

DATE/ TIME: Monday, July 16, 2012 - 8:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Sinn, Rosemary Palmer, Terry Von Boeckman, Mel Stanford, Jim Donahue, Jim Carius, and John Ackerman

ABSENT: Nancy Proehl

MINUTES: **MOTION BY CARIUS, SECOND BY STANFORD** to approve the minutes of
Approve June 18, 2012. **MOTION CARRIED** on voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

Veterans Road Bridge

Mr. Anderson informed the committee that great progress has been made on this project. He stated the steel has been set, and the crew is now working on forming the deck so the bridge deck can be poured. He stated the weather and lack of rain has put this project way ahead of schedule. Mr. Anderson stated there is a small railroad issue regarding the relocation of a signal, but the issue should be taken care of soon. He reminded the committee that it is a federal project with federal bridge funds, and it is moving along well.

Farmdale Road Update

Mr. Anderson stated the Stipulated Agreement for this project has been signed by all parties. He stated the design plans for this project have been sent to IDOT for approval, and construction is likely to take place summer of 2013. He stated Mr. Dan Parr has been working on Right of Way matters where purchasing property will have to take place. Mr. Anderson stated this project will actually tie in to the Veterans Road Bridge project.

Eastern Bypass Update

Mr. Anderson said there is currently no update at this time, but a meeting is likely to take place in late July or early August. Mr. Ackerman asked if the Highway Bill that just passed included funding for this project. Mr. Anderson stated he is unsure, but more information may be available at the monthly PPUATS meeting scheduled Wednesday, July 18.

Dee Mack Road/Cooper Road Intersection Update

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee that this is the federal safety project. He stated R.A. Cullinan and Son widened the radii, and they will continue to pave the mainline and shoulders throughout the week. Mr. Anderson stated Right of Way was purchased at the corners of the intersection to improve sight distance. Despite the staking of the area, one of the corners was planted with corn anyway, but after speaking with the tenant, it was just a misunderstanding. R.A. Cullinan and Son was then able to proceed by knocking down the planted area. Mr. Anderson informed the committee the project should be finished in a few weeks.

Wagon seller Road / Shady Lane Construction Update

Mr. Anderson informed the committee that Wagon seller Road and Shady Lane was completed Friday, July 13. Our maintenance crews will be striping the roads for Cincinnati Township today, July 16. Therefore, the first phase of the Wagon seller Road improvements is essentially finished. Mr. Anderson complimented Advanced Asphalt's work and reminded the committee of their low bid. Mr. Stanford inquired where the company is located.

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Mr. Anderson stated they are out of Princeton, IL, but they have an asphalt plant in south Peoria. Mr. Anderson informed the committee that the first installment of our CDAP grant funds has been received. Chairman Sinn reminded the committee that Mr. Freilinger, County Administrator, would like to wait on any additional phases to see how the grants will work out. Mr. Anderson added that this project was planned, designed, and finished very quickly, but at the same time, Excel Foundry has proceeded with their improvements as well. Mr. Anderson encouraged the committee members to drive to the area to see all of the improvements. Mr. Anderson stated that Mr. Parr has been working on Right of Way matters for future improvements of the Wagonseller intersections at Townline Road and Manito Road.

Bridge Damage / Allentown Road Bridge Repair

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee of the bridge damage from a fertilizer tractor on Allentown road, south of Morton. He stated the road was closed for repair and has now been reopened. Mr. Anderson addressed the documents in the packet regarding costs, timelines, and other factors related to the repair. As shown in the packet, the repair cost to the County is a little over \$50,000. He stated this information was sent to the insurance agent of the farmer responsible for the damage. He added that he has been conversing with this agent since the accident occurred. Mr. Carius stated that in all his years on the Transportation Committee he has never seen such a good job with the extensiveness of keeping track of costs.

