

# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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## MINUTES

October 27, 2021

The Macon County Highway Department Transportation meeting was held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Macon County Highway Department Building, 2405 N. Woodford St., Decatur, IL 62526.

### Members Present:

Ryan Kreke (Chair)                      Jake Horve                      Pat Dawson (at 5:33)  
Marcy Rood

### Members Absent:

Jason Comer                                  Phil Hogan                      Karl Coleman

### Support Staff Present:

Bruce Bird, County Engineer                      Amanda Askew, Office Assistant  
Stuart Jacobs, Road Supervisor

### Others Present:

Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman  
Sadie Kramer                                  Steven Damon                      Joni Dingmon

The meeting was called to order by Chair Ryan Kreke at the Macon County Highway Department.

### Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes from the May 26, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Kevin Greenfield made a motion to accept the minutes, Jake Horve seconded.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

### Approval of the Bills:

Motion was made by Ryan Kreke to approve the bills, seconded by Jake Horve.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

*Pat Dawson is now present (5:33 pm)*

### Citizen Remarks – Public Comment:

Ryan Kreke asked if there were any other citizen remarks not regarding the discussion of the Wyckles Road bridge.

Sadie Kramer stated the Sarah Kramer was my sister. In 1995 a tragedy happened; my sister's body was found under Wyckles bridge. For 26 years it has been a very sad thing for our family, our community, and our friends. It has completely changed our lives. I want to make something better, I would like for it to be a good memory, something positive. Many members of our community, my family go to that bridge and think about her. I think that it would mean a lot to my father to keep her name going. Unfortunately, Sarah will never have a family, she will not have children to keep her name going. One day, I am going to be old, but that bridge is still going to be there. My family has wanted to

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do this for years. I believe they tried in the past and it was denied. It would mean a lot to my family and my community, if we could do that.

Joni Dingmon stated I knew Sarah when she was a baby. I feel a bit guilty about the situation because they bought my trailer off me and that is when she came up missing. It really put a shock to me. We really want to make something positive for that bridge for her. I think she deserves at least that much. That was a bad violent thing that happened to her, I do believe that she deserves to have that.

My name is Steve Damon I grew up with this child here and Sarah. I know the turmoil that they went through. Her mom and her dad divorced because of this; it was too painful. This girl here was just little bitty and in the newspaper on I held her. Sarah was a regular girl and she doesn't deserve this. I think that it would be a really good idea, if we could make that bridge in her name. She was just 3 years old and to be brutally run through the dirt like that and killed and thrown over a bridge like that. I hope that you guys will consider this. Thank you.

Ryan Kreke stated thank you folks for coming out and I would like to express my condolences to your family. This a terrible situation. We appreciate you coming out, we will have to have some discussions with the State's Attorney Office and find out what legally we can do and how to go about it. I do want you to know that we will look into it. We will see if there is something that can be done. Your words are not lost. Thank you very, very much.

### **No Old Business:**

### **New Business:**

*Macon County Board Resolution approving the Authorization for Incidental Take Agreement with IDNR*  
Bruce Bird stated the first item is the infamous snake application. Once we get that signed and back to IDNR then at least as far as all the environmental clearances we are good to go. Other than the funding side that is the only thing that is holding us back on getting this let. Kevin Greenfield stated there is talk of loosening up regulations on the Covid money, once we get this incidental taken care of, if we had the funding how soon could we go to letting. Bruce replied we have everything ready to go we just have to send it off to IDOT for their final approval. We are lacking about 3.5 million. Keven stated so let's say if we had the money right now, how quick could it go to letting. Bruce replied the engineer has everything done on the plans, they are just waiting for this to get taken care of. IDOT will not look at anything unless it is ready to go. Plans can go in as soon as we get this signed document back, if we had the funding. Kevin asked so what's the earliest date it could go to letting? Ryan Kreke asked how long does it take for IDOT to approve it. Bruce replied if we stay on top of them, we will probably be looking at an anywhere from April to June letting of next year. Kevin replied you have got to be kidding me. I thought we were looking at November or December. Bruce replied it will be dependent on how soon IDOT can flip everything around and sign off on it. Honestly, the regular run of the mill projects we send in can be anywhere from 3 months to a year and a half. They are still not back in the office. Kevin stated I was hoping we could get some funding set up and get this going as soon as construction starts next spring. If the letting is in May or June, we missed spring. Bruce replied yes you will miss spring and have half of a construction season. We work really hard to try and get everything taken of and when we send it in to IDOT anymore it is just kind of on hold and we never know when it is going to come back out. Kevin asked what about taking an advance on the MTF like they had talked about at one time.

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I don't know how much exactly that gets us. I think it was going to get us close to 3 million. Bruce replied you can do that but if they ever vote on the road bill in DC there is 3.5 million in there and we have a grant application that was turned in for the build money for 7.5 million that they are supposed to come out with sometime within the next two weeks. Kevin stated we have been hearing what ifs for the last two years. Bruce agreed.

Ryan Kreke made a motion to approve, seconded by Jake Horve.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 5-0

#### *Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for 50/50 Cost Share Drainage Improvement Project on Park Rd. in Illini Township*

Bruce explained we occasionally get these requests from the Townships to split a project 50/50. The only caveat on the form they fill out is that the cost of the project has to exceed .02% of the assessed evaluation of the Township. That is what that calculation is. This project is a drainage improvement project for the area on Park Rd. in Illini Township that has a problem with flooding. It is a joint project with the adjacent farmer so everybody is splitting the cost. He approached us about doing this and we have the money in the account to do it.

Marcy Rood made a motion to approve, seconded by Kevin Greenfield.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 5-0

#### *Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for design engineering on a bridge replacement project on Strawn Road in Illini Township.*

Bruce explained this is a bridge about ¼ mile north of 121 just past Heman Rd. on the north side. It currently has a weight limit on it and it is width restricted too. It needs to be replaced. Ryan asked aren't we just finishing one up there? Bruce replied on Strawn Rd. between two townships over about a 7-year period we will have 4 bridges. Kevin asked if this was up in the Wind Farm area. Bruce replied it was outside of that area. They were not using it.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 5-0

#### *Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for design engineering on a bridge replacement project on Lake Fork Road in Austin Township.*

Bruce explained this up on the county line it is in the last mile of road before you get to the corner of Logan, Dewitt, & Macon County. The road commissioner has to drive across the bridge to get home. When we have it under construction he will have to drive around. Kevin stated Bruce you have four resolutions on here for design engineering, do we have the money to do all four of them projects. Bruce replied yes. They are all relatively small amounts and small bridges.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Jake Horve.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

#### *Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for design engineering on the Baltimore Avenue CH 7 Road Improvement Project.*

Bruce stated this is going to be an improvement from Fitzgerald south to Lost Bridge Rd. We were working on a project cooperatively with City of Decatur. They were going to put a big storm sewer in there. The estimate for the storm sewer came back exceptionally high. We are talking an 84" storm sewer was going to have to be put in. Right there in front of Root's house the trench was going to be 27' deep to get the flow out of there. Basically, from Maynor south it was an enormous storm sewer. The

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storm sewer was unique enough that the engineer actually approached Luka for a price if they were to actually bid on it. You would have to triple stack trench boxes for something that deep. It was going to have to be custom made boxes to do it. The City of Decatur bocked at that. We are going back to just separating everything out and doing a resurfacing project with minor drainage. This is intended to bring all that back up to the current standards to that design minus the storm sewer. Kevin asked are they doing that big of a sewer because it floods in that area. Bruce replied north of there at the intersection of Baltimore and Maynor, that whole area, from 36 south and ½ mile west and ¾ of a mile to the east. All that is one big flat bathtub. Ryan Kreke stated and it floods all the way over to Sinawick Park. Bruce replied yes, it is a mess in there. If you went from Maynor all the way down I think the estimate for the storm sewer was going to be 9.5 million. Kevin asked what is the plan to drain it now. Bruce replied the city has a target to go for. I told them for less than 9.5 million you can buy some houses and put in your own regional detention basin. The current drainage in that area goes north past the Circle K, under 36, under the railroad and trickles down to the lake. The restrictor is the pipe under the railroad. It is the smallest pipe of all. You can put in detention in those areas to hold that water. That is the Cities responsibility, not ours. They are not participating, but at least they have some good information. Kevin asked didn't we just spend a lot of money down in there on some storm sewer. Bruce replied yes, it needs a little more. Marcy Rood asked how much are we talking about. Bruce replied and additional \$5,000.

Kevin Greenfield made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

*Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for design engineering on a culvert replacement project on Waler Road CH 34.*

Bruce stated this is at the intersection with Church Rd. The existing pipe is a corrugated metal pipe that runs on angle under the intersection and it drains to a ditch that runs north & south. It runs on the east side of Church Rd. south of the intersection it jumps under at an angle and runs to the north side. We were called out for a couple of sink holes and found that the existing metal pipe has no floor. It is all empty and there are a lot of voids in there. This is to replace it with a precast concrete box. Hopefully by doing that we will make the cmp long enough we will not have to have any guardrail and open that intersection up. Kevin asked if this was something we could do. Bruce replied not with a concrete box section it is an 8ft culvert in there. The flow line is about 15' below the road. Kevin stated I will take you out and show you some of the ones we used to do. Bruce replied we do not have an excavator to reach that. Kevin replied we didn't either, we chaired down. Marcy Rood asked so this \$38,000. Bruce replied yes.

Jake Horve made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

Marcy Rood asked Bruce, do you have a running list of projects. Bruce replied I will hand this out. I have a spreadsheet for a 5-year plan. This is the one for 2022 and shows the projects. I am looking 5 years into the future and by the time they get to 3 years out we want to get them under design. The biggest thing I use this for is to make sure I have the funding lined up so that when we get there, we have the money for it.

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*Macon County Board Resolution to increase County Highway Line Item 030-9007 to cover project costs.*

Bruce explained the original agenda went out it said MFT instead of County Highway. This is for the resurfacing project that we did on CH 32 that ran east out of Macon. We awarded the project because the costs on it were good compared to other projects. The amount is for \$335,000. It was approved by the Committee and the Board, that money has been spent and we still have 1.4 million in County Highway. This will not put a crimp on what we have to do flow plowing snow or covering our operational expenses.

Jake Horve made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 5-0

### **County Engineers Report:**

Bruce stated this is the list of projects we have set up for next year. As far as road projects we have a section of Kenney Blacktop CH 21 south of 121 and north of old 36. This section has a double set of curves just north of Harristown, that the road is very narrow. We are using Federal Funds to do a widening of the road and come in and do Cold-in-Place-Recycling and then add 3.5" of asphalt on top of that and the center line joint sealer. The middle section with curves will match width wise with the sections on either side. We will be resurfacing the rest of CH 32 from CH 49 to Dalton City. I have the CH 24 and CH 25 intersection will be dependent on some right of way we need, but it is plugged in. We have our cape seal project on CH 61 (Franklin St.) and the west end of CH 30 (Elwin Rd.). This is a joint project with 3 townships, 3 villages, and the City of Decatur to share that. We will put all of our square yard together in one big project which gets the cost down for everybody that is participating. We run that in house. Marcy Rood asked the \$500,000 that is combined. Bruce replied that is just our part. Combined it will be about 1 million dollars. The contractor will bill everyone separately. The next one is Mt. Zion chip seal. We entered that agreement with Mt. Zion because of the extra bonded MFT that they got had to go to a bonded project. We will do \$100,000 each year. This is the \$100,000 for next year. The resurfacing of CH 32 their RBI money is going to that project. The money that we are swapping will pay for the last 2 miles going into Dalton City. The bottom one is our lot. It needs some patch work and adding a few islands to dress up the front of the building. Reas Bridge Road replacement is one top. CH 20 box culvert replacement is just west of Warrensburg Latham High School. We are still waiting on one parcel of right of way. Then we have a township bridge in Austin township on Drummer Rd. We will be overseeing that replacement. CH 38 bridge over Friends Creek Ditch, this is by Seevers house. The nice thing on this project is we do not need to buy any right of way. This is the first rural bridge that I have ever done like that. Then we have the CH 24/25 intersection. At the bottom I always plug-in a basic amount for engineering each year. Marcy Rood asked what is TPB. Bruce replied that is Township Bridge Funds. You can only use it for township bridges. Statewide it has been 15 million split for 36 years now. We have been getting between \$165,000 to \$168,000 every year for 36 years. 36 years ago, you could build almost 2 bridges with that. Now you can't even do one. Our fuel system, the tank and everything is in good shape. Our gas pumps are ancient. They don't make parts for them anymore. We need to upgrade them. The pumps that are in the back are fine where they are at and we can get replacements for them. The one up front is a bit more problematic where it sits up front is right underneath our power drop. There are 3 big transformers right there and the only lighting it has an area light. All departments fuel there day and night. If we are going to have to replace the pump what we are going to do is put a new pump in but it will be around the corner so that pump will actually face to the south and be a little closer to the building. We will be able to get that pump built in place and ready to go and then we just have to dig in and tie into the lines that are buried in the

