

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Highway Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.*

**Highway Committee**  
**January 5, 2023**  
**6:30 PM**  
**DeKalb County Highway Department**  
**1826 Barber Greene Road, DeKalb, Illinois 60115**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Deutsch called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm

**1. Roll Call**

Committee members present were Chairman Deutsch, Ms. Cribben, Ms. Emmer, Mr. Haier, Ms. Ilenikhena, Vice Chairman Luebke, and Ms. Willis. Mr. Schwartz the County Engineer, Ms. Richardson the Support Services Manager, and four guests were also in attendance.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve the January 5, 2023 agenda made by Ms. Emmer; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

**Regular Meeting – November 3, 2022**

Motion to approve the November 3, 2022 meeting minutes made by Vice-Chairman Luebke; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously.

**4. Public Comments**

Four individuals from Sycamore Creek subdivision in Sycamore were in attendance and each granted three minutes. Each one spoke on their concerns, suggestions, and questions regarding Plank Road at the intersection with Lindgren Road. Comments included young people just learning to drive, school traffic, pedestrian accommodations, traffic speeds, existing roadway signage, request for more police presence, a request for updates on the Plank Road study and related questions about the study. Since public comment is not engaged discussion time, County Engineer asked the committee if he could address agenda item 9a right away which covers monthly project updates. This would allow him to comment on Plank Road right away so the residents wouldn't have to wait until the end of the meeting. The committee concurred with this suggestion.

**5. Resolution #2023-01; Award Cab & Chassis**

January 4, 2023 was the scheduled bid opening for the purchase of a new Cab and Chassis, however there were no bids submitted. No action occurred with the resolution and it did not pass out of committee.

**6. Resolution #2023-02; Intergovernmental Agreement for the Town of Cortland**

This is a standard Intergovernmental Agreement for the provision of providing engineering services for the Town of Cortland. After the IGA is accepted and submitted to IDOT, DeKalb County can handle all facets of the bidding and contracting process for requested general maintenance and construction projects for the Town of Cortland. **Motion to forward Resolution #2023-02 to the full County Board recommending approval was made by Vice Chair Luebke; seconded by Mr. Haier; Motion approved unanimously.**

**7. Vacant Personnel Positions**

Vacancies exist for various positions at the Highway Department including a Permit/Inventory Control Tech III, Engineering Tech, a Snowbird & DSATS Planner.

**8. Chairman's Comments**

No comments to add.

**9. County Engineers Comments**

**a. Monthly Update on Projects**

Transportation Improvement Projects were updated;

-Plank Road Study report is waiting on the cultural review report from the state. It is important to present the full data results when presenting to the public and receiving feedback. The complete Plank Road Study looks at many facets of the whole Plank Road area including crashes, current and projected traffic, environmental, cultural, and biological impacts, vehicle speeds, and other factors. It seems the cultural reviews are backlogged affecting local, federal and state-wide projects. If a major project is selected for Plank Road, any interim projects should align with the overall project. The 2023 DeKalb County budget included funding of \$150,000 for preliminary engineering for spot(s) improvement along Plank Road. DSATS construction funding has been approved for a \$1.5 million intersection project. It is expected the Plank Road / Lindgren Road intersection will qualify for extra external grants. Preliminary engineering and right of way acquisition will typically take a minimum two years for a similar project with federal funds. Therefore, plans could be ready in late 2025 or early 2026 for the start of construction. The County Engineer will give more details at the February Highway Committee meeting with a designated agenda item if acceptable with the committee.

-Glidden Road Shoulders from Rich Road to Rt 64 will widen the shoulder to 10 ft. No recent work has been completed on this project. The segment north of Rt 64 still needs additional ROW to continue with widening of the shoulders.

-Glidden/Baseline Road Intersection Safety Improvement is scheduled for 2024. An overlay paving project from Rt 64 to Rt 72 will use federal funds set for that same year, therefore plans are to include the intersection improvements to inconvenience public at one time only. The County will apply for TARP funds of \$580,000 will help in paving costs. This project will upgrade Glidden Road into an 80,000 pound year round road if approved.

-Pritchard Road Bridge replacement is on schedule for 2024 construction.

-Peace Road widening south of Freed Road with bridge replacement is moving along with construction in 2024 with costs close to four million as stated in November.

-Perry Road Bridge will be replaced with a concrete box culvert. The design work approval is close to being completed once we get the cultural review approval.

-County Engineer stated he received preliminary news of an \$850,000 TARP grant award to establish a Truck Route connection from LaSalle County over W Suydam Road, over Chicago Road from Lee County, and Rollo Road connecting the Suydam Road and Chicago Road. This will complete truck access between Interstate I-39, Rt 23, and the Villages of Paw Paw, Earlville, and Rollo. The Rollo Road culverts will be replaced in 2023 before paving the road 2024.

-Somonauk Road culvert extensions north of Perry Road should be 2023 construction.

-Somonauk Road ROW acquisition will continue in the future with plans to extend culverts and widen shoulders and slopes.

-West County Line Road & Lee Road will be paved in 2023.

**b. Legislative Update**

As chairman of the County Engineers' Legislative Committee for 2023, Mr. Schwartz is looking forward to discussions and working closer with the townships on legislative language.

**c. DSATS Update**

**d. Other Miscellaneous Updates - none**

**10. Old Business - none**

**11. New Business - none**

**12. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Vice Chair Luebke; seconded by Ms. Ilenikhena; Motion approved unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Deutsch  
Highway Committee Chairman