

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**HIGHWAY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2006**

**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center  
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

5:30 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bensyl, Carter, Cowart (Chair), Jay, Jones, O'Connor, Weibel

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Gross, Langenheim

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jeff Blue (County Engineer), Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Barbara Wysocki (County Board Chair), Jim Prather (Urbana Township Highway Commissioner), Steve Wegman (Champaign City Engineer)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Cowart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. The Recording Secretary called the roll. Bensyl, Carter, Cowart, Jay, Jones, O'Connor, and Weibel were present. Cowart declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Bensyl to approve the agenda; seconded by Jay. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the Highway & Transportation Committee regular session minutes of October 6, 2006; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION** by Jay to approve the Performance Appraisal Subcommittee regular session minutes of September 14, 2006; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

**MOTION** by Jay to approve the Performance Appraisal Subcommittee closed session minutes of August 31, 2006 and September 14, 2006; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims – October 2006**

**MOTION** by Jay to receive and place on file the County & Township Motor Fuel Tax Claims for October 2006; seconded by Weibel. **Motion carried.**

**COUNTY ENGINEER**

**Intergovernmental Agreement – Greenways and Trails Plan**

Blue reminded the committee they had a preliminary discussion on Greenways and Trails Plan at a previous meeting. Blue reviewed the plan, which lays out all the specific tasks the Greenways and Trails Group will be charged with performing. The plan is designed to ensure that trails and greenways are safe and secure for the community. This agreement will mean across-the-board regulations and specifications for the development of greenways and trails. The County's share of the cost amounts to \$1,751. The County Board Chair will sit on the Greenways and Trails Policy Committee. The County Engineer will sit on the Greenways and Trails Technical Committee.

**MOTION** by Weibel to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Implementing Phase One of the 2004 Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan; seconded by Jones.

Cowart asked about the base fee. Blue explained it is the \$750 minimum amount any participate would pay. An entity is not precluded from participating in the future if they decide to not participate in a given year. Weibel asked about designating preferred bike paths on rural roads. Blue replied one of the charges of the Greenways and Trails Group will be to determine the best rural roadways for bike paths. Jay said he understood the agreement contained a way for an entity to not take part in a large project. Blue confirmed the allocation of money will be on a yearly basis. The agreement establishes the Greenways and Trails Policy Committee and the Greenways and Trails Technical Committee to make recommendations. The only money the County is agreeing to contribute at this time is \$1,751. Jay was concerned about the County overextending itself with future obligations. Blue explained once the Policy and Technical Committees approves a work plan and budget for each upcoming year, the parties in the agreement will have 45 days to confirm or withdraw their participation from the next year's work plan. Jay said this approach sounded good.

**Motion carried.**

**Race Street Speed Study**

Blue distributed copies of the speed study to the committee. The study was conducted by Urbana, with the consent of Blue and the township, because there was no documentation on how the 30 mph speed zone was established on Race Street, south of the McCullough Bridge. The speed study indicated a recommended speed limit change to 40 mph on this section of the street. The current 30 mph speed zone has a violation rate of 93%. Blue recommended a resolution by brought before the County Board establishing the speed zone of 40 mph on this particular piece of road.

**MOTION** by Weibel to recommend to the County Board the approval of a resolution to change the speed limit on the section of Race Street from 30 mph to 40 mph; seconded by Bensyl.

Cowart asked if the cities follow this procedure in establishing their speed zones. Blue stated this is the procedure is set by IDOT policy and is used to determine speed zones for all roads in the state. Weibel asked if the University of Illinois would have any input about the change because Race Street borders their property. Blue answered no. The Urbana Township Highway Commissioner was present and concurred with Blue.

McGrath stated if there is no documentation that confirms how a speed limit was established then all speeding tickets issued for violating traffic codes on this road are non-enforceable. The Sheriff's Office needs a resolution establishing the speed limit to have the right to enforce it.