NEW BUSINESS: Discussion of Mackinaw River Bridge – Citizen Complaints

Mr. Anderson stated he was contacted by Mr. Donahue and Mr. Ackerman regarding complaints from citizens about the parties, swimming, and trespassing at the Mackinaw River bridges. Mr. Anderson informed the committee there have been several complaints for several years regarding almost every Mackinaw River bridge crossing. He stated the Springfield Road bridge crossing in particular has a small access that cars can fit through and drive down to the river. He stated the maintenance crews placed a physical barrier in the way to prevent cars from driving down to the river. Mr. Anderson stated as much as he would like to deter behavior such as cars driving to the river, littering, and jumping from the bridges, it is hard to control. He stated signs are stolen, barriers can be broken down, and ultimately the ones causing these problems will continue with their behavior unless law enforcement or discipline is involved. Mr. Anderson stated he has been in contact with the Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office is limited in its ability to ticket offenders. The Sheriff is communicating with the State's Attorney's Office regarding the prosecuting aspect of the enforcement. He is also looking to see what matters can be addressed, whether it is trespassing, littering, parking, or all of the above. Mr. Donahue state he spoke with the Sheriff as well. One of Mr. Donahue's suggestions to the Sheriff was a press release, but he stated he has not seen anything regarding this yet. Mr. Ackerman thanked the Highway Department for putting up the barrier and stated that although it will not solve all problems, it will solve the issue of cars being driven down to the river in that area.

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Mr. Donahue inquired about the large boulders underneath the bridge and if they can be moved to avoid a jumper hitting one. Mr. Anderson stated those boulders are there to armor the piers and divert the water elsewhere, and all older bridges, like others over the Mackinaw River, have this design. He said they cannot be moved. Mr. Ackerman added that those jumping illegally from the bridges would be more liable to hit the boulders if they were moved because they are actually jumping in between the piers. After more discussion, the committee decided to see where the State's Attorney stood on the matter and try to work with both the Sheriff's Office and the State's Attorney's Office to alleviate the problem.

Major Bridge Funds for Manito Road over Mackinaw River

Mr. Anderson reminded the committee of the \$6.37 million recently awarded to Tazewell County for the bridge on Manito Road over Mackinaw River. He stated the official letter arrived, and a copy was provided to each committee member in the packet. Mr. Anderson stated the bridge now has to be designed which means it will need worked into the budget. Mr. Ackerman inquired if the new bridge will be the same size. Mr. Anderson stated it will be wider, a little longer, and there will be no overhead truss.

Olympia Road Culvert Repair

Mr. Anderson stated approval is needed for the use of County Bridge funds for a failing culvert. He stated the project is not quite an emergency, but it's close. It does not fall under the bidding requirement parameters, so R.A. Cullinan and Son was hired on a "quote" basis to repair the culvert. The pavement has settled, and road closure will be necessary.

RESOLUTION:

MOTION BY STANFORD, SECOND BY PALMER to approve the quote from R.A. Cullinan and Son in the amount of \$25,927.60 for replacement of a deteriorating culvert on Olympia Road to be paid from County Bridge Funds, subject to approval of the County Board. **MOTION CARRIED** on a voice vote.

Line Item Transfer

Mr. Anderson informed the committee we are requesting the Finance Committee to approve a line item transfer of \$1,500.00 from County Highway Fund, Training, line item 202-311-533-910, to Office Supplies, line item 202-311-522-010. Mr. Anderson informed the committee of the use of postage, paper, ink, and other office supplies for the large number of projects let this year. In addition, unforeseen projects such as Allentown Road bridge repair and Wagonseller Road improvements have resulted in more postage and printing as well. Mr. Anderson reminded the committee that the finance committee will vote on this item; therefore no action is necessary from the Transportation Committee.

OTHER MATTERS:

Armington Road Bridge Repair

Mr. Anderson stated Armington Road bridge has been closed west of I-155 for replacement. He stated Stark Excavating poured the bridge last week. Work will continue, and the project will likely be finished in a couple weeks.

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Mr. Anderson stated the weather and lack of rain has helped move this project along as well.

Centennial Drive

Mr. Anderson informed the committee members they would start to see the Centennial Drive project on future agendas. He stated the County is assisting Washington Township with this project. Mr. Parr is starting to acquire Right of Way, and it will hopefully be bid in the next six to eight months.

In-house Engineers

Mr. Anderson shared the advantages of having in-house engineers. He stated he spoke with Maurer-Stutz who engineered the Veterans Road Bridge, which is a federally funded project. Maurer-Stutz stated it would cost another \$80,000-\$90,000 to hire construction oversight for the project. Since Tazewell County has employees that are qualified to oversee federal jobs, we are saving those costs on each federal project. Mr. Anderson stated he is not asking for anything, but yet reminding the committee how expensive it can be to complete federal projects. Our staff's abilities enable the Highway Department to complete these projects without outside consultants.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: MOTION BY STANFORD, SECOND BY CARIUS to approve the bills as presented and recommend payment to the County Board.

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Sinn adjourned the meeting at 8:38 A.M. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, August 20, 2012, at 8:00 A.M.