

# MACON COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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## MINUTES

November 17, 2021

The Macon County Highway Department Transportation meeting was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the Macon County Highway Department Building, 2405 N. Woodford St., Decatur, IL 62526.

### Members Present:

Ryan Kreke (Chair)	Pat Dawson	Phil Hogan
Marcy Rood		

### Members Absent:

Jason Comer	Jake Horve	Karl Coleman
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### Support Staff Present:

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

### Others Present:

Kevin Greenfield, County Board Chairman

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

### Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes from the October 27, 2021 meeting were presented for approval. Phil Hogan made a motion to accept the minutes, Marcy Rood seconded.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

### Approval of the Bills:

Motion was made by Pat Dawson to approve the bills, seconded by Marcy Rood.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote 4-0

### No Citizen Remarks – Public Comment:

### No Old Business:

### New Business:

*Macon County Board Resolution approving the 2022 Annual MFT Maintenance Program.*

Bruce Bird stated this is the annual resolution we have to put out every year and send in to IDOT it spells how we are going to use our MFT monies on all of our maintenance items, including anything that we put towards labor, contract items, and things like that.

Phil Hogan made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.

Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 4-0

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*Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for the 2021 Drainage Improvement Project.*  
Bruce stated this was the project that we had two spots. One spot on Baltimore near Skyline Dr. and another one we had to align and relocate a field tile on Elwin Blacktop near Cornthwaite. This is to cover the expenses for that project.

Phil Hogan made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 4-0

*Macon County Board Resolution approving a modification of the Speed Limit on South Franklin Road.*  
Bruce stated this came up as a request from several residents. We did a speed study in the location. It is close to where the new City water tower is. Right now, you go from 55 MPH down to 30 MPH at the north limit of the area. We are installing a 45 MPH limit out of the section of that 55 MPH. If you are coming in from the south it will now go from 55 to 45 to 30 MPH. Hopefully this will help control some of the speed through there.

Phil Hogan made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 4-0

*Macon County Board Resolution approving a modification of the Speed Limit on Kirby Road.*  
Bruce stated next we have a similar resolution this is a request from the road commissioner. The entire stretch of road is about 1.5 miles long. I put the traffic counters out in three different locations. It came down into two different modifications. The western 2/3 we can get the speed limit down from the statutory unmarked limit of 55 MPH it will be brought down to 45 MPH and the far eastern portion where there are a lot of 90-degree turns will be brought down to 40 MPH. I spoke with road commissioner and was receptive to make those changes.

Marcy Rood made a motion to approve, seconded by Phil Hogan.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 4-0

*Macon County Board Resolution appropriating funds for the salary of the County Engineer.*  
Bruce explained this the agreement that goes in with IDOT and allows them to swap federal funds and pay for half of it. Normally I have a letter that goes with that. They promised that they would have it in August. They still have yet to send it out, but we know what the percentage is. I always tell everyone that 2% is the minimum.

Phil Hogan made a motion to approve, seconded by Marcy Rood.  
Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance 4-0

**County Engineers Report:**

Bruce stated we have all of our construction projects done. Our engineering staff is transitioning into doing the bridge inspections. The maintenance guys are working on getting spreaders and plows set up and ready to go, so whenever it wants to snow, we are good to go. We got all of our salt in. I think we have just about all the small municipalities and townships set with salt as well. Stuart Jacobs stated we finished mowing yesterday. We are doing some ditch work as long as it stays dry. We have done a few crossroad pipes. We were working at the gun range today on their driveway.

Bruce asked Kevin Greenfield if you would like me to talk about Reas Bridge? Kevin replied, if you would please. Bruce explained in talking with our consultant, Anne, she said that there is language posted in the Federal Register that allows us to use some of the Covid money for infrastructure projects.

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There are still some opportunities out there for additional funds though the reconciliation bill. But at least in order to get the project started out there. We have sent in a funding agreement to IDOT that outlines all of the previous sources of funds for the Reas Bridge project, then using a portion of the Covid funds that we are receiving as our match. In the initial proposed agreement that I have sent off to them, it is about a 5-million-dollar match. Everything else is covered by two sets of major bridge funds which is 8 million dollars total, there is about 4.5 million that is left out of the original set aside from Governor Quinn and there are a couple smaller sources thrown in there. The total estimate we are going on is 18 million dollars. That has been submitted to IDOT for their review. The final plans will be submitted for their final review by this Friday. The incidental take amendment that was on the board meeting last week that we signed it has been sent to IDNR. I have been told that should have it signed tomorrow. As far as the environmental clearance, the right-of-way clearance, we have everything set up and ready to go. We just have to wait for the I's to be dotted and the t's to be crossed and sent back to us. With their current schedule we should be able to hit a March letting. Kevin asked can we make the January letting? Bruce replied it is outside of what their schedule is. What their standard schedule is where we are at. We are early for the March but we are outside of the January letting. I have spoken with about everyone at least down in District 7 about our submissions and made them aware of it. Kevin asked is there a chance we would be able to make the January letting. Bruce replied I can ask, that is about all I can do. We have everything done; it is just a matter of getting the clearances back. The one thing that will take the most time on their behalf is checking plans. Marcy Rood asked what does that mean letting? Ryan replied it is when it bids. Bruce replied it would be on the March state letting. They have a standard letting date and about 9 months out of the year and they have deadlines before that for all the submissions to come in. As it stands now within their standard schedule, we would hit the March letting, but I will ask and see if there is anyway, we can get it on the January letting. Phil Hogan stated well this is great news. Bruce stated we should be able to get that under construction one way or another. Phil stated yes, the sooner the better. Marcy Rood asked so how much would you need from the American Rescue Plan money. Bruce answered right now it is a little bit over 5 million. We are still waiting on the possibility of a 3.5-million-dollar earmark that is supposedly in the reconciliation bill. That is all up in the air right now. If that comes in, we can change that funding agreement and slot that in if we need to. In order to get the project on the schedule and get a letting set on it, we have to plug that ARPA money in. Marcy Rood stated so that will leave us with a balance of 5 million for this year. Bruce replied yes, for this year but there is another round of that covid money in March of next year, right? Kevin stated probably August another 10 million, providing they do what they say. Marcy Rood stated I think we are going to get so much money from the infrastructure bill. Kevin stated we can take that money, if we get infrastructure money, and put it back. Ryan stated this just gets the process moving so we can bid it out. Bruce replied you can modify those agreements at a later date. This gets it on the schedule. One of the things we run into, we have had opportunities for IDOT to go through and review a preliminary set of plans and they would look at it and say it is not on the schedule, it not lined up with funding and we are not going to review the plans. They will not do it unless it is in line and ready to go. This gets the process started. Ryan asked do we think that 18 million is enough. Bruce replied it should be fine. Ryan asked even with construction costs being as high as they are now? Bruce explained yes, the most recent actual estimate I got is from May 2021 the engineer went 30% over on all the major items. IDOT has a database of all this and he compared those same items. We are talking all the steel and concrete items, and he compared them. Compared to what he was looking at in May they have went down. We should be good to go. Ryan stated if the March letting, I know it is two more

