

**Transportation Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 19, 2011 – 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, Sandra Salgado, Paula Yensen, Virginia Peschke, Diane Evertsen, Nick Provenzano and Scott Breeden

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

None

OTHER ATTENDEES

In attendance were: Ersel Schuster, County Board Member; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Jeff Young, Division of Transportation, Assistant County Engineer; Wally Dittrich, Division of Transportation, Design Manager; Cynthia Schaupp, State's Attorney Office (SAO); Mark Mathewson, MROWCO; Gary Blazek, Civiltech Engineering, Inc.; John Ambrose, Baxter & Woodman, Inc.; Ted Lachus, Primera Engineers, Ltd; Diane Lukas, Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc. (HLR); Todd Bright, TranSystems Corporation; Steve Pasinski, Thomas Engineering Group; Mark Chanwongse and Kevin Gartley, Cotter Consulting; James Stahlecker, Bollinger Lach & Associates, Inc. (BLA); Mary Moltmann and Ed Bennett, Fleming Road Alliance (FRA); Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Mark Dammyer, Division of Transportation, Construction Manager; Jim Werner, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Ken Baker, Division of Transportation, Township Engineer; Wynnyth Adair, Division of Transportation, Drainage Engineer; Pablo Faillaci, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Randy Morin, Division of Transportation, Vegetation Supervisor; Ray Beets, Division of Transportation, Permit/Developer Project Manager; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation, Principal Transportation Planner; Sarah Chadderdon, Division of Transportation, Transportation Planner; Chalen Daigle, Division of Transportation, Planning Liaison; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation, Administrative Specialist.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – DECEMBER 15, 2010

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Mr. Breeden, the meeting minutes of December 15, 2010 were approved as presented.

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

PRESENTATIONS

McHenry County Transit Program

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff provided a presentation regarding the on-going efforts to coordinate transit services in the County. This presentation will be offered at the February 1, 2011 County Board meeting.

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff discussed the following focal point areas regarding the McHenry County Transit Program, explaining and answering questions that arose.

Why is the County involved in transit?

- Meeting Goals
 - The County Board Strategic Plan seeks a well balanced transportation system and offers expanded transit options for efficient and flexible movement within and through the County. A strategy of that plan is for the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) to advocate for alternate modes of transportation and to promote independent living. The Transit Plan was adopted in 2006 and specifically stated that paratransit operations were to be coordinated by the MCDOT, which is why the County Board appointed an Implementation Task Force (IMF) to undertake that first step.
- Accountability
 - What is Pace doing in the County – RTA sales tax dollars allocated to Pace?
 - Existing services
 - Three (3) fixed bus routes
 - Dial-A-Ride (DAR)
 - A small number of city DAR's
 - A mixture of Township services
 - Special Pace services in the southeast corner of the County
 - County provided an overlay to provide travel in between areas
 - County and Township Dial-A-Ride programs
 - Two-thirds of the County population have no fixed route bus service
- Meeting current needs
 - Bus Routes
 - Density
 - Car ownership – Households without cars
 - Poverty
 - Fixed routes are more reliable, capacity, and cost effective than Dial-A-Ride
- What is the County doing to meet future needs?
 - Transit Grant Program
 - Pilot Program
 - Aka Tri-City, aka County Project, aka MCRIDE
 - Other Grant Program projects
 - Marengo Dial-A-Ride
 - Algonquin Township Senior Bus
 - Faith in Action of McHenry County
 - Northern Illinois Special Recreation Association (NISRA)
 - Veterans Assistance Commission
 - Reduce congestion
 - Reduce transportation costs
 - Pace Contract – overlay service of DAR
 - Looking to dissolve service boundaries and coordinate dispatch
- How is it performing?
 - Registration
 - Required for pilot program – over 1,400 individuals have registered
 - 30-75 registrations each month since service startup
 - Ridership
 - Pilot – 600-900 trips each month since startup
 - Pilot and partners – 9,000 to 10,000 trips each month
 - Performance measures
 - Average Trip Time
 - Average Trip Distance
 - Cost per mile
 - Operating cost per trip

