

**Transportation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 5, 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

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

In attendance were: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Mary McCann, County Board member; Ersel Schuster, County Board; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Cynthia Schaupp, SAO/Division of Transportation Liaison; Mark Mathewson, MROWCO; Preston Rea, Alden Township Supervisor; Todd Bright and Dave Block, TranSystems Corporation; Ken Desmaretz, H. W. Lochner; Glen Schirmer, Chastain & Associates; Todd Destree and Jim Hoving, SEC Group, Inc.; Bob Rollings, Bollinger Lach & Associates (BLA); Iris Bryan, Town Crier publication; Robert Anderson, Alden resident; Joanna Litrell, AECOM; Kurt Beystehner, Clavey's Nursery, Inc.; Christine Duncan, Alden resident; Larry Gehant, Gehant Excavating Co.; Erik Morimoto, City of Crystal Lake; 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; Wynnyth Adair, Division of Transportation, Drainage Engineer; Troy Strange, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation, Principal Transportation Planner; 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 Bridge Improvement project:

- Connie Jones, 9013 Alden Road, thanked the Committee for putting the Alden Road Bridge project on today's agenda for discussion. She addressed her concerns regarding the Alden Road Bridge project design and drainage systems issues.
- Robert Anderson addressed his concerns regarding existing right-of-way, permanent easement and maintenance of the proposed drainage system.
- Diane Evertsen commented on the draft meeting minutes from July 15, 2009. She also noted that a letter was to be sent regarding that information to which Chairperson Miller stated she did not recall requesting a letter, but that she did in fact ask for the assistance of the afore-mentioned supervisors.
- Evert Evertsen, Hartland Township Supervisor reiterated that the statement was made that a letter be sent from Mr. Korpalski to Mr. Ryan regarding the Alden Road Improvement Project. Mr. Evertsen requested that Mr. Rea and he receive a copy of that letter. He stated that the County Board members asked what the Alden Road residents' requests were and he presented a proposed resolution with that information to each Committee member and a copy for the record. Mr. Evertsen read the closing statement of that resolution to the Committee members:

“Therefore, be it resolved to not increase the right-of-way along Alden Road beyond its current configuration and that Phase I of the Alden Road reconstruction/rehabilitation project be continued until the minimum rights-of-way are drawn on a map to present to the public at another public hearing on this project. Said map to be presented to the public prior to the end of 2009 or this project will be considered cancelled.”

- Kurt Beystehner, Clavey’s Nursery, Inc. addressed his concerns regarding the preliminary Phase I plans for Alden Road.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – July 15, 2009**

A motion was made by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Mr. Ryan, to approve the meeting minutes of July 15, 2009.

An amendment to the motion was made by Mr. Ryan, seconded by Ms. Yensen, with corrections noted by Mr. Ryan and the minutes were approved with corrections duly noted.

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

**PRESENTATIONS**

***Alden Road Bridge Project – Drainage***

Chairperson Miller stated that this matter was being revisited at today’s meeting per the request of the Storm Water Management Commission (SMC), as a result of Ms. Jones’ presentation to them. Ms. Jones had previously addressed the Transportation Committee on the Alden Road Bridge Project.

The presentation will be conducted by McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff and Mr. Todd Bright and Mr. Dave Block of TranSystems.

Mr. Young stated that the presentation would address the Alden Road Bridge Project, specifically looking at the drainage issue, and specifically how it impacts Ms. Jones’ property at 9013 Alden Road.

**TranSystems Presentation**

Mr. Todd Bright and Mr. Dave Block of TranSystems reviewed the details of the project, how it’s currently designed and present day engineering, addressing resident issues and concerns. The following issues were discussed:

- Scope of the Alden Road Bridge Project
- Purpose
  - Funding Limits
- Permitting
  - Storm Water Management Ordinance
- SMC Requested Transportation Committee Involvement
- Proposed Drainage System and Resident Drainage Concerns
  - 9013 Alden Road
  - Additional Runoff
  - Increased Standing Water
- Existing Conditions
- Historical Drainage Patterns
- History of Drainage Districts
- Maintain Existing Drainage Patterns
- Enclosed System
- Design Storm Water Management Ordinance (SMO) Requirements
- Alternative Drainage Designs (4)
- Final Plans Ready for Bid
- Conclusions
  - Precedent concerns
  - Real Issue
    - Private Homeowner Drainage Problem

In addition Mr. Young cited an excerpt from the Illinois Supreme Court “Civil Law Rule” of Drainage.

- **MCDOT Recommendation**

Mr. Korpalski stated that it is the recommendation of the McHenry County Division of Transportation, with the Transportation Committee’s concurrence, that MCDOT continue to move forward with their application as currently submitted, as it meets the requirements of the Storm Water Management Ordinance.

Discussions ensued.

It was by unanimous concurrence of the Transportation Committee that the McHenry County Division of Transportation move forward with the present plans as currently designed.

***Right-of-Way Acquisition Process***

Mr. Mathewson offered the Committee members a brief summation of the entire right-of-way land acquisition process. Whether local (county only) or federal funds are used to acquire land, it is generally the best practice to follow the Federal and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) rules and procedures for land acquisition. This process is followed by the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT).

Mr. Mathewson explained in general, how the land acquisition process moves from design plans, to preparation of a highway plat, to property appraisal, and finally to acquisition. Also explained were the types of acquisition: temporary easement, permanent easement, and fee simple title.

Mr. Mathewson then explained the negotiation process and how he serves as an agent for the county coordinating with MCDOT staff and the Transportation Committee.

If a settlement is not reached, the matter comes before the Transportation Committee who will seek approval from the County Board to proceed with the condemnation process where the case is handed off to the State’s Attorney Office (SAO).

Ms. Schaupp offered the SAO’s Litigation Process beginning with bringing the matter before the Transportation Committee and the County Board to file for condemnation. At any point during condemnation, settlement may occur. If not, the process can take approximately 24 months.

Chairperson Miller thanked Mr. Mathewson and Ms. Schaupp for their presentation.

**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.

Hebron Lions Club (new group)	Greenwood Road from Okeson Road to IL Route 173
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Steve Duitsman (new group)	Algonquin Road from Hanson Road to Pyott Road
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Northern Illinois Horseshoe League (new group)	Charles J. Miller Road from Green Street to IL Route 31
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In order to augment the Division of Transportation'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 121 groups enrolled in the program covering 126 centerline miles of the 214 available miles in the program which is roughly 59%.

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 three (3) groups for three (3) sections of highway.

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Peschke, 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.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Korpalski updated the Committee on Mr. DeVries’ articles which appeared in the June and July issues of *Better Roads* and the *APWA Reporter*.

- Appearing in the June issue of *Better Roads* is an article on the salt Slurry Spreader, in the July issue of the *APWA Reporter* two articles appeared regarding the snow conference in Des Moines; “Snow Conference Reaches For The Sky and Ends Up With Sled Dogs” and “Getting Snowed”. In the July issue of *Better Roads* the feature article is “On The (Clear) Road Again”.

The *Better Roads* article discusses the new technology of crushing salt as it is conveyed from the truck and then liquid is applied at very high rates producing a salt slurry which is applied to the road. The result is no scatter and a mix that dissolves quicker and results in faster melting. The technology was developed by Monroe Truck Company following the European visits by Mr. DeVries and Bret Hodne of West Des Moines where fine salt applications were observed. West Des Moines has two units and the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) has one.

The *APWA Reporter* articles both discuss the Snow Conference. The first was written by Ms. Phyllis Muder who is the APWA staff liaison to the winter maintenance committee and to the review committee both chaired by Mr. DeVries. Mr. DeVries works hand in hand with Ms. Muder on the snow conference and reviewed the article prior to publication. It is an in depth summary of the conference and includes highlights of the conference for attendees and non attendees alike. The “Getting Snowed” article was written by Ms. Susan Hann, the Deputy City Manager for the City of Palm Beach Florida. Ms. Hann is the APWA Director at large for transportation and sits on the APWA Board. The Winter Maintenance Committee reports to the Transportation Committee and both Committees report to Ms. Hann. Ms. Hann’s article is the snow conference from a Floridian’s perspective. It also highlights how much the conference has to offer even to those who do not experience snow and ice in their operations. Mr. DeVries hosted to Ms. Hann, current President Noel Thompson and several other Board members throughout much of the conference. The article truly shows how impressed the Board is with the snow conference and the winter maintenance committee.

The *Better Roads* article “On The (Clear) Road Again” is written by the Executive Editor Ms. Tina Grady Barbaccia. Ms. Grady Barbaccia resides in Naperville, Illinois and Ms. Grady Barbaccia and Mr. DeVries have worked together in the past. The article highlights the latest innovations and trends in winter maintenance. It begins by highlighting McHenry County and the things MCDOT is doing, specifically the liquid program and the use of organics.

These magazines are national publications and read by thousands individuals across North America. They portray McHenry County as a leading proactive agency and Mr. DeVries as a highly regarded snow and ice expert.

Mr. Korpalski also updated the Committee members of Mr. DeVries’ upcoming trip to Argentina.

- Mr. DeVries has been chosen as one of six individuals to travel to Argentina and evaluate and assist in their winter operations. The trip is scheduled for August 10, 2009 through August 22, 2009.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has been working cooperatively with Argentina over the past few years trying to assist them in their winter operations. This involved sending several personnel to Argentina and last year hosting 20 members from Argentina on a scan tour of various areas across the US. Mr. DeVries was approached this year about his willingness to assist Argentina in the area of operations and chemical application.

Mr. DeVries was required to submit a resume and was chosen from a group of professionals by Argentina. All expenses and travel will be paid by Argentina. Mr. DeVries will be on one of two teams. Mr. DeVries will be joined by Robert Stowe of Washington State and Bret Hodne of West Des Moines on the Operations, materials and liquid use team. Team two will consist of Dr. Wilford Nixon of the University of Iowa, Rick Nelson of the Nevada and John Talbot of Nevada. Team two will be focusing on blowing and drifting snow along with avalanche control.

#### **RTA Regional Performance Measure's Workshop**

Mr. Osborn advised that work is underway to develop performance standards for the region's public transit system. These standards help drive the achievement of the goals and objectives identified in the Moving Beyond Congestion Strategic Plan.

A workshop will be hosted by the RTA on Tuesday, August 18, 2009 from 9:00 A.M. to Noon at the University Center, 525 S. State Street, Loop/River Room in Chicago. The workshop affords an opportunity for decision makers to review its current system performance and convey their expectations regarding the transit service in this region.

Legislators, mayors representing the region's council of governments, other local elected officials and civic leaders are being invited to provide input in establishing standards which will, ultimately, help guide the future of the region's public transit.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Meeting Minutes and Property Acquisition**

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the Committee went into Executive Session at 10:02 A.M. to discuss meeting minutes and property acquisition.

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. Salgado, the Committee went into Regular Session at 10:16 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 15, 2009 were reviewed and by direction of the Committee will be forwarded to the State's Attorney Office (SAO) for review and release.

Mr. Korpalski noted that modifications to the ductwork system in the large conference room were performed to help alleviate audible background noise.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION**

8:30 A.M. on August 19, 2009 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the meeting adjourned at 10:28 A.M.

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