

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: March 19, 2012

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Ken Robl, Highway Committee Chairman
Robert Warnke, Highway Committee Member
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member
Tim Hamblin, Highway Committee Member
Dave Albrecht, Highway Committee Member
Ernie Winters, Highway Commissioner

ALSO

PRESENT: John Fink, Assistant to the County Executive
William Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Dept.
Brian Bock, Colleen Harris, Kurt Wranovsky, Will Dorsey, Brian Roper, Becky Rooyakkers, and
Al Rommel from WisDOT, Northeast Region
Bill Demler, Highway Maintenance Superintendent
Jon Groth, Highway Maintenance Superintendent
Guy Hegg, District #27 Supervisor

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Robl at 9:00 A.M. A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting as written. Motion carried 4-0.

Chairman Robl asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to address any agenda items at this time. There was no public input. Supervisor Albrecht joined the meeting.

Commissioner Winters stated members of the WisDOT, NE Region are present today to update the committee members on local state projects and field any questions the committee members may have. After everyone in the room introduced themselves, Will Dorsey, DOT Director, stated that their department is undergoing a lot of staff changes, including employees switching positions, and they've hired 22 entry level engineers. Mr. Dorsey also noted they have great interest in the transportation bill currently being discussed at the federal level that may initiate changes. Supervisor Albrecht inquired since the DOT hired so many engineers if they will be engineering more of the projects and save the county from hiring outside engineering firms. Mr. Dorsey stated the DOT currently outsources approximately 70-75% of the engineering work, but that the DOT staff will be available to administer local programs by in-house staff.

Becky Rooyakkers distributed the Wisconsin Six Year Highway Improvement Program snapshot and map for the years 2012-2017. Ms. Rooyakkers gave a brief overview on each of the projects listed with the exception of the USH 41 project to be explained later. Commissioner Winters inquired if the project on STH 116 scheduled for 2017 could possibly be moved up since the road is badly deteriorated. The DOT staff noted that if the county requests a change in the timeframe of a project that they would be open to the possibility of moving projects around based on priority and funding.

Supervisor Egan asked if the WisDOT would be providing additional funding for the CTH K Bridge project. Will Dorsey stated that raising the funding cap is a possibility, but that they are looking for participation from the locals for the bridge redesign.

Chairman Robl noted that STH 26 is not on the State's 6-year plan. He stated due to heavy traffic four lanes are necessary. The DOT staff agreed there is heavy traffic on STH 26 at times and they are looking at the safety issues and seriousness of accidents. They stated they are considering installing shoulder and centerline rumble strips to increase safety.

Mr. Robl also inquired about the STH 21 Corridor Study from Oshkosh to west of Omro. Ms. Harris stated the STH 21 Corridor study got put on the back burner due to other projects. She stated the study is now back underway with new staff members and will be out for public input in the next six months or so. Ms. Harris stated the WisDOT will need confirmation of where the proposed west side arterial will intersect with STH 21 to complete the planning.

Supervisor Albrecht stated that he has received many complaints regarding the USH 41 project. Both regarding the poor visibility of the lane striping on the south end of the project, and the bumpy ride on the northern section. The DOT staff noted that the pavement striping is temporary and the bumps on the north end are the drains in the roadway to drain the water off the road. Both items are only temporary during construction. Mr. Albrecht stated the WisDOT should communicate this information to the public.

Guy Hegg, District #27 Supervisor inquired if the WisDOT has plans to upgrade the sound barriers along the Tri-County freeway. He stated that they need to be updated because the noise is an environmental hazard in the corridor over Little Lake Butte des Morts.

Brian Roper distributed a WIS 441 Tri-County Project Summary to the committee members. He informed them that the highway will be reconstructed and expanded from four to six lanes from Cold Spring Road to about a half-mile east of Oneida Street. A second bridge will be added over Little Lake Butte des Morts. The project will include reconstructing interchanges at CTH AP, CTH P, WIS 47 and US 10. They will also be adding traffic cameras and lighting to improve safety. The WisDOT plans on holding a public informational meeting on May 10, 2012. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2015-2016.

Mr. Roper also distributed a 2012 Construction Outlook for the USH 41 project. He stated that this will be the hardest year for the project, but the last year for interchange closures in Winnebago County. The USH 45 interchange should be opening later this year. The STH 21 interchange was closed beginning today, and will remain so until mid November. Roundabouts will be constructed on STH 21 ramp ends with bike/pedestrian accommodations. Work will continue on the Lake Butte des Morts Causeway through October 2013. Commissioner Winters asked what impact the USH 41 project will have on the Winnebago County Highway Department. Kurt Wranovsky stated the project will be adding 7% to 8% more lane miles and the amount of funding on the Routine Maintenance Agreement will be increased accordingly to reflect the additional lane miles. It is possible Winnebago County will need to add additional equipment and staff to adequately maintain the additional lane miles.

Lt. Anthes, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department, stated that although the marked detour for the STH 21 closure is STH 44, he believes that a lot of local traffic will be using Oakwood Road. He stated that even though the road is four lanes wide it is designated for only two lanes of traffic. It was noted that because Oakwood Road is a town road, the town of Algoma would have to make the decision to increase the lane capacity. Commissioner Winters offered to approach the Town of Algoma about allowing four lanes of traffic on Oakwood Road during the construction period. Commissioner Winters inquired if the WisDOT has money in their budget for damage caused to roads used outside of the marked detour routes. Ms. Harris stated unless a road is video logged before a project begins it is hard to prove what caused the damage.

Supervisor Warnke stated he feels a roundabout would be warranted at the intersection of South Park (STH 44) and Ohio Street in the City of Oshkosh due to heavy traffic volumes.

Supervisor Egan inquired about the roadside mowing policy – and why some counties seem to be mowed more frequently than others. The WisDOT stated their statewide mowing policy remains the same as it was in the past, unless a safety issue warrants cutting grass and weeds for vision hazards per the guidelines.

The committee members thanked the WisDOT staff for attending today's meeting and they exited.

In reviewing year end data it came to the attention of the Finance Director that a budget transfer had not been completed for the CTH P Bridge Approach project. The money was borrowed and the project has been completed. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Hamblin to approve a Capital Project budget transfer of \$160,000 for the CTH P Overpass Project over USH 41. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Egan and carried 5-0.

April 23-27, 2012 has been declared Work Zone Awareness Week. Commissioner Winters drafted a resolution to be approved by the County Board designating it as such. There will be an event held at the Winnebago County Highway Commission on April 23rd honoring employees who have been fatally injured in work zones, including Marc Neumeyer and Dan Melhorn who were struck on USH 41 on March 7, 2006. The Committee felt that there had been other employees whose names should be included in the resolution. Commissioner Winters stated he was not aware of others who had perished in work zones in Winnebago County and had based this resolution on the one written the previous year. After discussion a motion was made by Supervisor Egan to approve a resolution declaring April 23-27, 2012 as Work Zone Awareness Week with the addition of any other employee's names, or the removal of the two names as currently drafted. Motion seconded by Supervisor Warnke and carried 5-0.

General Operations:

- Commissioner Winters distributed an invitation to the WAPA (Wisconsin Asphalt Pavement Association) conference to the Committee members.
- Commissioner Winters stated he has received confirmation from East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission that they will fund the bike/pedestrian study and local share of the project. There will be no cost to Winnebago County. Mr. Winters will bring the agreement to the next meeting.
- The regional Commissioners/Committeeman's meeting will be hosted by Winnebago County on May 3, 2012. Commissioner Winters is looking for accommodations to hold the event.
- The Highway Department will be holding their annual Safety Training Day for employees on April 24th. Mr. Winters invited the committee members to attend if they care to do so.
- The bids will be opened for the CTH T reconstruction project at the end of the month. The Highway Department will be doing the asphalt paving and the rest of the project will be let to bid.
- Bids will be received in December for the CTH K Bridge project. Cost alternatives will be looked at to determine if the design will be adjusted. Commissioner Winters stated the bridge is scheduled for inspection this year.

The next regular meeting will be held on April 2, 2012.

A motion was made by Supervisor Warnke, seconded by Supervisor Hamblin to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Laura Spanbauer
Highway Secretary