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months, but you might be surprised if the prices drop how much they can drop in two months. Just in my dealing at work I cannot imagine they go much higher. They have got to come down. Kevin stated mine are still going up. Ryan stated we got black iron two years ago for 35 cents a pound and now it is \$1.30. Kevin stated my worry is them getting the material to do the job. Therein lies a lot of the problem. Bruce agreed. What he is comparing was the actual bid prices of similar quantities in other project in the state. He said we are in good shape. Ryan stated so we shouldn't run the risk of getting the prices in and it being 25 million and we can't do the job anyway. Bruce replied you never really know until you let the project, but based upon all the preliminary stuff, no. Letting it in March as opposed to say May or June you will have better prices. Ryan stated ohh yes you have guys wanting to fill their plate. Kevin stated that is why I am hoping for January. Bruce replied, yes, the earlier the better. Marcy asked Kevin if he has talked to Carol about this. Kevin Replied yes. I think other money will come in and we can replenish the covid money. I think it is imperative that we get busy on Reas Bridge Rd. Number one before they make us go in a repair it again, that is just throwing good money away. (Everyone agreed) We have done that twice now. Kevin asked we are not going to close the road, right? Bruce replied Jeremy had me sit down with him about 3 weeks ago there will be a bout a 5-week period of time where it is going to have to be closed from Sangamon Rd. over to Star Route. It has more to do with staging the approach than anything else. It was going to be impossible to stage because of the elevation difference of about 4.5 to 5 feet from the old road to the new road. It is the least impact we can possibly do, but it speeds up the overall project by about 2 months and it should lower the cost a little. People will still have access off of Sangamon to go across. I was more concerned about that. West of there most of those folks are using that as a short cut from Cerro Gordo and they can take 105 or through Oakley to get through. It would not be as onerous as it would if you had to close the entire bridge. It gained us time and saved us money to do this. Kevin asked is IDOT shutting down 105. Bruce replied, not that I am aware of, no. Kevin stated I know that bridge is in poor shape. Bruce agreed and stated it is my understanding they will be doing that bridge the exact same way they are doing the one on Route 36 and swap from one side to the other while they are working on it. Ryan asked Bruce if he has heard anymore form Maroa about the sidewalks. Bruce replied no. We gave the information to them about it. Ryan stated they sent a letter to Kristen Larner basically saying they thought it was our responsibility and I mentioned to her that we went back on the plans and we never installed those. Bruce, it looks to me like everything we have is that we matched up to existing whenever they become County Highways that all the work took off from the city limits at that time. We are talking back in the 30's and 40's and whatever was in the city was already there. We don't have any construction plan records of anything in the old original town. Like I was explaining to Kevin I am assuming what that means is those were County Highway extensions until we went in and resurfaced something and that through the statues become our County Highways. In all those situations the sidewalks are all theirs. It is still their original right-of-way. Ryan stated I told her that you had mentioned the grants like safe passage to school about sidewalks. Bruce replied yes and yes there are even more of them now in the current bill that is coming out. They will have plenty of opportunity to do whatever they want to. I assume what they are concerned about are the ramps. There is a lot of money for that.

Pat Dawson asked is there any conversation with this Huddle House project. Bruce replied, yes. I have told Chaz we can do a right in and a right out where the beltway is coming in. It will not be a full access. Full access will have to come off of Hospitality where that current entrance is to the storage facility that is currently there. What I am waiting on right now is where that right in right out will be

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located there may be limitation that IDOT has a certain distance off of 48 that you can or cannot do that. I have sent that off to the geometrics person at District 7 to look at. I have not heard back from them yet. Chaz asked me to let him know as soon as possible. I have had several emails back and forth and at least two phone conversations with him.

Marcy Rood asked what happened with the Wyckles issue. Bruce replied the signs are up and the Family is very happy. Marcy asked did you change the name. Bruce replied you can do an official name change through IDOT or you can just put-up signs and we chose to put up signs. It is now named the Sara Kramer Bridge.

**Miscellaneous Business:** None

Phil Hogan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 pm, seconded by Marcy Rood. Motion passed with a unanimous vote for acceptance. 4-0