

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 16, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to County Executive
Mike Berg, WisDOT
Jeanette Cavanaugh, WisDOT
Jill Michaelson, WisDOT
Brian Bock, WisDOT
Alan Rommel, WisDOT
Kurt Wranovsky, WisDOT

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Sievert, seconded by Supervisor Albrecht to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2009 committee meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Robl asked for public input from anyone who wanted to address any issue on the agenda. There was no public input.

Mike Berg, WisDOT introduced himself and his staff from the northeast region office. Jill Michaelson distributed the DOT's six year program and project maps to the Committee members. She then addressed the STH 76 project, which will be started this summer between Hwy 10 and Hwy 15. It will consist of a mill and resurface project and a park and ride at the intersection of STH 76 and USH 41. She stated that in 2010 work will take place on Hwy 76 in the City of Oshkosh including a roundabout at Murdock Street and a raised median from Murdock Street to Smith Street.

Brian Brock, WisDOT then gave a presentation on how multi-lane roundabouts work and fielded questions from the Committee. Commissioner Haese informed Mr. Brock that he observed high snow banks from snow removal that caused vision problems at current roundabouts that should be investigated. DOT staff noted that according to crash data roundabouts are considered safer for both traffic and pedestrians, handle traffic more efficiently and are less expensive to construct and operate. Educating motorists will be an important key to the public becoming comfortable with the use of roundabouts as more are constructed statewide.

Mr. Berg stated the USH 41 project was moved up a couple months to take advantage of federal stimulus funding as was the resurfacing of I43. He stated that the USH 41 project will be built to interstate standards so it is anticipated to last for 50 years. Supervisor Hamblin questioned what happens if county roads are damaged during the construction of USH 41 including hauling the fill for the new causeway. Mr. Berg stated typically the routes are logged by the DOT and any damages are corrected and paid for by the State after completion of the project.

The USH 441 Bridge and expansion project was discussed. Due to the fact that the Transportation Project Commission has not met for six years, the extensive amount of funds used on the Marquette interchange, and the overall bad condition of the economy, the USH 441 bridge project has not been enumerated at this time. WisDoT staff stated it is their #1 priority, but until funding becomes available there are some temporary improvements that can be made. Ms. Michaelson listed these as building auxiliary lanes near Racine and Midway Roads; flattening the slopes at CTH P; extending the on-ramp to CTH AP; and increased overhead signage and bridge post attenuators.

The WisDOT is in the process of hiring a consultant to design the frontage roads along USH 45. The plans will be complete so when funds become available they will be ready to proceed.

According to Mr. Berg the STH 21 corridor study has stalled due to other priorities. Their anticipated timeline is to develop a recommendation by 2010/2011 and have it mapped in 2011.

Commissioner Haese stated he will be meeting this Friday with WisDoT staff regarding the concrete failure on CTH AP in order to reach a settlement. He will report back to the Committee at a future meeting regarding this topic.

Mr. Berg stated that property owned by the State in the Winchester area could be deeded to Winnebago County for highway purposes only. Commissioner Haese stated the property is needed to construct a satellite shop to house equipment for snow removal on the north end of the county. Mr. Berg informed Commissioner Haese to send a formal letter of request. The committee then thanked the WisDOT personnel for attending today's meeting and they exited.

Commissioner Haese informed the committee on several upcoming road projects. He stated that he is working on the process to apply for stimulus funding for projects on CTH M and CTH D. To be eligible for funding he may need to request approximately \$20,000 for an engineering study on CTH M. The project on CTH D would consist of paving from CTH B to STH 116 to correct wheel rutting. He told the committee that the county may have to expend \$30,000 to \$50,000 in order to meet Federal Highway standards for CTH M and CTH D in order to submit a project for stimulus funds. There is a stringent time frame that must be met by December of 2009 and no guarantee that stimulus funding will be awarded for any of the projects.

The resurfacing of CTH E from STH 116 to the Fond du Lac County line does not meet the standards for stimulus funding.

The projects on CTH Y, B and AH are on the next County Board agenda for their approval. A contract for the project on CTH I is being developed by OMNI Associates. Commissioner Haese stated there may be STP-Urban funding available for this project depending on decisions currently being made by the City and Town of Oshkosh according to the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

General Operations:

- As of date the Highway Department has expended 65% of their winter maintenance budget.
- Commissioner Haese reported the public informational meeting held last week regarding the reconstruction of the Eureka Bridge was well attended.
- Supervisor Hamblin questioned if any county roads are being posted during spring thaw. Commissioner Haese stated effective today seven roads are temporarily posted with weight restrictions. He informed the Committee that if they get any inquiries they should refer them to him.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 6, 2009.

A motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin, seconded by Supervisor Warnke to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary