

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: May 4, 2009

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

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

EXCUSED: Joanne Sievert, Highway Committee Member
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member

ALSO

PRESENT: Mark Harris, County Executive
John Fink, Assistant to County Executive
Chuck Farrey, County Board Supervisor District #30
Public attendees

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 a.m. Supervisor Albrecht stated that the minutes from the April 20, 2009 meeting should be amended to show that several of the Committee members requested including the proposed West Side Arterial project on the next Highway Committee meeting agenda. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes with that amendment. Motion carried 3-0.

Chairman Robl asked for public input from anyone who wanted to address any issue on the agenda. Residents from the Town of Nekimi stated they were attending the meeting regarding the proposed West Side Arterial project. Several residents stated they felt the road is unnecessary and not justified. Cindy Duchatschek questioned why many of the citizen's questions from the previous public informational meeting still have not been answered. She also asked how much Ray Polkinghorn's firm was paid for the preliminary study and who paid for it. Geoff Kuhn requested traffic counts/population data and a possible timeline for the project.

Supervisor Albrecht questioned whether the Town of Nekimi was involved in the planning meeting held in February. Commissioner Haese stated the meeting held on February 12, 2009 was attended by officials from the City of Oshkosh, Town of Nekimi, Winnebago County, and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. At that meeting they reviewed the concerns raised at the previous public meeting and the preferred alternative corridor. The City of Oshkosh and Town of Nekimi are still in the process of developing a boundary agreement that will be reviewed and approved by the State of Wisconsin. In order to address the concerns of the residents in the Town of Nekimi, the city is trying to provide a West Side Arterial corridor plan that would impact the least number of town residents. The February 12th meeting provided another option to the preferred alternative that had been proposed in May of 2008. The Town of Nekimi elected officials indicated that they would inform the town residents about the change in the corridor plan. The local officials could then meet again to discuss amending the corridor plan or presenting it to the public at large. Several Town of Nekimi residents stated the latest preferred alternative map posted on the County website is different from the one that the town board presented to them.

Commissioner Haese stated that the City of Oshkosh has the authority through their extraterritorial rights to map future streets and roads within 3 miles of the city limits. The city may map future corridors with little or no input from those units of government that lie outside the city limits. Commissioner Haese stated that the county, city, towns and East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission all agreed that the best course of action was to try to secure as much public support for this project as possible. No action would be taken regarding proposed corridor locations until public informational meetings were held in order to get comments from the residents who would be impacted by the mapping process. He stated that much of the information concerning projections developed for the West Side Arterial Project can be obtained from a number of sources including: the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Short, Elliott & Hendrickson Inc., the City of Oshkosh or Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Department.

Commissioner Haese stated that anyone with questions can contact him and he will assist them or refer them to the individuals who can provide the information they are requesting. Commissioner Haese provided his office telephone number and e-mail address. Commissioner Haese also stated that Winnebago County is considered the lead agency for the project and contracted with the firm of S.E.H. for \$150,000 to perform the preliminary study.

County Executive Harris explained that the project is mapping a road for future need. Once a corridor is mapped it prevents the construction of homes and business that could be negatively impacted in the future should the project be built. He stated that this is done so that when the need for the road occurs the mapping allows for a corridor to be developed with minimal disruption to adjacent residents and businesses. Mr. Harris stated that most individuals presume a project of this type will devalue their property. In fact past experience has shown an increase in the value of the property similar to what occurred on CTH CB. Mr. Harris stated that originally Clairville Road was intended as the route for a west side arterial, but because it was not mapped previously too much development occurred and the corridor is no longer a viable option for the future roadway. He stated that if you wait until the road is needed to draw the map, you've waited twenty years too long. Mr. Harris stated that he had no knowledge of the last alternative map.

Commissioner Haese stated that the county does not want to repeat the mistakes that were made in regards to the CTH CB project. For example, right of way acquisition for that project was estimated at 2 million dollars. After land developers got involved with the property the cost escalated to 12 million dollars. Mr. Haese stated that this is why it is critical to identify and protect the corridor by preserving the right of way for future development.

Commissioner Haese stated that another change to the preferred alternative could be made in the near future. A public informational meeting will be held when the local officials feel that they have addressed as many of the citizen's concerns as possible. Supervisor Albrecht stated Commissioner Haese will be introducing the revised map at tomorrow night's County Board meeting. Mr. Kuhn stated he appreciated the honesty and forthright discussion at today's committee meeting.

Emergency funding for culvert replacement was discussed. The Town of Clayton Administrator submitted a request for county aid participation for replacement of two box culverts, one each on Wooden Shoe Road and Oakcrest Drive. The specific size and cost will be forthcoming. A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the culvert replacement funding. Motion carried 3-0.

General Operations:

- As of date the Highway Department has expended 72% of their winter maintenance funds, and 36.5 % of their overall budget. Approximately \$153,000 remains for winter funding for October – December, 2009. Last year at this time the Highway Department was over budget by approximately \$200,000 on winter maintenance.

Supervisor Albrecht suggested postponing the field reviews until the full highway committee can be present. Chairman Robl and Supervisor Hamblin accompanied Commissioner Haese to view the proposed CTH I project (City of Oshkosh to CTH Z) since this topic will be addressed at tomorrow night's County Board meeting.

A motion was made by Supervisor Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary

