

**Wednesday, September 17, 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, Ed Dvorak, Mary Lou Zierer and Virginia Peschke

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Sandra Salgado, Lyn Orphal, and Anna May Miller

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Mary McCann, McHenry County Board Member; Christina Webb, State's Attorney Office (SAO); Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Paula Yensen, Village of Lake in the Hills; Charles Eldredge, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation; Michelle Link and Robin Martell, HDR; Mike Magnuson, Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick (HLR); Iris Bryan, Town Crier Publication; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Wally Dittrich, Division of Transportation Design Manager; Cha Lee, Division of Transportation Consultant Project/Design Engineer; Pablo Faillaci Division of Transportation Construction Engineer; Ray Beets, Division of Transportation, Permit/Developer Project Manager; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation Principal Transportation Planner; Chalen Daigle, Division of Transportation Planning Liaison; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – September 3, 2008

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Zierer, the meeting minutes of September 3, 2008 were approved as presented.

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

PRESENTATION

Randall Road Phase I Study

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff and HDR were present to provide the Transportation Committee with an update on the Randall Road Improvements Study.

HDR gave a brief presentation on the recent activities of the Community Advisory Council (CAC) and discussed the four (4) different alternatives which will be presented at the next public meeting for the project, which will be held on September 23, 2008 at the Crystal Lake South High School cafeteria, 1200 South McHenry Avenue in Crystal Lake from 4:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.

Ms. Michelle Link from HDR gave a brief presentation on the following topics:

Randall Road Improvements Study Update

- CAC Meetings Update – ten (10) out of thirteen (13) meetings have been held
- Purpose and Need for the project
- Alternatives
 - Alternative 1 – Single Point Urban Interchange (approximate cost \$137.2 million)
 - Alternative 2 – Grade-Separated Turning Lanes (approximate cost \$165.7 million)
 - Alternative 3 – Add Turning Lanes (approximate cost \$59.4 million)
 - Alternative 4 – Continuous Flow Intersection (approximate cost \$79.0 million)
 - Pedestrian/Bicycle Options (approximate cost \$2 million - \$20 million)
 - HOV Options
- Detailed Evaluation Analysis Results
- Project Costs
- Next Steps
 - Public Informational Meeting (aerial views will be available)
 - Address Public Comments
 - Develop Preferred Alternative (alternates can be combined)
 - Prepare Phase I Report
- Schedule
- Website – www.RandallRoad.info

Mr. Korpalski explained to Committee members that the costs listed as part of the update are representative of today's dollars. The Committee will have a number of tough decisions to make at some point given McHenry County's course of action and the fact that these figures are not encompassed within the long-range transportation plan.

Mr. Korpalski discussed this theory and why McHenry County should look to consider this type of project in their Federal legislative program. The long range transportation plan would have to include some form of additional funding (i.e. Federal government, local government, or developers). Construction likely would have to be phased in by specific segments and could not be constructed all at one time. This will need to be evaluated further into the process.

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

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

Cub Pack 367 of Woodstock	Greenwood Road from Charles Road to Arabian Trail	new group
Greg Grana and Associates	Alden Road from IL 173 to O'Brien Road	new group

In order to augment the MCDOT's litter collection efforts, the County enacted an ordinance to allow for volunteer groups to adopt various sections of highways for litter collection. With the approval of these agreements, the MCDOT has 113 groups enrolled in the program covering 147 centerline miles of the 226 available miles in the program which is roughly 65%.

The ordinance requires that the volunteer groups enter into an agreement with McHenry County defining the responsibilities of the group and the County. This resolution approves the County to enter into an agreement with two (2) groups for two (2) sections of highway.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified groups into the MCDOT 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.

ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE MCHENRY COUNTY ACCESS CONTROL AND RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the revised McHenry County Access Management Ordinance entitled “McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance”. Staff and its consultant (HLR) were present to answer any questions.

On May 2, 2006, the County Board approved a contract with HLR to help update the County’s current Access Management Ordinance. At the June 4, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting, the County’s consultant HLR, gave a presentation which included an overview of the purpose of the Access Management Ordinance, as well as some of the proposed revisions. On September 3, 2008, Transportation Committee members received a memo from Design Manager Wally Dittrich containing the new ordinance as well as supporting documentation regarding the public outreach process.

