

**Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18, 2012 – 8:15 A.M.
McHenry County Division of Transportation
Main Conference Room
Woodstock, Illinois 60098**

Chairperson Anna May Miller
Vice-Chairperson Paula Yensen Scott Breeden
Diane Evertsen Virginia Peschke
Nick Provenzano Sandra Salgado

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 8:15 A.M.

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Chairperson Miller, Paula Yensen, Diane Evertsen, Sandra Salgado, Virginia Peschke, Scott Breeden and Nick Provenzano

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. Provenzano arrived at 8:30 A.M.

Ms. Peschke arrived at 8:40 A.M.

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Ersel Schuster, County Board; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Christina Webb and David Mellem, State's Attorney Office (SAO); Mark Mathewson, MROWCO; Steve Pasinski, Thomas Engineering Group; Brian Smith, AECOM; Jeff Mandsley, City of Crystal Lake; Gary Overbay, Civiltech Engineering, Inc.; Pam Cumpata and Charlie Eldredge, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC); Eric Bjorlin and Michael Lucas, Active Transportation Alliance, Woodstock High School; Andrew Oleksijen and Mason Lucas, McHenry West Campus High School; Mary Moltmann, Sandra Hartnett, Lisa Rhodes, Kevin Keesee, and Melanie Moehling, residents; Jeff Young, Division of Transportation, Assistant County Engineer; Wally Dittrich, Division of Transportation, Design Manager; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Jim Werner, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Ray Beets, Division of Transportation, Permit/Developer Project Manager; Chalen Daigle, Division of Transportation, Planning Liaison; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation, Principal Transportation Planner; Brittany Graham, Division of Transportation, Transportation Planner; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation, Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mary Moltmann, Fleming Road resident commented on the 2012 - 2016 Highway Improvement Program.
- Kevin Keesee, Fleming Road resident commented on the Fleming Road project.
- Pam Cumpata, McHenry County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC) commented on the Randall Road project.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – December 21, 2011

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Mr. Breeden, the meeting minutes of December 21, 2011, were approved as presented.

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

PRESENTATIONS

2040 Long Range Transportation Plan

Students from Woodstock High School and McHenry West High School were in attendance to present their transportation projects to the Transportation Committee regarding the 2040 Plan.

The planning process provides an excellent opportunity to teach issues and policies associated with transportation.

Since October 11, 2011, a small group of Key Club students at McHenry West High School have been meeting once a week after school to discuss transportation issues at and around the school and was facilitated by the Active Transportation Alliance. They engaged in discussions and learned about transportation planning projects. The students decided to look at the neighborhoods surrounding the school and specifically one (1) intersection south of the school, for improvements. Students have additionally explored ideas related to public engagement and creating and conducting successful surveys.

For five (5) weeks, students from both the Civil Engineering and Architecture, and Engineering Design and Development (EDD) classes at Woodstock High School have participated in the program, conducted by their teacher, Mr. Steve Thompson who has an engineering background. After they completed the initial program, students from the EDD class took their knowledge to begin a project on a local intersection, in addition to other general recommendations in the city. Students also participated in a field trip to Chicago to visit and hear representatives from CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning), UIC School of Urban Planning and Public Affairs, Active Transportation Alliance, and CNT (Center for Neighborhood Technology).

As you may recall, students at Prairie Ridge High School and Crystal Lake Central High School made final project presentations on December 1, 2011. Chairman Koehler was able to attend the presentation at Crystal Lake Central High School. On December 13, 2011, students from Marengo High School participated in a field trip to the MCDOT to learn about the planning, engineering, and maintenance activities behind a highway system. Following a tour of the MCDOT facilities, the students presented their final projects and received constructive feed-back from staff.

At this time, students from Woodstock High School offered their presentation, after which the Transportation Committee offered their comments and questions.

Mr. Provenzano arrived at 8:30 A.M.

At this time, students from McHenry West High offered their presentation, after which the Transportation Committee offered their comments and questions.

Ms. Peschke arrived at 8:40 A.M.

Accolades were offered to the students by Committee members, who applauded their creative efforts and solutions.

RESOLUTION VACATING A PORTION OF MCHENRY AVENUE ROAD PURSUANT TO SECTION 5-109 OF THE ILLINOIS HIGHWAY CODE

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution vacating a portion of McHenry Avenue Road.

In 1954, the original alignment of McHenry Avenue Road was located east of Randall Road in a north/south orientation. In 1969, that alignment was modified to provide a curvilinear alignment. It is these unused portions of McHenry Avenue Road that are being vacated. The present eastern right-of-way of Randall Road was recorded in 2010 as part of the Rakow Road widening project.

A motion was made by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to approve the resolution vacating a portion of McHenry Avenue Road pursuant to Section 5-109 of the Illinois Highway Code was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES FOR THE MILLER ROAD PROJECT PURSUANT TO EMINENT DOMAIN

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the acquisition of right-of-way for the Miller Road widening and resurfacing project in the City of McHenry and authorizing the condemnation of two (2) parcels.