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parking lot. The pump will be down for about a day or day and a half. It will pull it away from that power drop so for the safety standpoint it will be safer. We will also put a small canopy over it with some bright LED lights. We have been getting quotes, I have one quote here from Seneca, we have Illinois Oil Marketing and Pemco that I am waiting on quotes back. I asked for a quote to do the work out front and the work in the back. I am envisioning we will do the stuff up front and then the next fiscal year we will do the stuff in the back. Just to break the expenses up. We have to do that because one of these days the pumps will fail and they will not be able to be fixed. Talking with these folks say we can order these components, but right now it is taking 5 months to get them in. Kevin asked does any of this fall on the Public Building Commission. Bruce replied the pump and the parking lot, no. That was part of the agreement that they didn't want to touch the fuel system. We honestly didn't want them to touch the fuel system because we had all the licensing and the operators. Kevin stated they are not going to touch it they are just going to pay for it. Bruce replied I do not believe the gas system was included as part of the agreement. If you can talk to them and get them to think differently, please let me know. Kevin asked do you have a rough idea on how much this is. Bruce replied this is from Seneca the pump-up front is \$70,000, the back one is \$38,000. Kevin asked, but the tanks are good and everything else is fine. Bruce replied they are all fiberglass and the lines are double-wall fiberglass. They fully meet standards. Its mostly upfront putting the new pump in with less amount of downtime and increasing the safety of the whole installation. Marcy Rood asked if you are going to be doing this construction, I would like to see a biodiesel station added. Bruce replied all of our diesel is biodiesel. Marcy stated the police could come here and fill up. Bruce replied I don't think they have any diesel. Our diesel pumps are in the back. If there was a need yes. Marcy stated the second thing is since it is new construction it would make a lot of sense to lay the conduit for future for an electric vehicle station. Bruce stated the advantage is where that power drop is. It wouldn't be very hard to add it whenever we needed to. The parking lot in back where all the excavation would happen is a chip seal lot and we will do the excavation. Marcy replied it is a lot cheaper to do it now. Bruce replied I never asked, I don't know if these gas guys put in electric charging stations or not. Marcy replied no you will have to talk to a utility like Ameren. Bruce stated you would probably have to move a bit concrete and put a base in to hold whatever charger you have there. The location of that excavation our guys could do that. Does Bodine put any of those in. Jake Horve stated I would hold off on that for a bit. We are putting them in all of our hotels and the chargers change so fast from Tesla. Bruce replied I think everyone but Tesla is standardized on the plug. Jake replied yes for the most part, but for our hotels down the road they will be switching those, because they are trying to increase the speed of the charging. Bruce asked do you have a sub that does those. Jake replied we use Green Electric for the most part. Marcy asked do you work with a vendor Green Lots or EV GO. Jake replied it has to come through the Hilton, I would have to see who that is. Bruce stated if you can get that info to me, I would to at least like to call and get prices. Jake replied yes, they used to be free and now they cost money. Marcy stated I can get you plenty of material. Bruce stated okay.

