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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Highway Committee Minutes
December 7, 2017**

A meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board was held on Thursday, December 7, 2017, 6:00pm in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, located at 1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

Chairman John Frieders called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Roll call was held and Committee members present were Mr. Bunge, Mr. Osland, Mr. Plote, Ms. Polanco and Mr. Stoddard. Vice Chair Willis was absent. The County Engineer, Mr. Nathan Schwartz, Mr. Wayne Davey, Support Services Manager and one other guest were also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Mr. Osland to approve the minutes of the regular November 2, 2017 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mr. Plote moved and Ms. Polanco seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS: Chairman Frieders wished the Department a quiet and safe winter season.

COUNTY ENGINEER'S COMMENTS:

The transportation improvement progress report was reviewed with the Committee. Mr. Schwartz stated he is planning a meeting with the stake holders during mid-December 2017 for the Highway Department Complex Storage Facility project. Proposed plans would be provided to the Committee for review during their January 2018 meeting and a bid-letting scheduled for February. The building's footprint is still scheduled to be cored out this winter, weather permitting, and used for outside storage by the Sheriff's Department for equipment that can be stored in the elements.

The Barber Greene Road widening and resurfacing project is moving toward a spring 2018 state letting. The cost of the project has increased to 1.05 million with additional requested improvements. The wetland environmental impact study for this project was waived by IDOT after learning all work would be performed within the existing right-of-way, with the exception of a couple of temporary construction easements on existing driveways.

Rich/Coltonville Road, along with a portion of North First Street and Bethany Road, will be resurfaced during 2018. This project is scheduled for a March 2018 letting and plans are currently with IDOT for their review.

The first phase of the Peace Road Safety Study from Lindgren Road to Peace/Plank/Route 23 was presented to the Committee for their information. An overview was provided by Mr. Schwartz. This overview outlined the pavement conditions, signage on the roadway, number of potential conflicts (entrances and side roads) and accident information from 2012 to June of 2016. This section of roadway has shared jurisdiction between State, County and City of Sycamore law enforcement agencies and sees an average of 4.2 million vehicles annually or an average of 11,728 vehicles daily. Traffic has been estimated to be increasing approximately 2% annually. The recent traffic study shows 85% of the traffic traveling along this segment of highway travels at 55mph or less, with 96% of all traffic traveling between 40mph and 60mph. In the past 4.5 years 43 crashes were reported where 35% (15) crashes were rear end; 30% (13) crashes involved a turning movement; 12% (5) crashes occurred with a fixed object; and 7% (3) crashes resulted in an overturned vehicle. There was one pedestrian accident in 2014 where a pedestrian left the shoulder and walked in front of traffic against the traffic signal. No crosswalks or pedestrian signals are part of this intersection as pedestrian traffic does not warrant such at this time. These 43 crashes resulted in 19 people being injured and 27 property damage only crashes and no fatalities recorded. The overall pavement condition of this segment of highway is in excellent condition having been resurfaced during 2016. Considering the amount of traffic utilizing this segment of roadway and the low number of crashes, it can be surmised that traffic flows at a reasonable safe speed through this area. One action that will be taken in the near future will be the installation of R10-12 Regulatory signs informing motorist that left turns must yield on green ball. An intersection design study could be a tool to re-evaluate traffic flow through the intersection and might suggest signal timing adjustments to optimize the flow. The Committee inquired if Plank/Peace Road would remain under County jurisdiction or be transferred to the City of Sycamore or DeKalb. Mr. Schwartz stated these roads would remain under County jurisdiction for the foreseeable future. The State of Illinois would be the likely agency to consider transferring part of Peace Road to but several very costly upgrades would need to be completed before that would happen. Mr. Schwartz stated the next phase of this study should be presented during March 2018 and will cover Peace Road from Illinois Route 23 west and south to Illinois Route 64. The Committee requested as portions of this study are completed and presented that an executive summary of each phase be placed on the County's web site.

Waterman Road is currently being surveyed for the reshaping of the ditches to begin during 2018 from Perry Road to Duffy Road. Mr. Schwartz stated very little additional right-of-way is expected to be obtained or needed for this part of the project.

As a legislative update, there is nothing to report from the State of Illinois. The Federal Government is currently working on a new transportation bill and how that bill would be funded.

DSATS is still in the process of reviewing the method of collecting annual traffic counts around the DeKalb, Sycamore and Cortland area. They are looking to take this over and perform this task in-house instead of hiring a consultant. DSATS is also working towards splitting out transit functions from transportation functions to provide better efficiency of management.

Mr. Schwartz informed the committee that the Department's new lift truck has arrived and is in the garage for inspection by any member of the Committee who wishes to look at it when the meeting is adjourned.

OTHER BUSINESS: None presented

ADJOURNMENT: Chairman Frieders asked if there was any additional items that needed to be presented tonight and hearing none asked for a motion to adjourn. **A motion was made by Mr. Stoddard and seconded by Mr. Osland and the motion passed unanimously.** The December 7, 2017 meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Frieders
Chairman