds has been performed annually since 2004.

In 2005-2006 renovations were conducted by cleaning up underbrush and removal of old tanks that led to the ponds.

In 2007, the MCDOT administered unique drainage procedures which helped ensure that the ponds were not silting in.

Training classes are mandatory for all MCDOT Maintenance staff that will be implementing mosquito abatement.

A video presentation was provided for the Committee.

Little Visitors Recognition

Mr. DeVries informed the Committee that the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) hosted three (3) days of tours for the Thunderbird Preschool. In the past few years, requests have been received about visitations to the facility.

When the Little Visitors arrived, they were greeted by “Roary” the Tiger, the MCDOT’s mascot.

The visitors were shown an 8-minute video called “A Snowplow, Cool,” which is a safety video explaining why children should not build snow forts near the road and also about safety distances between children, snowplows and other snow equipment.

The visitors were also shown several trucks and different types of equipment. They took part in a mock Adopt-A-Highway pickup where they used pickers for the cleanup of cans, etc. for recycling.

Class pictures were taken and each child received a picture and a coloring book to take home.

Mr. DeVries stated that he is working on a program to try and do an Open House at a shopping center and County equipment would be brought to the site. Another idea in its early stages is to bring a snow plow to a school, have the students paint their logo or a patriotic depiction on the plow. It is then brought to a shopping center where the paintings will be judged and a winner is chosen. When the trucks are snow plowing throughout the County in the winter months, the students’ artwork will be displayed on the truck.

There is also a link on the County’s website regarding the above information.

A video presentation was provided for the Committee.

Snow and Ice Recognition

Mr. DeVries stated that he attended the North American Snow Conference this year, which was held in Louisville, Kentucky.

Mr. DeVries was accompanied by two (2) staff members, Mr. Bob Westman and Mr. Grant Wollert, who conducted classes/presentations. Mr. Westman presented on “De-Icer Blending Systems” and Mr. Wollert presented on “Through the Windshield of an Operator.” These were both paneled discussions. Mr. Westman and Mr. Wollert also hosted “Rounds Tables” which were open discussions on similar issues during lunch. These classes and round tables were a huge success and Mr. DeVries shared some favorable comments from attendees.

Mr. DeVries stated how very proud he was of staff, adding that presenting to a group is no small undertaking. He expressed his pleasure at having staff members accompany him to the North American Snow Conference and was asked if they could come back and conduct presentations again.

Street Lighting

Mr. Wally Dittrich updated the Committee about the existence of street lighting on County highways specifically the topic of beacon lighting found at many rural intersections.

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff has performed an inventory on all the County highways and currently there are approximately 240 beacon lights throughout the County along County highways.

Of those 240 lights found, MCDOT currently is billed for approximately 110 of them. Of those 110, only about half have been confirmed by staff to match locations verified in the field. The MCDOT staff will continue to follow up

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on this issue and coordinate with ComEd to correct the bills currently being paid by MCDOT to verify that only those at County/County intersections are paid for by the County.

Red Light Running (RLR) Camera

Mr. Dittrich referred to an article in the newspaper regarding the implementation of the Red Light Running (RLR) camera. The Village of Lake in the Hills had an RLR camera installed at Acorn Lane, which was initiated in mid-January. A total of over 3,000 violations occurred during this period; however, only 700 violators were issued tickets. The MCDOT staff met with the Lake in the Hills Police Department last week and was shown video and related information on these violations.

This year the MCDOT is looking to install five (5) more systems on McHenry County roadways; three (3) in the Village of Algonquin and two (2) in the Village of Lake in the Hills.

The approved locations in the Village of Algonquin were at Randall Road northbound at Bunker Hill Drive, northbound Randall Road at Algonquin Road and westbound Algonquin Road at Randall Road.

The locations in the Village of Lake in the Hills will be at southbound Miller Road at Randall Road and also eastbound Algonquin Road at Hilltop Drive.

Update on Algonquin Road

Mr. Dammyer updated the Committee on Algonquin Road Phase I, east of Lakewood Road to Randall Road noting that the test strip for the bituminous surface course was conducted Tuesday, May 6, 2008. If the test strip is acceptable, paving of the final surface course on Algonquin Road, including the inlaid markings, will be completed by the end of the week. The groove markings will start ten (10) days later. Ideally six (6) days of surface course paving on Algonquin Road, with two (2) more days on side streets, will conclude that phase of the project.

The traffic signals are in place and functioning and the street lights are in test mode.

ComEd has been working at the west phase of the project, Lakewood Road to Illinois Route 47, and Nicor has just started their relocation work.

The MCDOT's contractor, Curran Contracting, has started erosion control work and plans to start pouring temporary pavement at the end of this week.

Sometime next week, a traffic switch will be activated to move the traffic to the north side of the road while construction starts on the south side of the road for the new pavement.

New Business

No items discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Minutes

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Miller, the meeting went into Executive Session at 9:18 A.M. to discuss meeting minutes.

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

RETURN TO REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the meeting went into Regular Session at 9:28 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

8:30 A.M. on May 21, 2008 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Miller, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the meeting adjourned at 9:29 A.M.

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

APPROVED