

# IOWA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

## June 1, 2009

The Transportation Committee met in the Highway Department Conference Room in the City of Dodgeville on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. and was called to order by Sup. Larry Steffes.

Roll call was taken:

Committee members present: Sups. Larry Steffes, Bob Bunker, Mark Masters, Ron Benish, Ron Berg, Dave Bauer, Brad Wells, Gerald Dorscheid and John Meyers.

Committee members excused/absent: None.

Also present: Sup. Tom Mueller, County Administrator Randy Terronez, Highway Commissioner Craig E. Hardy and Office Administrator Jeri Grabbert.

Sup. Ron Benish moved that the meeting had been duly advertised. Seconded by Sup. Gerald Dorscheid. Motion passed unanimously.

Sup. Gerald Dorscheid moved for approval of the June 1, 2009 agenda May 4, 2009 minutes. Motion was seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker. Motion passed unanimously.

Reports from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the committee. Sup. Ron Benish is registered for the WCHA Summer Conference on June 8, 9, and 10 but is now likely unable to attend. He has asked if another member would be willing to take his place. Sup. Larry Steffes might be able to attend and will keep in touch with Sup. Ron Benish this week. Sups. John Meyers and Gerald Dorscheid commented that the county tour was very educational and appreciated Craig Hardy's time.

### Old Business

- A. Federal Stimulus Update - Craig Hardy informed the Committee of the status of various projects.

A report was passed around showing additional April, May, and June lettings, with none in Iowa County. The River Road Bridge in the Town of Arena is the only letting in Iowa County, which was from the original state NBI funding program re-categorized as a federal stimulus project. Iowa County and the Town of Arena will save their standard 10% cost share on that bridge. The State Joint Finance Committee is reviewing the short list to decide who will get funding. Included in that review is CTH C Bridge over Sneed Creek in the Town of Wyoming and 700-1000 feet of CTH X storm sewer improvements in the village of Linden.

On the federal level, the Highway Trust Fund is reported to likely fall short in funding later this year. Without the re-appropriation of monies to the Federal transportation program, (current annual spending allocated = 8 billion dollars verses dollars delegated of 41 billion dollars) a shortfall of 33 billion exists for 2010. Rep Oberstar from Minnesota is working on a proposal for the new transportation funding bill which would allocate +/- 450 billion dollars for the next 6 years verses the prior allocation of 280 billion, an increase of +/- 170 billion dollars with no comments on how to fund it. In addition, a proposal exists to reduce the funding mechanism from

108 programs to 4 primary distribution programs. The areas that could affect Iowa County are highway safety improvements and surface transportation.

The WCHA provided a summary report on the Joint Finance Committee Budget meeting conclusions, summarizing a few topics, including that \$140 million would be taken from the transportation fund in the next biennium and be backfilled by bonds resulting in no net change, there would be a 2% increase in General Transportation Aids (GTA) our everyday maintenance budget revenue source, and a 5% decrease in Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) funds on top of an already set 1% decrease, for a total 6% decrease in LRIP funds. The important point to make here is the current LRIP bridge program has more \$ allocated for projects than available for 2009-2011 to the tune of \$18 million dollars between 2009-2011. Therefore, as we move forward the funding available will fall short of the potential projects list requiring more time for projects from funding application to final construction to allow funding to become available. Although this will mean funding shortfalls, the affect to Iowa County should be minimal because of a \$6 million entitlement that exists currently. However, for transportation improvement projects on major collectors (CTH F and K for example) the timeframe for funding eligibility will be longer so as to await accrual of funding within the entitlement bank. Craig described the bridge ratings and how that affects funding. In summary, it is in the interests of the county to keep up with the aging infra-structure and perform two bridges per year for design and construction. And, with the upcoming LRIP project requests, the county should prioritize those projects with funding eligibility to be performed with the 2011-2014 program.

