

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 1, 2010

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman  
Joanne Sievert, Highway Committee Member  
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member  
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member  
David Albrecht, Highway Committee Member  
John Haese, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: Mike Berg, WisDOT  
Mike King, WisDOT  
Colleen Harris, WisDOT  
Kurt Wranovsky, WisDOT  
John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive  
Lt. Todd Christie, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.  
Kathi Sawall, Town of Nekimi citizen  
Jen Folske, Town of Nekimi citizen  
Harry Sturgis

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Sievert to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2010 committee meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was any input on any agenda items by the public. There was no input from the public.

Mike Berg, Northeast Region Director for WisDOT introduced himself and his staff and thanked the committee for inviting them to attend today's meeting. They distributed their six year highway improvement program and a construction map/schedule for the USH 41 expansion project. Mr. Berg stated the major project underway presently in Winnebago County is the widening of USH 41 from STH 26 to Breezewood Lane. He stated that Mike King is in charge of that project and temporarily has his office in Oshkosh at the Universal Street field office. Mr. Berg also stated that some of this project is being funded with federal stimulus dollars.

Mike King, WisDOT gave an overview of the USH 41 project. He stated that the wetland mitigation site has been completed and the 20<sup>th</sup> Street (CTH K) overpass removed last week. This week the Witzel Avenue overpass will be demolished. The new structure at 20<sup>th</sup> Street is scheduled to be completed by June, and the Witzel Avenue overhead completed by September of 2010. The 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue overpass with roundabouts will be constructed in 2011, and the STH 21 intersection addressed in 2012. Mr. King stated they started adding fill for the new causeway over Lake Butte des Morts. It was noted that USH 41 will have solid concrete barriers in the median from STH 26 to Breezewood Lane upon completion of the project.

The STH 76 project was reviewed. This project will consist of a mill and resurface of STH 76 from Indian Point Road to USH 10, including installation of traffic signals at Green Valley Road. They will also resurface STH 76 from Murdock Street to Indian Point Road including construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Murdock and Jackson Street. The roundabout should be completed by July, 2010. The WisDOT worked with the City of Oshkosh on project specifications.

The STH 441 expansion project was discussed. Mike Berg stated the WisDOT sees the need for the project and has the plans ready but cannot do anything until the TPC (Transportation Project Commission) meets and enumerates the project. The TPC has not met for six years, and until they are ordered to convene by the Governor no additional projects can move forward. The STH 441 project would consist of a new bridge over Little Lake Butte des Morts and flattening out the curves near Racine Street and CTH AP. Mr. Berg stated this is one of two projects the DOT would promote to move forward as soon as possible.

Supervisor Hamblin questioned if there will be any more stimulus funding available. Mr. Berg stated he thinks it is unlikely but that if funds become available the state has projects ready to take advantage of it.

The STH 21 corridor study was discussed. Ms. Harris stated the WisDOT has rejuvenated the study and is trying to determine if STH 21 would fall under the status of freeway or expressway. She stated there will be a public informational meeting this April followed by preliminary designs and mapping by 2012. Chairman Robl stated that he recognizes the need for a four lane highway system to move traffic west from Oshkosh to other areas of the state.

Mr. Berg stated that in 2005 there was legislation passed that would allow USH 41 to be changed to interstate status. The state is in the process of studying the 130 mile route from Milwaukee to Green Bay to see if it will satisfy the Federal Highway regulations necessary for interstate status, but to date the Governor's office has not moved forward to request it. Supervisor Sievert questioned if there would be any benefits to changing USH 41 to an interstate. Mr. Berg stated there could possibly be more funding available and it may be beneficial to businesses located along the corridor.

Ms. Harris presented the committee with the most recent USH 41 ADT (Average Daily Traffic) counts that were recorded in 2007. Average daily numbers ranged from 45,000 near STH 44 to 81,000 at the intersection with CTH II. She stated that another count will be performed in 2010 but with the major construction being performed it could sway the count. She stated another traffic count will be performed upon completion of the USH 41 project.

Mr. Berg also announced that future STP projects will be handled locally through their Green Bay office. He said the DOT staff wants to work more closely with Commissioner Haese and the local municipalities, rather than through the Madison office.

Supervisor Albrecht thanked the WisDOT staff for attending today's meeting and stated it was very informative. Commissioner Haese stated he has a very good working relationship with the WisDOT and appreciates their prompt response to his request for information and funding of maintenance projects. Members of the WisDoT then left the meeting.

Commissioner Haese stated that April 19-23, 2010 has been designated "Work Zone Awareness Week" by the Federal Highway Administration. He stated there is a media event planned in Winnebago County, in conjunction with the USH 41 project, to recognize "work zone awareness week". A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to approve a resolution declaring April 19-23, 2010 as "Work Zone Awareness Week". Motion carried 5-0.

#### General Operations:

- The final 2009 Highway Department budget shows a positive balance of \$23,648 that will be transferred back to the Highway Fund.
- Commissioner Haese reminded the Committee that contractors will be removing the Witzel Avenue/USH 41 overpass this week.
- Supervisor Hamblin asked if the Highway Department will be doing the paving work for the UW Fox Valley. Commissioner Haese stated he is investigating that possibility.

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2010.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer  
Highway Secretary