**Motion carried.**

Fringe Road Funding Resolution

Blue stated there have been numerous conversations about the issue of the \$1 million cap on urbanized roadways. The Highway Department, as well as some elected officials, has come to the conclusion that the County Board needed to more accurately state the reasons for the \$1 million funding, including historical data and future aspects. Blue complimented Deb Busey on writing the Resolution Establishing Long-Term Financial Plan for Motor Fuel Tax Funds Received by the County of Champaign. Blue said Busey did a wonderful job capturing all the different conversations about Motor Fuel Tax funds at the committee and County Board levels. This resolution has long-term implications that the County can plan towards. Instead of setting a hard cap of \$1 million on the County's average annual commitment to fringe road projects, it is felt a percentage of the County's total MFT revenues would be more appropriate. This protects the County should MFT revenues decline. The percentage will reflect changes in inflation and the price index of building roads and bridges more accurately than a set dollar figure. The resolution clearly states what the MFT revenue can be used for, as well as information about the 1994 and 1996 intergovernmental agreements and the pavement management study. The resolution shows the County is committed to existing and potential future fringe road projects by reserving 35% of MFT revenue for ongoing and/or future fringe road projects as long as they meet the specific statutory requirements. Steve Wegman from the City of Champaign was present and has said the city would offer a letter of support to the County Board for the November Board meeting. Blue noted a report on the financial impact of fringe developmental agreements was included with the resolution. The County has spent \$1 million per year on fringe roads based on an eleven-year average. In future projects through 2014, the County has committed to spending \$17 million across 10 years, which is average of \$1.7 million per year on fringe roads. There will need to be funding agreements between the Cities of Urbana and Champaign and the County in the future. The County will not be able to supply all of the money in a given year for some of the projects so the County and the cities will need to be flexible to fund the projects. Blue has spoken with Bill Gray from the City of Champaign and confirmed Champaign understands this position. They are working towards a way to fund the Windsor Road project. Blue felt this was a very good resolution that sends the right message about what the County is trying to accomplish.

**MOTION** by Jay to approve the Resolution Establishing Long-Term Financial Plan for Motor Fuel Tax Funds Received by the County of Champaign; seconded by Weibel.

Jay stated he was a staunch supporter of the \$1 million cap and he thought it has accomplished what the County needed to do. He supports the resolution presented tonight because it contains some additional protection for the County and clearly designates what MFT funds can be spent on. He was concerned because there has been misconception by some people on how the County should spend its MFT revenue. He does not like other entities telling the County Board how to spend its money, but he is willing to listen to reasonable suggestions. He has found the City of Champaign to be very agreeable to listen and talk about the funding. He hopes other entities will follow suit. He supports this resolution.

Carter asked if the resolution has been discussed with the City of Urbana. Busey confirmed the city has received the resolution and discussions have occurred between the City of Urbana and the County. Carter asked how the city responded. Busey said the city supports this resolution.

Weibel asked if the 65/35 ration was based on reviewing the spending over the last 10-12 years. Blue explained the figure was based on fringe roads historical data. Weibel asked legal counsel if it was proper to have the resolution rescind Resolution No. 4695. McGrath stated the resolution is the correct way to rescind the previous resolution. Weibel requested this resolution be placed on the County Board regular agenda.

Bensyl asked if the City of Urbana would release the hostage money since they were in favor of this resolution. Busey said, though she prefers not to think of it as hostage money, the City of Urbana does owe the County that money. If the money is not received in this fiscal year, the County could file a legal action against

the city to obtain it. Busey expects that the city will release the money in this fiscal year. Bensyl asked whether the commitments being referred to were projects the County has already committed to or if the County Board was committing itself to future projects. Blue explained the resolution commits 35% of the County's MFT annual revenues towards planning for fringe road development. Jay said he was also concerned with the money that is owed to the County by the City of Urbana, but he does not think it needs to be tied to this issue.

McGrath said that Jones asked at a previous meeting whether the County had initiated litigation to obtain its money. Pursuant to the committee's direction at the September meeting, McGrath wrote a letter to the City of Urbana asking for payment of the monies owed to the County on a couple of different projects. McGrath is still trying to negotiate the payment, but thought it would be forthcoming. The city has been notified if the County has not received the money by a certain date; the County will proceed to litigation. Jay asked if the County could collect interest if the city continues to fail to pay. McGrath explained one can only collect interest if a judgment is issued, so the County cannot collect interest at this time.

**Motion carried.**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair designated agenda items 6 A & B for the consent agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork  
Administrative Secretary

*Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.*