- Survey
 - Created to supplement technical service data
 - Small survey of those who provided e-mail addresses during registration
 - 24% response rate from those invited to take the survey
- How is it working?
 - Success
 - An option for people with limited or no alternatives
 - A measure of independence in riders' lives
 - Wheelchair-accessible service
 - Registration is steady
 - Costs consistent with other services
 - Limitations
 - Eligibility and service area
 - Difficulty in scheduling
 - Timeliness
- Should the County continue?
 - County goals are being met
 - Recommended as part of the Transit Plan
 - County oversight of local bus services is possible
 - Needed by many today
 - Consistent with the 2020 Transportation Plan
 - Performing well and at capacity
 - \$200,000.00 Senior Grant Funding for Fiscal Year 2011
 - \$800,00.00 Federal grants to combine contracts
 - \$120,000.00 Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) Grant to study Pace service restructuring
- Next Steps
 - Resolution approving RTA final Grant Agreement for Transit Restructuring Study
 - Post Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Transit Restructuring Study
 - Resolution approving 2040 Long-Range Plan Update contract for public involvement
 - Resolution approving 2040 Long-Range Plan Update Transit Restructuring Component contract
 - Resolution approving an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Cities of Crystal Lake, McHenry and Woodstock
 - Resolution approving Pace contract for combined services

Discussions ensued and the following questions were presented by Committee members:

- Transition out of the "Pilot Program" name
- Joint control with Federal funding
- One (1) contract for all services
- Consideration of private enterprise on a taxi voucher basis when needed
- Transitioning away from the term "Pilot"
- Set standards so that the County Board and/or the Committee will make decisions regarding fiduciary responsibility and to conduct reviews and evaluation of progress on an on-going basis

The Committee thanked staff for their work and presentation.

McHenry County Bridge Update

Late last month, the Daily Herald newspaper wrote a cover story on the state of bridges across the region. While it is exciting that the media is covering this topic of concern and bringing light to this important transportation infrastructure issue, Committee and Board members are fully aware of this through the County's Strategic Plan and some of the challenges that face McHenry County in addressing the deficient bridges. However, the story did not accurately reflect what is going on in McHenry County from a current and long term perspective. To that end, staff was present to update the Committee on the McHenry County Bridge Program. The article cited three (3) bridges that were deficient, which have already been replaced.

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff explained the McHenry County Bridge program and its process, noting that the perceptions alluded to by Mr. Korpalski are faced by the MCDOT and can be a challenge. Three (3) of the bridges in McHenry County listed as deficient, the Allendale Road Bridge, the Kishwaukee Valley Road Bridge and the Alden Road Bridge were replaced. The Allendale Road Bridge was replaced over one (1) year ago and the other two (2) bridges were replaced last year.

Between 2011 and 2012, eight (8) more bridges are planned for construction, which will address the deficient bridge list in the paper. The County is responsible for Township and County bridges; 136 bridges of which 20 are closed or have a load restriction posting.

Currently there are fourteen (14) bridges in some phase of design; six (6) are Township bridges and eight (8) are County owned structures.

Staff explained how the County moves from closing bridges, to restricting lanes and putting up signals, to getting a brand new bridge in place, which is a lengthy process. It starts with bi-annual bridge inspections and depending on the bridge, it could be every four (4) years. That is the first step in identifying where the County's needs are and will be down the road, as far as starting the Federal process. The County relies heavily on the Highway Bridge Program (HBP) dollars because we are able to leverage the most funds by utilizing those dollars and by following the Federal process, which is: Phase I - preliminary engineering, 12-18 months – 2 years; Phase II - developing plans 1-2 years; and Phase III - actual construction.

Phase I is very time consuming, in that the County has to work closely with the Federal regulatory agencies, State regulatory agencies and local regulatory agencies while moving forward with bridge projects, which does not include internal coordination between design, construction and maintenance.

Phase II is all about securing the dollars. Due to dwindling funds, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has moved to a system whereby dollars are requested on a "phase" basis. While dollars may be approved and allotted for Phase I, it does not mean they will be approved or allotted for the next phase.

Phase III entails determining if a bridge should be kept open or closed, dependent upon where the bridge is located on the County highway system and if there are other bridges that are load posted and need to be detoured around.

McHenry County faces challenges ahead regarding HBP funding. The County receives a \$435,000.00/year allocation based upon the square footage of deficient bridges in the County. McHenry County is fortunate to be grouped into the same funding pool with Cook County who does not use that money, which is how the MCDOT is able to secure those dollars for County bridges. The County draws from the funding pool that six (6) counties share, which is directly tied into the Federal Transportation Bill.

The dollars used to assist the Townships is the Township Bridge Program, which receives \$163,000.00/year used to offset the local match for Township bridges.

There is a County dollar concern regarding the bridge levee which is part of the overall property tax that the County levees. The County draws from this levee in order to leverage Federal funds. As those funds diminish, the decision will need to be made as to where the bridges and their priority will be placed in the overall County program.

Discussions ensued and the Committee thanked staff for the update presentation.

It was the direction of the Committee that a letter be drafted by MCDOT regarding the article, sharing information and the process of the McHenry County Bridge Program with the Editor of the Daily Herald newspaper.

RESOLUTION APPROVING A WETLAND CREDIT AGREEMENT FOR THE LAWRENCE ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of this resolution approving an agreement with Ecological Planning, Inc. to purchase wetland credits for the Lawrence Road Bridge project in the Kishwaukee Bottoms Wetland Mitigation Bank.

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The Lawrence Road Bridge project is planned for a construction start this spring (an April 2011 letting is anticipated and an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for the construction will be brought forward at a subsequent Transportation Committee meeting). As part of the project, the Lawrence Road Bridge over Lawrence Creek will be replaced and widened encroaching onto high quality wetlands in the Kishwaukee River watershed requiring 1.10 acres of total mitigation. As the wetland contains essential habitat, the rate of replacement for these wetlands are 3:1 and 1.5:1.

The Kishwaukee Bottoms Wetland Mitigation Bank is the only bank in the Kishwaukee Watershed approved for use by the Chicago Army Corps of Engineers office and has been previously used on other MCDOT bridge projects. The agreement has been reviewed by the County's State's Attorney Office (SAO).

There were three (3) parcels which required acquisition. Appraisals were performed, offers were sent out, and all three (3) property owners accepted the County's initial offer. The land acquisition process is complete.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Salgado, the resolution approving a wetland credit for the Lawrence Road Bridge project 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 TO APPROVE ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY VOLUNTEER GROUP AGREEMENT

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified group into the MCDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Darla Dog Says Opt to Adopt a K9 Alden Road from Knickerbocker Road to IL Route 173
new group

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 this agreement, the MCDOT has 131 groups enrolled in the program covering 151.5 centerline miles of the 214 available miles in the program which is roughly 71%.

The ordinance requires that the volunteer groups enter into an agreement with McHenry County defining the responsibilities of the group(s) and the County. This resolution approves the County to enter into an agreement with one (1) group for one (1) section of highway.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified group into the McHenry County Division of Transportation (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

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff discussed the following construction projects:

- Dunham Road Bridge replacement
- Rakow Road widening and reconstruction
 - Chairperson Miller encouraged all Transportation Committee members to attend the Rakow Road ground breaking ceremony
- Western Algonquin Bypass
- Walkup Road (Illinois Route 176 to Bull Valley Road)
- Johnsburg Road (Illinois Route 31 to Chapel Hill Road)
- Miller Road (Illinois Route 31 to River Road)
- Illinois Route 47 @ I-90 Interchange – Letting tentatively scheduled for this fall

OLD BUSINESS

Chairperson Miller noted that Mr. Stevens of Walkup Road spoke at the last County Board meeting and wanted his words to be considered a FOIA request.

Staff updated the Transportation Committee regarding Mr. Stevens' request on the following two (2) items:

- A contact for Walkup Road at the Federal level
- What the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) has done with respect to construction the last two (2) years, is currently doing, and what they will do in the next five (5) years.

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff sent an e-mail to Mr. Stevens, followed up formally with a letter providing the requested information as follows:

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) provided Mr. Stevens with a contact at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) in Schaumburg, Illinois.

Status Reports and the McHenry County Five-Year Highway Improvement Program (HIP) were provided to satisfy the request for the County's construction projects information. Also provided were numerous links for research information.

Mr. Provenzano requested a copy of the e-mail sent to Mr. Stevens by MCDOT staff.

NEW BUSINESS

Staff Recognition

- Staff recognized Mr. Don Smith who celebrated 30 years of service with the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) on December 22, 2010. Mr. Smith joins a group of four (4) employees who have 30 + years of service with MCDOT. It was noted that when Mr. Smith began his employment with the County, he stated he would only be with the County for eight (8) years.

We recently reflected on Mr. Smith's career and the many changes that have taken place over the years. Thirty years of service shows true dedication and Mr. Smith has served the Division and the citizens of the County faithfully. He came to us from a farm background and his skills have served him well. He has always had a strong work ethic and stepped up the moment he was hired.

Mr. Smith has served the County in many different roles and has been seen working underneath a truck, in the middle of the night, in a driving snow storm, with slush and oil leaking all over him, fixing a hose. He froze his hands one night as he worked to get trucks running on one of the coldest days one can remember. He worked in the mud up to his waist, repairing pipes, fabricating, welding and maintaining a fleet in less than ideal conditions, with less than adequate equipment.

Mr. Smith has been a big part of the changes over the years. He is someone we look to for experience and advice. He serves as a leader and mentor for the MCDOT staff and leads by example. He takes his share of ridicule for his role and always maintains his dignity. He has been resilient throughout the years and has served the MCDOT and the citizens of McHenry County with the highest of standards. He has been a model employee and we owe him our gratitude for his service and true dedication.

It is an honor to have him as part of the crew and we wish him another great year! Congratulations were offered by all.

Legislative Program FFY 2012

- As a follow up to the newly created Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee meeting on January 13, 2011, a draft program was presented to Committee members to inform them of what was encompassed in the program. Mr. Austin and the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff were in attendance to provide the Transportation Committee with information as to what is included in the 2011 Legislative Program, as it relates to the MCDOT and to answer any questions.

The FFY 2012 Appropriations Request for the East McHenry Bypass from Illinois Route 31 to the Richmond-Waukegan Corridor was provided to U. S. Representative Walsh, 8th Congressional District.

The FY 2012 Appropriations Request for Randall Road was provided to U. S. Representative Manzullo, 16th Congressional District

Mr. Austin recommended offering, with the Committee's concurrence, the inclusion of a proposed timeline in draft proposal, to be presented to the Legislative Committee and with their concurrence of the full package, on to the full Board.

The Committee offered their concurrence.

Letter from City of Elgin

- A letter from the City of Elgin was received by the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) expressing their appreciation for Mr. DeVries' intergovernmental cooperation in sharing his expertise regarding the MCDOT's maintenance operations.

Chicago Tribune Article

- The article, "Snow-Fighting Pioneer Recognized" was written in the Chicago Tribune on January 5, 2011 about Mr. DeVries and his expertise on snow and ice, anti-icing solution and his proactive approach to snow fighting.

Northern Public Radio Interview

- Northern Public Radio (NPR) of DeKalb will visit the MCDOT on Monday, January 24, 2011 to tour the facilities to examine equipment, discuss the Automatic Vehicle Locator (AVL) and to conduct an interview with Mr. DeVries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Land Acquisition, Meeting Minutes, and Pending Litigation

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the Committee went into Executive Session at 9:55 A.M. to discuss land acquisition, pending litigation and to review meeting minutes.

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

REGULAR SESSION

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the Committee went into Regular Session at 10:26 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 December 15, 2010 were reviewed and by direction of the Committee will be forwarded to the State's Attorney Office (SAO) for review and release.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES FOR THE NORTH UNION ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the acquisition of right-of-way for the North Union Road Bridge reconstruction project in Seneca Township and appropriating funds for said property acquisition.

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the resolution to approve the acquisition of right-of-way for highway purposes for the North Union Road Bridge project 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 ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR HIGHWAY PURPOSES FOR THE ALDEN ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the appropriation \$75,000.00 for land acquisition.

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the resolution to approve the acquisition of right-of-way for highway purposes for the Alden Road Bridge project was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

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

MEMBER COMMENTS

- Ms. Yensen advised that she would be attending the United Way of Kane County meeting on Thursday, concerning the regionalization of the 211 System and went on to explain that system.
- Ms. Salgado recapped her constituents request for information regarding non-dedicated roads. Chairperson Miller advised that perhaps the information Mr. Austin and Ms. Schaupp were seeking was in a legislation proposed by Senator Klemm that in essence, affords the opportunity to access public funds for a portion of the revenue collected dollars, for the use of maintenance of private property/non-dedicated roads.
- Chairperson Miller encouraged all to attend the Public Hearing concerning the Proposed Improvement Plan for Alden Road from Charles Road to State Line Road in McHenry County.

The meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, January 25, 2011
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
McHenry County Administration Building, Room A,
667 Ware Road
Woodstock, Illinois

A follow-up meeting will also be held for the public on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at the McHenry County Division of Transportation; 16111 Nelson Road; Woodstock, Illinois from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION

8:15 A.M. on February 2, 2011 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Ms. Evertsen, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

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