Whenever we do salt bids with the state, we can roll it over into a second year. Last year we got Salt for \$42.58 a ton which was the cheapest it had been in 16 years. Last December a mine collapsed in Louisiana for Cargill and they decided in January to close the mine. The folk at CMS didn't come to the realization that there was not any salt coming out of that mine until about a month ago. They canceled all the salt bid contracts and had to rebid everything. When they rebid it the first time our price was \$125/ton because it is really late to be bidding out salt. They decided to throw that out and have them rebid. So, the rebid and we got it for \$68.94/ton. Which a lot more than \$42.58 but the city right across the fence it getting it for \$82. I think it is because of the tonnage that we ordered that we got it cheaper.

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We are taking a little bit of a hit. Stuart Jacobs stated it is ordered. Kevin asked how much do you have on hand. Stuart answered we have a couple thousand ton or so. Bruce replied we order almost 4 but that is for townships, villages and stuff too. We are not worried about salt.

As far as projects we have pretty much all of our bridge and road projects wrapped up. The guys are finishing up mowing right now. Stuart stated we were doing some ditch work, but the rain put that on hold for now. Bruce stated we will be getting the trucks out and ready for winter here soon. Kevin asked if we had snow birds. Stuart replied we have 3. Kevin asked do you need them. Stuart answered we usually don't use more than that. Bruce stated we have a couple retiree guys that want to come back. Also, talking about personal we had one of our long serving maintainers retire last month and took a job at CAT. We replaced him with a full-time temp by the name of Michael Bell. We would like to go ahead and permanently hire him. He has worked out really well. Kevin asked how long has he been with you. Bruce replied about 2 months. If he got hired full time, he would still have the 6-month probation period. He has worked out well. He has mainly been working in the shop, that is where Jeff was working. He works well with the crew. That is one of my big things, if they all get along, they can get things done. Kevin asked if had a CDL and everything. Bruce replied yes.

Kevin stated I got a call from an alderman in Maroa about the sidewalks on CH 38. He said they belong to the County. I don't know that to be the fact. Bruce stated they don't. they are on the county right of way but they we are not obligated to have sidewalks. Kevin asked would we have put them in. Bruce replied the only thing I can think of is going back and looking at old plans from around the 40's or 50's. Historically the small towns put the sidewalks in, not the County. Kevin asked how can we find out. Bruce stated the only thing we have would be the construction archives. I can go through and see what we have got. Looking at this situation in the past it has almost always been set up that the county went through with the road and the small towns are the ones who put the sidewalks in. Kevin stated that some are arguing that we are paying to put bike paths in, but we won't fix their sidewalk. Bruce stated it is not our sidewalk. Kevin replied I told the guy I don't know that we have ever put them in but I would talk to you about it. Bruce stated if they approach me about it would tell them there are these safe routes to school grants that you can apply for. Kevin asked are you familiar with the sidewalk up there at all. Stuart stated there is not much. Kevin replied I have not been up there to look at it. Bruce stated there is not much. From old 51 out to the High School there is a decent amount of sidewalk there, but that is all 3-4 feet wide and very old. Stuart replied I'm not sure that section isn't off the right of way on that side anyway. Bruce stated the stuff on the east side is very sporadic. Marcy asked do we normally do sidewalks. Bruce replied normally we don't. Marcy asked what do other entities, is it state money typically. Bruce replied they get MFT money they can use it. Usually for those almost always they say we need a safe place for the kids to walk to school. That is what those grants are for. They will pay for 90 or 95 percent of the cost of the project. Kevin asked if you could look into that and see what you find. Bruce replied will see if we have anything in the archives.

### **Miscellaneous Business: None**

Jake Horve made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 pm, seconded by Kevin Greenfield. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 5-0