The new Access Management Ordinance, which was last revised eleven (11) years ago in 1997, has been updated to reflect today’s latest design standards and procedures, as well making it more user friendly with the addition of a companion document titled the Permit Procedures and Requirements Manual. This manual is not technically part of the ordinance, but will serve as an important tool for permit applicants to understand the County’s process and know ahead of time what the exact requirements are. Items that have been permitted by the MCDOT by its statutory authority in the past but not covered under any formal procedures have also been added to this ordinance. Examples of this include; utility work, facility installation in County right-of-way, as well as permits to close or utilize a County highway for a special event. The McHenry County State’s Attorney Office (SAO) has reviewed and approved the ordinance. The McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance, if approved by the County Board, will become effective January 1, 2009.

A motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the ordinance approving the adoption of the McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance, with a recommendation to the McHenry County Board was approved and will be placed on the October 7, 2008 McHenry County Board agenda with a 30-day review period.

Ms. Zierer requested more leniency in her district (District 6) from the MCDOT when considering commercial access, because of the necessity of commerce and employment requirements in McHenry County. It is crucial to maintain industry in the County.

Mr. Korpalski assured Ms. Zierer that MCDOT is aware of the economic benefits and noted that staff strives to be as consistent as possible in the application of standards across the board. Every case, of course, has its own set of merits that need to be addressed; however, there are statutory requirements that have to be met.

Staff considers consistency fundamental in any application for access; however, staff makes every effort to maintain proper balance. The ordinance affords the applicant the opportunity to seek a variance hearing if they are dissatisfied with the final decision.

A roll call vote was taken with the following results: Ms. Peschke, yes; Mr. Dvorak, yes; Chairman Shea, yes; Mary Lou Zierer, no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING PERMIT FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MCHENRY COUNTY ACCESS CONTROL AND RIGHT-OF-WAY MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the new Permit Fees associated with the revised McHenry County Access Management Ordinance entitled “McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance”. Staff and its consultant (HLR) were present to answer any questions.

At the June 4, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting, staff gave a presentation on the current fee structure, what type of funds were being recouped by the County, fees being charged by other neighboring agencies as well a proposed new fee structure.

The current fees associated with the approved Access Management Ordinance have not been updated since 1997. The proposed fees will be collected for the following types of permits: Major Access, Minor Access, Temporary Access, Emergency Access, Utility Installation, and Facility Installation. Fees to cover project close out inspections for major access permits (both performance and maintenance) have been added to help ensure compliance. Also, to adequately address the continued rise in the cost expended by the County to review and manage permits, a 5% automatic annual increase has been added to the fee structure. The new fees associated with the McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance, if approved by the County Board, are proposed to become effective January 1, 2009.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke seconded by Mr. Dvorak, the resolution adopting permit fees associated with the McHenry County Access Control and Right-of-Way Management Ordinance was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PAYMENT TO THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING (CMAP)

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the payment of \$25,000 to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) for regional land use and transportation planning.

In 2005, the State of Illinois created CMAP to consolidate land use and transportation planning for the seven (7) counties in northeastern Illinois. The planning was previously done by separate agencies, the Chicago Area Transportation Study (CATS) and the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC). Since the merger of the two (2) agencies, CMAP has been working with all units of local government to promote a unifying sense of the region’s future land use and transportation infrastructure.

As part of the Act that formed CMAP, the Illinois General Assembly approved some State funding to CMAP. The Legislature also stated that the local region must also commit its support. Therefore, the CMAP Board has proposed a \$25,000 commitment from each of the various governmental agencies that represent the region. The \$25,000 is being requested from each of the seven (7) Counties, \$25,000 from the City of Chicago and \$25,000 from each of the service boards. In the past, McHenry County has contributed the following amounts: \$15,783 in 2005; \$16,572 in 2006; and \$17,400 in 2007.

It is anticipated that this request from CMAP will be on an annual basis.