The two (2) parcels listed in this resolution were discussed at the December 21, 2011 Transportation Committee meeting. The MCDOT has been unsuccessful in negotiating a settlement to acquire the necessary land needed to construct the Miller Road project. At that meeting, the Committee gave direction for the MCDOT to bring forward a resolution authorizing condemnation.

A motion was made by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Yensen, to approve the resolution approving the acquisition of right-of-way for highway purposes for the Miller Road project pursuant to eminent domain 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 THE 2012 TO 2016 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the 2012-2016 Highway Improvement Program (HIP).

At the beginning of November, six (6) County Board workshops were held to review the HIP and discuss long-range transportation issues. Notes from these workshops have been distributed. At the December 21, 2012 Transportation Committee, it was decided to seek further input from the County Board on the HIP. On January 3, 2012, the Committee of the Whole met.

During the Committee of the Whole meeting, MCDOT was directed to change language in the HIP regarding the Fleming Road project and the Randall Road and Algonquin Road intersection project. This language has been changed.

A motion was made by Mr. Provenzano and seconded by Ms. Salgado, to approve the resolution approving the 2012 to 2016 Highway Improvement Program (HIP).

Ms. Salgado questioned the verbiage of “reconstruct” within the HIP, as brought up during Public Comment. MCDOT staff advised that this matter was specifically discussed during the Committee of the Whole meeting. It was explained that “reconstruction” means reconstructing the existing road and taking out the existing pavement and base and “rehabilitation” means resurfacing or cold in place recycling, which is a pavement treatment.

Chairperson Miller advised that the options regarding Fleming Road will be brought before the Fleming Road Community Advisory Group (CAG), and by direction today, an additional CAG meeting will be scheduled by which hopefully a preferred alternative will be established and brought forward to the Transportation Committee for evaluation.

Chairperson Miller requested that a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Policy that details the roles of all stakeholders be drafted this year.

Ms. Evertsen expressed her low level of confidence regarding State funding and Federal funding when looking at \$50,000,000.00 in loans and debt certificates in order to finance these projects. How confident are we that the funding will come through. Discussion ensued noting that funding is not a certainty, which is why bonding is an option.

Mr. Breeden felt that the key factor was that McHenry County has the matching funds available, in order to take advantage of Federal funding.

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

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEER GROUP AGREEMENTS

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 Adopt-A-Highway Program.

In Loving Memory of Shannon McCarty
new group

Virginia Road from US 14 to Pyott Road

GFWC Marengo Woman's Club
new group

Kishwaukee Valley Road from McKinstry Road to Dimmel Road

Spring Grove Firefighter's Assoc.
current group adopting second section of road

Wilmot Road from IL 173 to the State Line

In order to augment the McHenry County Division of Transportation's (MCDOT) 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 this agreement, the MCDOT has 136 groups enrolled in the program covering 145 centerline miles of the 214 available miles in the program which is roughly 68%.

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 Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Evertsen, the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified groups into the McHenry County 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 / NEW BUSINESS

Old Business

- Chairman Koehler, MCDOT staff, and McHenry County College personnel attended a very productive meeting facilitated by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), regarding the U. S. Route 14 improvement in front of the McHenry County College. IDOT is moving forward with the land acquisition for those improvements.
- Mr. Provenzano advised Committee members that Congressman Hultgren visited McHenry County, more specifically Algonquin Road at Randall Road and options for that location were discussed. Congressman Hultgren also visited the Green T intersection on Randall Road. Discussions entailed transportation funding and funding mechanisms, in the era of no earmarks, after which the Congressman offered helpful ideas and tips. He noted that the creation of an appropriation bill for highway construction was in process. The Congressman would like to see a four-year capital plan versus a two-year capital plan. Mr. Provenzano stated that the meeting was most informative.
- Ms. Salgado asked Chairman Koehler about a private road task force. Discussion ensued. Chairman Koehler informed the Transportation Committee that additional meetings will be held and more information will be brought back to this committee in the future.

Ms. Evertsen requested that Chairman Koehler provide the Committee members with documentation of those possible options for non-dedicated roads, in order to assist Committee members in supporting their constituents.

New Business

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Meeting Minutes, Land Acquisition and Pending Litigation

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the Committee went into Executive Session at 9:25 A.M. to discuss Executive Session Meeting minutes, land acquisition and pending litigation.

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

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the Committee went into Regular Session at 9:40 A.M.

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

Chairperson Miller stated that no action was taken in Executive Session.

By direction of the Committee, the Executive Session Meeting minutes from December 21, 2011 will be sent to the SAO for review and release.

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Peschke referenced the evening of the snow storm when her son drove Township roads and Fleming Road and noted that the best maintained road was Fleming Road.

NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

Transportation Committee meeting on Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 8:15 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the meeting adjourned at 9:43 A.M.

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