



**Champaign County Board
Highway & Transportation Committee
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES –APPROVED NOVEMBER 8, 2024

DATE: Friday, October 11, 2024
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Lorraine Cowart Conference Room
1605 East Main Street, Urbana, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Samantha Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Brett Peugh, Jennifer Straub, Leah Taylor
Absent: Diane Michaels, Tom “Ed” Sexton

County Staff: Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Jenni Marner (Assistant County Engineer), Michelle Carter (Office Manager/Accountant), Steve Summers (County Executive), Dana Brenner (Facilities Director), Susan Burgstrom (Planning Manager, RPC)

Others Present: Aaron Raftery and Becky Thompson (Nania Energy via Teams)

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Carter to approve the agenda and the addendum; seconded by Peugh.
Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

IV. Approval of Minutes – August 9, 2024

MOTION by Straub to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2024, meeting; seconded by Carter.
Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

None

VII. County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims August & September 2024

MOTION by Straub to receive and place on file the County and Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for August and September 2024; seconded by Carter.
Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**.

VIII. CUUATS-Long Range Transportation Plan 2050 Presentation

Susan Burgstom stated the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) is a federally mandated document that is updated every 5 years. Without an approved LRTP, state and federal funding for transportation projects in our area cannot be obligated. She discussed the Metropolitan Planning Area included in the LRTP and explained the process of developing the LRTP. The LRTP details the projected evolution of pedestrian, bicycle, transit, automobile, rail, and air travel over the next 25 years. The transportation goals of the LRTP 2050 are based on improving safety, reliability, sustainability, equity and quality of life, and connectivity.

MOTION by Straub to endorse the Long Range Transportation Plan 2050; seconded by Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

IX. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, Raymond Township, Section #24-21147-00-BR

Blue discussed a bridge located in Raymond Township that needs repaired. Big O Services submitted the lowest quote, \$20,398.53 to fix the Riprap under the bridge. Raymond Township is prepared to pay 50% of the cost to repair the bridge.

MOTION by Carter to approve the resolution; seconded by Peugh. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

X. Petition Requesting and Resolution Approving Appropriation of Funds from the County Bridge Fund, and Awarding the contract for St Joseph and Urbana Townships, Section, #24-27148-00-BR, to Stark Excavating, Inc.

Blue discussed an extensive erosion problem, under a bridge, north of I-74. A letting was held on October 8, 2024, and Stark Excavating, Inc. submitted the lowest bid of \$121,979.00. St. Joseph Road District and Urbana Road District are prepared to pay 50% of the township cost for the bridge repair. Their cost split will be proportioned based on the assessed valuations of each township. Blue recommended awarding the project to Stark Excavating Inc.

MOTION by Straub to approve the resolution; seconded by Peugh. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

XI. Solar Panel Agreement-Resolution Authorizing the Champaign County Engineer to Sign a Distributed Generation Energy Services Agreement

Blue informed the committee he has been working with Nania, a Solar Consultant Company, regarding the installation of Solar Panels on the Highway Building. Blue introduced Energy Advisors, Becky Thompson and Aaron Raftery (via Teams). Becky provided a brief introduction of Nania Solar Group. Aaron provided details regarding the recent Solar Feasibility Study performed on the Highway Building. The study estimated the upfront costs, the available rebates, and the potential savings over the next 30 years. Questions were asked regarding insurance, cleaning, maintenance, and replacement of the panels. The resolution authorizes the Champaign County Engineer to sign a Distributed Generation Energy Services Agreement with Nania Energy Advisors. The Energy Services Agreement would allow Nania Energy to review and develop a Request for Proposals, RFP, based on client needs and site specifics. Dana Brenner, Facilities Director, stated he has a lot of trust in Nania and he thinks this is a great system to save money. The Agreement has been reviewed by the States Attorney's Office.

MOTION by Straub to approve the resolution; seconded by Carter. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED unanimously**

XII. Other Business

None

XIII. Chair's Report

None

XIV. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

Cowart stated that items IX-XI be placed on the consent agenda.

XV. Adjournment

There being no further business, Chair Cowart adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

***Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*