



MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

2405 N. Woodford St. Decatur, IL 62526

217-424-1404 FAX 217-424-2516

MINUTES

August 21, 2013

The Macon County Transportation Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. located at the Macon County Farm Progress Grounds.

Transportation Committee Members Present:

David Williams

Kevin Bird

Keith Ashby

Jerry Potts

Susanna Zimmerman

Transportation Committee Members Absent:

Kevin Meachum

Gary Minich

Highway Department Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer

Joe Moretti, Assistant County Engineer

Mark Page, Shop Supervisor

Amanda Askew, Office Assistant

Mark Funk, Road Supervisor

Others Present:

Matt Jungmann, Farm Progress Show

Beau Hanger, Farm Progress Show

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair David Williams at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

David Williams

Kevin Bird

Jerry Potts

Keith Ashby

Susanna Zimmerman

Approval of the Minutes:

Jerry Potts made a motion to approve the minutes from July 24, 2013, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion Carried 5-0

Approval of the Bills:

Jerry Potts made a motion to accept the bills as presented, seconded by Susanna Zimmerman. Motion Carried 5-0

No Public Comments

No Old Business

New Business:

Resolution appropriating funds for the Agee Bridge repair study along CH 38 Washington Street east of Maroa.

Motion made by Kevin Bird, seconded by Keith Ashby. Bruce stated this is a study to take a look at an existing bridge to see if it would make more sense to repair it or replace it. The way funding is that is what we do with everything anymore. The cost of the study for the review to repair or replace is \$13,014.00. Jay Dunn asked if the bridge was open now. Bruce replied yes, it is open and has a 3 ton weight limit. Keith Ashby asked was this in the budget. Bruce replied yes. Motion carried 5-0

County Engineer's Report:

Bruce stated we have been spending most of the last week to two weeks getting ready for The Farm Progress Show. In fact, by attending this meeting I am missing one of the training sessions for the Traffic Turk. That is definitely going forward. In two sessions last night with the folks for the U of I we trained 16 people and it looks like there will be another 15 tonight and probably another 5 or 6 on Friday. Between that grad students with a vested interest in seeing this come to fruition. They have got enough people to go out and count. Amanda is actually wearing one of the shirts that they will be wearing. If you are coming into Farm Progress and you see somebody wearing one of these snazzy shirts and are out there with their cell phone frantically counting traffic as it goes by. Hopefully the results of the study will be able to make the traffic, as it comes into Farm Progress, to tweak the traffic plan to make it that much safer than what it already is. Keith Ashby asked what they are paying. Bruce replied \$50/day \$100 total. IDOT signed on to provide up to \$30,000, U of I has \$5,000 in to it and we provided the shirts. Country Club Road, sometime within the next 3 to 4 weeks we will be completely done with that. The Park District is very interested in having a public ribbon cutting for that. The Ocean Trail Bridge is closed and is under construction. The contractor finished driving piling on it yesterday. The County Highway 21 Bridge on Kenney Blacktop, the contractor is doing the final dry run for the decking. Friday morning starting at 6am they will have the concrete out there and pour the deck. That project is moving right along as well. Our maintenance crews will be tied up at Farm Progress pretty much all of next week. After that we will transition into roadside mowing. Jerry Potts asked how come they are not just using traffic counters, is there a reason people have to do it. Bruce replied you can use 31 people to do a comparable count with the old traffic counters in the road you would probably have to put 200 of them out and then you have to download them and evaluate them. This one, as you are scanning it feeds it directly into the software. It automatically gets evaluated as the traffic is going by that is the power of the program. Jerry Potts stated so it is a better deal no matter what the cost. Bruce replied yes it is much faster it is instantaneous. Keith Ashby asked if it was limited to a particular phone system. Bruce replied yes Android.

David Williams stated Matt Jungmann just entered our meeting from Farm Progress. We want to thank you for your hospitality this evening. Matt stated I appreciate all the support that we get from all of you guys. Bruce and his team are wonderful to work with and it makes a good partnership. It is good to have relationships like we have to get these things accomplished.

Bruce stated we had the final public meeting for the South and East Beltway studies that have been going on for about 12 years. You have seen some of the stories in the newspaper. The alignment is set, it was just basically to get the final comment from everybody and put in the final document. The final document has been processed. We have a copy at the County Highway Office; there is one downtown as well. Comments are accepted all the way until August 30, 2013. If you need a comment sheet we can get that for you. For the most part people that attended the meeting were interested and supportive.

Some of the people in their comments put those in there and others were very supportive, all of that is being made part of the public road record. The alignment has been accepted and cleared by the Feds already, so it is good and ready to go. The next phase is to go out and get funding to build parts of it. Obviously we are not going to build all of it unless somebody comes up with 150 million dollars. The big part is getting all the environmental clearance and that is done and put away. We are good to go. Jerry Potts asked didn't you say that was like 30 years into the future. Bruce replied the planning window they have to look out 25 years into the future, at least as far as the needs and where it should go. That is part of the study. The Feds were actually very happy. One thing that is notable is that the EPA has a chance to review, they will come in and it is not unusual for them to have mandatory requirements and changes to the plans and suggestions 5-10 pages long for a 23 mile corridor ours was a page and a half long. We had three short suggestions and that was it. From their standpoint it was a very clean and well organized corridor.

No Miscellaneous Business

No Closed Session

Adjourn:

Jerry Potts made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Bird. Motion Carried 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

The next Transportation Meeting will be Wednesday, September 25, 2013 at 5:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:
Kathy Gerhold & Amanda Askew
Macon County Highway Department