The funding of the \$25,000 will come from County Board Fund (Dues and Memberships).

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak seconded by Ms. Peschke, the resolution to approve payment to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Christina Webb of the State’s Attorney Office (SAO) was present to explain to Committee members the proper “Pre-hearing and Hearing Procedures” concerning the October 1, 2008 variance hearing for the access of McGuire Road; the hearing will take place during the Transportation Committee meeting. Ms. Christina Webb will act as a Hearing Officer for the variance hearing.

The procedure was developed by an attorney previously with the SAO. The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) asked that the SAO review the procedure.

Ms. Webb stated that she has updated the developed procedure drafted by Mr. Dave Stone and assessed the last transcript for possible concerns. The pre-hearing procedure has been initiated for the October 1, 2008 hearing and it has been arranged that a court reporter will be present to transcribe the proceedings.

Ms. Webb advised that Committee members familiarize themselves with the Ordinance, specifically Section 4.5.2.

Ms. Peschke advised that she would not be present at the October 1, 2008 Transportation Committee meeting.

Ms. Webb advised that she would research questions and statutes posed by the Committee and would get back to them with her findings regarding the need for a full quorum by the Committee.

It was noted by Ms. Webb that if her acting role at the variance hearing was that of the Hearing Officer, she would be unable to offer legal advice to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests additional chemical liquid storage for anti-icing and de-icing purposes.

The MCDOT has traditionally been utilizing chemicals in its winter operations since the 1990's. In recent years, the MCDOT has taken great strides utilizing liquids prior to a winter event in the form of anti-icing.

The use of anti-icing chemicals has been successful; however, as their use has increased and their true effectiveness has been realized, the MCDOT is not able to store enough chemicals for what a typical winter event would need.

Based on the availability of the remaining budget and the need for additional liquid for winter operations, the MCDOT is seeking to include more liquid storage this year.

Today the MCDOT has 50,000 gallons of liquid with 20,000 gallons being of the blended Super Mix. The remaining 30,000 gallons are the separate chemicals used to make the blended product. Based on the current lane mileage maintained by the MCDOT, approximately 25,000 gallons of Super Mix is needed prior to one (1) event for anti-icing. With only 20,000 gallons of Super-Mix available, the three (3) hours it takes to replenish the Super-Mix is inadequate to keep up with an event.

Then during the event itself, it is extremely difficult to also continue using the same chemicals for de-icing during an event.

The MCDOT did extensive investigative research and determined that in order to efficiently perform winter operations with the aid of liquids, it would need an additional 60,000 gallons (six (6) 10,000 gallon tanks) of liquid storage at a cost of approximately \$60,000.00.

Presently, the MCDOT has \$44,254.00 remaining in the 6000 series for Capital Outlay. The MCDOT has yet to acquire the budget amount of \$53,000.00 for the Vacuum Excavator. The MCDOT proposes to forego the purchase of the Vacuum Excavator, in order to acquire the additional liquid storage.

It was the concurrence of the Committee that the MCDOT proceed with the purchase of six (6) new tanks and to bring forth the resolution at a future Transportation Committee meeting.

- Mr. Korpalski discussed articles that were sent via e-mail to Committee members discussing the highway trust fund “fix” that’s been going on in Washington. The trust fund was due to go bankrupt in 2009. It has been an issue that both legislative bodies (the Senate and the House) have been considering. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters stated that the United States Department of Transportation (U.S.D.O.T.) course of action was reversed and the House and Senate approved the transfer of \$8 billion from the general fund back to the highway trust fund. It is awaiting the president’s signature. The Senate approved this shift of funds on September 10, 2008.
- Chairman Shea depicted the demonizing of earmarks and the re-designation of it as “pork.” He praised Congressman Manzullo’s efforts for attaining specified earmarked dollars. He went on to add that if those dollars were not earmarked, then whatever dollars came to this state would go directly to Springfield. Our chances then of receiving those dollars would be zero.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Minutes, Property Acquisitions, Personnel and/or Pending Litigation

No Executive Session was held at today’s meeting.

NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

8:30 A.M. on October 1, 2008 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the meeting adjourned at 10:02 A.M.

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