- B. County Highway Improvement Cost Estimate – Craig Hardy referenced the report describing the various components of a five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that was distributed at the last meeting and asked if there were any questions or discussion. The CIP includes 2 bridges per year as discussed above.
- C. Countywide Summer Construction Schedule Update – Craig Hardy reviewed agenda enclosure and noted revisions from last month's list. He noted that work started today on CTH H on Knight Hollow Creek Bridge, utility improvements to occur on CTH HH, East Pecatonica Road TRIP project, Town of Arena roads out for sealcoat bids, Ron Berg added a comment to Middle Earth Road project in Brigham township.
- D. County Summer Work in Progress Schedule – Craig Hardy distributed a report showing the 2009 construction budget of \$786,663.00 and the projects he plans to do or has contracted to do with the allotted funds on CTH's E, G, XX related to overlays and sealcoats, and any currently unallocated portion to be expended on wedging and crackfilling.
- E. #412 Excavator Issues – This item was tabled to a future meeting.

**New Business:**

- A. 2008 Financial Report of Highway Operations – Jeri Grabbert asked for questions from the committee members on the financial report. Sup. Dave Bauer asked several questions. Craig and Jeri answered most of the questions and will look into a few that

needed further review. Answers will be provided to the committee at the next meeting. Discussion of the financial report's content and the compilation of which occurs primarily for state review.

- B. 2009 Monthly Revenue and Expenditure Reports – Jeri Grabbert distributed reports for March and April. Questions and answers followed.
- C. CTH G Revised State/Municipal Agreement for a highway improvement project, PS&E cost estimates, right of way negotiations update, and schedule for 2010 construction – Craig Hardy reviewed the contract with the Dept. Of Transportation for an 80/20 cost share for engineering and construction of the Pecatonica River Bridge and Approaches on CTH G. Engineering is complete. Approval to proceed with construction in 2010 is needed by October 1, 2009 to meet the November PS&E letting deadline. The County's 20% cost share for construction in 2010 would be \$95,600. The committee felt that this project fell in line with the recommended 2 bridges per year plan.

Motion by Sup. John Meyers and seconded by Sup. Bob Bunker to approve the construction cost of \$95,600 for the 2010 budget and move forward on this project now to meet the November letting deadline. Passed unanimously.

**Highway Commissioner Report:** Craig Hardy reviewed the following items with the Committee:

- 1. Craig Hardy passed around a report showing employees uses and accruals of sick time.
  - 2. Craig Hardy distributed pictures of and discussed the status of the CTH E Bridge in Mifflin that needed emergency repairs to a hole in the deck last week. He was notified on Thursday May 28 of the problem by the personnel out of Mifflin, upon inspection closed the bridge to one lane of traffic, repaired the hole in the bridge deck, and opened back up to traffic today. Craig offered some options to look into for funding the cost of replacing this bridge in the near future.
  - 3. Craig Hardy informed the committee of the directive that was received from the Department of Transportation. The directive reduces the level of services to be provided on state highways as a means to cut spending levels. The directive was a major topic of discussion at a WCHA Commissioners Meeting, with one concern being that the directive is on a blank piece of paper – no letterhead – and without any signatures from anyone at the state level. Another concern was the level of liability caused by the reduced services and who would be held responsible. Sup. Dave Bauer suggested that Craig discuss this issue with Corporate Counsel since Iowa County has a signed contract (RMA) with the DOT for designated service levels. Corp counsel is to review the directive, RMA, contract requirements, provide a course of action to address the concerns listed above. The committee concurred.
- A. County Road Tour and PASER Discussion – The committee member who toured with Craig last week felt it was worthwhile and very educational.
  - B. 151 Study – Craig Hardy distributed a new Alternate 1D. Craig discussed the impact on Iowa County.

Motion made by Sup. Ron Berg and seconded by Sup. Dave Bauer to deny the proposal of Alternate 1D. Passed unanimously.

Motion made by Sup. Ron Benish and seconded by Sup. Dave Bauer to endorse the recommendation of Commissioner Craig Hardy for an interchange at CTH Y and the relocation of Hwy. 191. Passed unanimously.

- C. Functional Classification – Craig Hardy passed around the Iowa County Functional and Jurisdictional Highway Plan. This was created in 1989, is outdated, and needs to be updated. Craig contacted Southwestern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC) for guidance on how to proceed. Craig feels it should be a coordinated effort between the Transportation Committee, SWWRPC, DOT, and Iowa County Planning and Development. Craig will table this item until he has more information.

The next regular Transportation Committee meeting is set for Monday, July 6, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sup. John Meyers, seconded by Sup. Dave Bauer. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Minutes by Jeri Grabbert