

**Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.
McHenry County Division of Transportation
Main Conference Room
Woodstock, Illinois 60098**

Chairperson Anna May Miller
Ed Dvorak Paula Yensen
Virginia Peschke Daniel Ryan
Sandra Salgado Scott Breeden

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chairperson Miller, Ed Dvorak, Daniel Ryan, Paula Yensen, Scott Breeden, Sandra Salgado and Virginia Peschke

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

None

Ed Dvorak left at 9:13 A.M.

Paula Yensen left at 9:13 A.M.

Sandra Salgado left at 12:00 P.M.

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Ersel Schuster, County Board; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Cynthia Schaupp, SAO/Division of Transportation Liaison; Jamie Rein, SAO; Mark Mathewson, MROWCO; Victor Ramirez, City of Crystal Lake; Preston Rea, Alden Township Supervisor; P.J. Fitzpatrick, Wills, Burke, Kelsey Associates, Ltd. (WBK); Todd Bright, TranSystems Corporation; Cindy Flower, Craig Lukowicz, Dan Bruckelmeyer and Jaymin Patel, Bollinger Lach & Associates (BLA); Raymond Kumapley, Strand Associates, Inc.; Ted Lachus, Primera; Robert Lewis, Stanley Consultants, Inc.; James Shaw, ESI Consultants Ltd.; Alan Plane, Alden resident; Joe Ardito, Alden resident; Mary Ellen Howard, Alden resident; Joanne Boppart, County resident; Wally Dittrich, Division of Transportation, Design Manager; Cha Lee, Division of Transportation, Consultant Project/Design Engineer; Mark Dammyer, Division of Transportation, Construction Manager; Ken Baker, Division of Transportation, Township Engineer; Pablo Faillaci, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Troy Strange, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Sarah Lutz, Division of Transportation, Transportation Planner Chalen Daigle, Planning Liaison; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation, Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The following attendees addressed and discussed their concerns regarding the Alden Road Improvement project:

- Preston Rea - Alden Township Supervisor
- Joe Ardito - offered a document for the record

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 1, 2009

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the meeting minutes of July 1, 2009, were approved as presented.

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

PRESENTATION

Miller Road

Mr. Dittrich provided a project history and an update on the Miller Road project. This presentation was provided to Committee members in advance of the final public hearing, which is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2009 from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the City of McHenry Municipal Center located at 333 South Green Street in McHenry, Illinois. The last public meeting was held in May of 2008. The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) has been waiting for environmental clearances for approximately one year.

Mr. Dittrich conveyed that nothing significant has changed regarding the project since the last presentation. The entire project is a section of the Bull Valley/Miller/River/Chapel Hill corridor study. The project that MCDOT has identified for this part of the phase extends from Illinois Route 31 to River Road, with numerous funding sources identified.

The project entails converting the two-lane road to a five-lane road. Traffic projections are upwards of 20,000 vehicles with traffic anticipated to increase over 50% in 2030, the main reason for this project (capacity improvement). The existing typical section is a two-lane roadway with an existing shared use path on the south side. This shared use path will be maintained and the roadway will be converted to a four-lane section with a barrier median.

During the last public meeting, a proposed extension of Broadway Street with right-of-way owned by the City of McHenry was presented and shown as part of the corridor study. Public comments received at that meeting emphasized opposition to the proposed extension due to traffic concerns. The City of McHenry has decided not to pursue that option and it has been eliminated from the plan.

Another proposed project within the corridor is a 24-unit apartment complex, which will not have direct access to Miller Road. Access can be acquired from Old Bull Valley Road into McHenry, which will be a full access point.

The proposed new bridge will be built to the north of the existing bridge on Charles Miller Road resulting in a four-lane bridge and will require one (1) full property acquisition as part of the project.

This is approximately a \$23 million project, with the following funding sources: Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding (CMAQ), High Priority Project (HPP) funding through Congresswoman Melissa Bean, Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding and MCDOT is still working with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) regarding their funding contribution for the Miller Road /Illinois Route 31 intersection project.

Next Steps:

- A public hearing scheduled for July 22, 2009.
- Phase I design approval from IDOT anticipated in the fall of 2009.
- Bringing forth Phase II contracts and right-of-way plat preparation at a subsequent Transportation Committee meeting, kicking off the right-of-way acquisition process.
- Construction in 2011 or 2012.

OLD BUSINESS

Alden Road

Mr. Young addressed several comments that were brought up at the July 7, 2009 County Board meeting.

- **Federal Standards**

Federal guidelines are based upon certain factors, i.e., the curve of the road, driving speed, and car comfortability on the road (does the curve need to be banked to accomplish a safe feeling by the driver). These are all examples of Federal standards that are based on engineering principles which in turn are based on physics, and do not change regardless of where you are driving. When Federal standards for highway design engineering are utilized, it implies that the highest, the safest and the best standards

available are being put into effect. If those standards are not employed, the implications presented indicate under-design and less safe conditions.

- **Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)**

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has implored that states enact a policy for CSS. IDOT has developed a policy but is not required to implement CSS on every project and is considered on a case by case basis. IDOT, Bureau of Local Roads governs policies and procedures for local agencies to follow (townships, municipalities and counties) and does not require the County to execute CSS on a project.

The County has implemented some qualities of CSS on this project, i.e., the May public hearing, an additional meeting with Alden Township residents in reaction to matters that have occurred since that public hearing and a public comment period (written and oral) that was extended to July 9, 2009, which is inherent with a CSS project. The MCDOT takes public comments very seriously by listening to the public, engaging them and reacting to those comments by evaluating them.

Should MCDOT feel that the Phase I engineering process plans need to be substantially changed, staff would come back before the Committee for a supplemental engineering agreement with the current consultant, to continue that Phase I process re-evaluation, relative to comments received.

- **Programming History of Alden Road**

Relative to the Highway Improvement Program (HIP 5-Year Plan) and the Long Range Transportation Plan, the Alden Road project was first included in the program in 2000 and was incorporated into the 2000-2004 HIP. It was noted that the Alden Road Bridge project was programmed starting in 1997.

The purpose of any long range transportation plan is to address issues that will change from now until the design year, i.e., amount of area growth and areas of growth and consequently putting that information into a traffic model. The 2020 Plan map will show projects that will address new growth or changing growth. Projects seen on the Plan map meet one (1) of the following three (3) criteria; a widening project, an extension of an existing road or a new road. Alden Road as encompassed in the 2020 Plan does not meet any of the criteria and hence is not specifically mentioned. The long range plan also incorporates what will be done on a day-to-day basis. All maintenance items are built into the 2020 Plan. The financially constrained plan includes all things needed to be improved including resurfacing or reconstructing existing roads such as Alden Road.

- **Historic Buildings**

Because the Federal Phase I process is followed, the project is sent to IDOT where a notification is set up across-the-board, so that all appropriate resource agencies can investigate the possible affects and impacts to their agency, i.e., the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the U. S. Fish and Wildlife agency and how to mitigate those impacts.

The Illinois State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted and investigated the project area determining via their criteria that there were no buildings of significance on this project. A letter informing MCDOT with that information was sent through IDOT.

Mr. Ryan read excerpts from the FHWA, IDOT and CMAP policies on CSS that urge local authorities to adopt similar policies, although they are not strictly required by law. Mr. Ryan also cited minimum cross-section requirements for roads with speed limits of 55 miles per hour and above.

Discussions and questions ensued. Mr. Ryan questioned as to how to get the message out regarding Alden Road and what was discussed at today's meeting and suggested the possibility of sending out of a letter.

Chairperson Miller noted that at a previous meeting a suggestion was offered that perhaps the Transportation Committee meeting public attendance sign in sheet could be used as a resource for letters. Chairperson Miller noted that you would have to be a hand writing analyst to decipher the signatures and noted that there were no addresses listed. She did however suggest that she was going to rely on the elected officials such as Evert Evertsen, Hartland Township Supervisor and Preston Rea, Alden Township Supervisor who were present to reach out to their

constituents and take the opportunity to pass along the information that they have learned and the process that was explained at today's meeting. Chairperson Miller also noted that if anyone had any further questions to feel free to contact MCDOT, herself, their own elected official(s).

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

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

Women of the Moose #1348
(new group)

Johnsburg Road from IL Route 31 to Riverside Drive

In Memory of Chris Brown
(new group)

Algonquin Road from Talaga Road to Square Barn Road

In order to augment 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 117 groups enrolled in the program covering 122 centerline miles of the 214 available miles in the program which is roughly 57%.

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 groups for two sections of highway.

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, 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 voice vote was taken with all members present voting "aye"; motion carried.

PROJECT STATUS REPORT

During the report overview, Mr. Dammyer announced the completion of the Algonquin Road construction project and Mr. Young updated the Committee on the Kishwaukee Valley Road Bridge replacement.

Ed Dvorak left at 9:13 A.M.

Paula Yensen left at 9:13 A.M.

CONSULTANT INTERVIEWS FOR FLEMING ROAD

Schedule of interviews for the Fleming Road project:

9:13 A.M. – 9:35 A.M.

Bollinger, Lach and Associates, Inc. (BLA) Interview

9:35 A.M. – 9:40 A.M.

Question and Answer Period

9:40 A.M. –10:00 A.M.

Strand Associates, Inc. Interview

10:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M.

Question and Answer Period

10:20 A.M. - 10:45 A.M.

TranSystems Corporation Interview

10:45 A.M. - 10:47 A.M.

Question and Answer Period

10:50 A.M. – 11:15 A.M.

Willis, Burke, Kelsey Associates (WBK) Interview

11:15 A.M. – 11:20 A.M.

Question and Answer Period

Conclusion of the interviews.

Discussions ensued bringing forth a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Mr. Breeden, approving TranSystems Corporation as consultant #1 for the Fleming Road project.

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

Discussions further ensued bringing forth a motion by Chairperson Miller, seconded by Ms. Peschke, selecting Bollinger Lach & Associates (BLA) as consultant #2, Strand Associates, Inc. as consultant #3 and Wills Burke Kelsey Associates (WBK) as consultant #4.

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

Mr. Korpalski noted that the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) would initiate negotiations to move forward with a contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. DeVries, McHenry County Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent was written in several articles that appeared in the June issues of *Better Roads* and the *APWA Reporter*. Due to time constraints of today’s meeting, those articles will be discussed at the next meeting.

The following are the articles that will be discussed at a later meeting:

- ***Better Roads – Salt Slurry Spreader***
- ***APWA Reporter – APWA Snow Conference reaches for the skies and ends up with the sled dogs.***
- ***APWA Reporter – Getting Snowed!***

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Meeting Minutes and Property Acquisition

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Mr. Breeden, the Committee went into Executive Session at 11:35 A.M. to discuss meeting minutes and pending litigation.

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

Sandra Salgado left at 12:00 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the Committee went into Regular Session at 12:04 A.M.

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

Chairperson Miller noted that “no action” was taken in Executive Session.

The Executive Session Meeting Minutes of July 1, 2009 were reviewed and by direction of the Committee will be forwarded to the State’s Attorney Office (SAO) for review and release.

NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

8:30 A.M. on August 5, 2009 – McHenry County Division of Transportation.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Breeden, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 P.M.

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