

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
February 2, 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 6:31 pm

1. Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the February 2, 2023 agenda made by Ms. Emmer; seconded by Mr. Luebke; Motion approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes

**Regular Meeting – January 5, 2023
Motion to approve the January 5, 2023 minutes made by Ms. Willis; seconded by Mr. Haier; Motion approved unanimously.**

4. Public Comments

One guest, Michael from Sycamore Township expressed his thank you in getting the speed indicators installed for Plank Road. He commented that it is greatly appreciated and a step in the right direction. He is happy they are being recognized in getting this intersection safer.

5. Ordinance #O2023-05; Altered Speed Zone for Peace Road

This Ordinance is to provide for the establishment of an altered speed zone of 50 mph on Peace Road, beginning at Bethany Road and continuing northerly to a point 500 feet south of Foxbend Drive for a distance of 0.47 miles (2,480 feet). Mr. Schwartz explained that an engineering speed study was executed with the findings recommending the altered speed zone of 50 mph between the 45 mph curb and gutter section of road and the 55 mph section of road south of Bethany Road.

Motion to forward Ordinance #O2023-05 to the full County Board recommending approval was made by Mr. Haier; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously.

6. Ordinance #O2023-06; Altered Speed Zone for Gurler Road

This Ordinance is to provide for the establishment of an altered speed zone of 45 mph on Gurler Road, beginning at Illinois State Route 23 and continuing west to the west R.O.W. of the Union Pacific Railroad for a distance of 1,140 feet. Mr. Schwartz stated this will match the adjacent altered speed zone to the west of the railroad tracks, making the speed limit consistent on the west side of Illinois Route 23.

Motion to forward Ordinance #O2023-06 to the full County Board recommending approval was made by Ms. Emmer; seconded by Mr. Luebke; Motion approved unanimously.

7. Resolution #R2023-21; Highway Department Job Reclassification

This resolution is to reclassify AFSCME position Administrative Clerk C to Administrative Clerk B. Mr. Schwartz stated reclassification discussions with the committee go back to September 2020 when the position was rehiring. The employee is already performing the job duties of the new position title.

Motion to forward Resolution #R2023-21 to the full County Board recommending approval was made by Mr. Luebke; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously.

8. Resolution #R2023-22; Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Sycamore

This resolution is to enter into an IGA with the City of Sycamore for the approval of the placement of license plate readers mounted on two (2) existing traffic signals within DeKalb County's right-of-way. One will be allowed on the west side of Peace Road at the southwest corner of the intersection with Mercantile Drive to read southbound traffic. One will be allowed on the west side of Peace Road at the southwest corner of the intersection with Puri Drive to read southbound traffic. The resolution is to protect both parties and lays out that the installation, maintenance, and costs are the sole responsibility of the City of Sycamore. Mr. Schwartz shared that this could allow the enforcement agency to get pictures of the back of a vehicle for a license plate photo that runs through a database and could send notifications to the local law enforcement agency if there is a match on any outstanding warrants connected with the vehicle.

Motion to forward Resolution #R2023-22 to the full County Board recommending approval was made by Mr. Haier; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously.

9. Plank Road Study

Mr. Schwartz started the discussion with the Plank Road history, past improvements, current study progress and recent public comments. Mr. Schwartz gave a very comprehensive review regarding many aspects of the entire Plank Road corridor, which aligns with Peace Road. Most of the background concentrated on the most recent five to ten years of Plank Road improvements, progress, and issues. He addressed many of the public comments that were received at previous committee meetings and during other communications with the public. Updates were provided concerning the current corridor study progress, current and future budget funding details, forecasted scheduling outline, and land acquisition expectations. He provided the expected timeline for preliminary engineering and construction phases of both the Plank Road / Lindgren Road intersection

improvements and the overall Plank Road corridor improvements. Mr. Schwartz finished by stating he will issue a memo to provide to the County Board and other entities of the items covered tonight.

10. Chairman's Comments

Chairman Deutsch commented that during the weekend storm he was approached with a concern of a roadway with icy conditions. He was happy to be able to say it was a State highway and County highways were clear.

11. County Engineers Comments

- **Monthly Update on Projects**

- Item #3 Glidden Road Intersection at Baseline Road received safety funds to proceed.

- Item #5 Pritchard Road Bridge replacement is on schedule with letting next year.

- Item #6 Peace Road widening to Freed Road with bridge replacement and road widening is moving along with construction planned in 2024.

- Item #9 Perry Road Bridge west of Hinckley Road will be replaced with a concrete box culvert in 2023. Despite property owners living out of the county, land acquisition should be fairly quick.

- Item #12 Rollo Road culverts will be replaced this year before paving the road in 2024.

- Item #15 West County Line south of the Village of Lee & one mile of Lee Road will be paved in 2023, with an April letting.

- **Legislative Update**

- As the chairman of the Legislative Committee for the Illinois Association of County Engineers, he looks forward to assisting with the language of proposed bills to help prevent unintended consequences when bills become law. An example bill from last year included a proposed statewide mandate for public agencies to hire minority owned and woman owned businesses. While the availability exists in urban areas, there are many rural areas of the State with contractors available which would make the local agency unable to comply with the law. A question arose regarding the road use agreement impacts for last session's HB4412 which was signed into law. Mr. Schwartz provided background on the bill, the issues with the law regarding roadways, and the hopes of a trailer bill this session to clean up some of the language.

- **DSATS Update**

- County Engineer stated they are working in-house on next year's budget as well as other planning documents such as the 5-year Transportation Improvement Program. He reminded the committee the work is paid with local funds and then 100% reimbursed by a combination of State and Federal funds.

- **Other Miscellaneous Updates – none**

12. Old Business – nothing brought forward

13. New Business

Ms. Willis asked Mr. Schwartz to comment on the department's sustainable salting during the winter. He explained that less salt is used due to the addition of spreading the liquid brine at the point of application. This wet application keeps the salt from bouncing off and helps it to stick better to the road, less wasting with a bonus of working faster and also working in lower temperatures. Appropriate salting during windy conditions not only uses less salt but can also help the road to stay clear from additional packed snow from the blowing snow. Also, different road grader plow blades are being used that have shown a considerable advantage to breaking the ice to clear off the roadway quickly. These choices give us less waste, better for the environment and being smart saves us money.

14. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Luebke; seconded by Ms. Willis; Motion approved unanimously, adjourning the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patrick Deutsch
Highway Committee Chairman