



Highway Committee

October 5, 2023
6:30PM

DeKalb County Highway Department
1826 Barber Greene Road
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
MEETING MINUTES

Chair Deutsch called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. and Ms. Richardson called the roll. Committee members present were Chair Deutsch, Ms. Emmer, Mr. Haier, Ms. Ilenikhena, Vice Chair Luebke, and Ms. Willis. Mr. Marcinkowski was absent, County Engineer Mr. Schwartz joined by Zoom, Support Services Manager Ms. Richardson was in attendance.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the October 5, 2023 Agenda made by Ilenikhena; seconded by Emmer; Motion carried by voice vote.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the September 7, 2023 regular Meeting Minutes made by Emmer; seconded by Willis; Motion carried by voice vote.

Public Comments - None

Considerations/Discussion Items – None

Chair's Comments – Chair stated he was disappointed in the person that voiced some concerns at the County Board meeting that was not brought up first at the Highway Committee meeting.

County Engineer's Comments

- Monthly Update on Projects
 - Mr. Schwartz went through several of the projects on the monthly Transportation Improvement Program, the items highlighted in red are those having updates.
 - Item #3 Glidden Road Intersection at Baseline Road: Still on track for preliminary engineering to be ready for a spring letting with a summer construction, improving for a safer sight distance.
 - Item #6 Peace Road widening to Freed Road includes a bridge replacement and road widening north of Rt 64. The plans are moving forward in hopes for construction planned in 2024 as we are getting signoffs on permits and design. Mr. Schwartz clarified that the Freed Road intersection is not part of this phase and currently does not meet the National Standards to warrant traffic signals. In the future phase when Peace Road is widened for multiple lanes past Freed Road and past Brickville road, then the warrants would more than likely be met for either or both intersections to have traffic signals installed.
 - Item #7 Pearl Street Bridge is the Village of Kirkland's project. Mr. Schwartz stated he has met with IDOT and consultants while currently attending a recent conference and confident Springfield will push for clearance on the environmental studies to move forward on the project, our own DeKalb County Forest Preserve studies have played an important part in listing endangered or threatened mussel species.

-Item #10 Plank Road Study & Improvements continues moving forward narrowing down to two preferred options for the Plank Road Corridor. Related to the intersection at Lindgren Road to improve access to the subdivision and school, a roundabout is the likely solution that in future meetings will be brought forward. The QBS process to select the professional engineering consultants to design the work will proceed with interviews next week. At the November meeting we should have an agreement from the selected consultant to bring to the Committee for approval. Mr. Schwartz reports he submitted for a quarter million dollars for sidewalks to connect the subdivision and the schools through the Safe Route to Schools Grant which the Committee approved a commitment letter last month.

-Item #16 County wide seal coat, a.k.a. tar and chip, along with the fog coat process has been completed. The fog coat portion over some of the new seal coat is a light spraying of black emulsion in both directions, this black oil helps with attracting the heat from the sun to help with snow & ice removal. It also helps hold the aggregate together. This year the County used a non-tracking asphalt material that cures faster therefore quicker to drive on. Other benefits include the contractor not waiting for the material to cure which is a savings on labor and equipment charges. The public further benefits by the lessor waiting time which is less inconvenient to the traveling public.

-Item #17 HMA paving project are now 100% completed.

-Item #12 Rollo Road culvert work started this week. The contractor hopes to reopen the road with the completion of the double cell culverts at the south end of the project around Thanksgiving.

- **Legislative Update**

Federal infrastructure dollars have a new Off-System Bridge competitive grant funding available for lower volume classification roads such as the townships. It is not distributed by formula such as the Township Bridge Program.

- **DSATS Update**

No October meeting was held. In November, several routine annual items will be addressed. Additionally, the By-Laws will be adjusted to combine the Transit (TOC) with Transportation (TAC) as one committee. This will be more efficient as Transit planning already happens in the TAC and the agendas are same, therefore there will be less paperwork.

- **Other Miscellaneous Updates**

Mr. Schwartz spoke in reference to public comments spoken at the County Board meeting. We understand this method to bring concerns to our attention. Fortunately, the Highway Department already had plans for our mowing crew to get to those small noxious weed location as they continued mowing around the county this fall.

Mr. Schwartz invited the committee to the Annual Highway Tour on Oct 17th. It is an educational tour and a great way to get feedback from members and share project ideas.

Mr. Haier inquired as to the use of LED lighting around the borders of signs especially at recent fatal crash intersections. Mr. Schwartz will be looking at the crash reports and history of crashes at the sites. Often, experience shows the use of rumble strips, “stop ahead” signs, or “cross traffic does not stop” signs are more effective depending on the reason of the crashes.

Old Business - None

New Business – None

Adjournment at 7:14 pm

Committee Action to Adjourn: Moved by Luebke, seconded by Willis; motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Richardson
Support Services Manager