

**Transportation Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 18, 2009 – 8:30 A.M.  
McHenry County Division of Transportation  
Main Conference Room  
Woodstock, Illinois 60098**

Chairperson Anna May Miller  
Ed Dvorak      Paula Yensen  
Virginia Peschke      Daniel Ryan  
Sandra Salgado      Scott Breeden

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Chairperson Miller, Ed Dvorak, Daniel Ryan, Sandra Salgado, Paula Yensen, Scott Breeden and Virginia Peschke

**MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

None

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

In attendance were: Joseph Korpalski, Director of Transportation/County Engineer; Cynthia Schaupp, SAO/Division of Transportation Liaison; Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer; Wally Dittrich, Division of Transportation, Design Manager; Victor Ramirez, Director of Engineering/Building for the City of Crystal Lake; Bob Rollings, Bollinger Lach & Associates; BLA; Todd Bright, TranSystems; Eberhard Veit, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (MCBA); David Frederick, county resident; Linda Stelle, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (MCBA); Veronica Armstrong, County resident; Mark DeVries, Division of Transportation, Maintenance Superintendent; Ed Markison, Division of Transportation, Assistant Maintenance Superintendent; Randy Morin, Division of Transportation, Vegetation Supervisor; Grant Wollert, Jeff Harvay and Don Oates, Division of Transportation, Vegetation section; Andy Schwebke, Division of Transportation, Sign Shop Supervisor; Scott Dunker, Division of Transportation, Sign Shop section; Dave Hansen, Division of Transportation, Shop Maintenance Supervisor; Karl Spealman, Division of Transportation, Shop Maintenance section; Mark Dammyer, Division of Transportation, Construction Manager; Jim Werner, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Troy Strange, Division of Transportation, Construction Engineer; Jason Osborn, Division of Transportation, Principal Transportation Planner; Chalen Daigle, Division of Transportation, Planning Liaison; Debra Kroll, Division of Transportation, Administrative Specialist.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Ms. Linda Stelle, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (MCBA) addressed her concerns on Rakow Road regarding bicycle accommodations. Ms. Stelle offered signed petitions for the record.
- Mr. Eberhard Veit, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates (MCBA) addressed his concerns on Rakow Road regarding bicycle accommodations.
- Mr. David Frederick addressed his concerns regarding posted speed limits on all roads.
- Ms. Veronica Armstrong spoke about her concerns regarding Edgewood Road.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – March 4, 2009**

On a motion by Ms. Salgado, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the meeting minutes of March 4, 2009 were approved as presented.

A voice vote was taken with all members present voting “aye”; motion carried.

**RESOLUTION APPROVING FY2009 TO 2013 HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HIP)**

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The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the FY 2009 to 2013 Highway Improvement Program (HIP).

The MCDOT has monitored project cost estimates and project needs for the last year and has prepared this five (5) year HIP. This is an annual process required by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as part of the County's Agreement of Understanding and is guided by the County's approved 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan. Extensive planning over the last year is reflected in this five (5) year plan, including updated project costs and timelines, as well as the impacts of the issuance of debt certificates for transportation needs and the new RTA Sales Tax funds.

The FY 2009 to 2013 HIP includes over \$248 million in expenditures; \$51 million more than last year's program and over \$80 million more than what was programmed two (2) years ago. The program includes sufficient funding for 26 (11% for \$26M) bridge replacements, 11 (8% for \$20M) intersection improvements, 7 (38% for \$94M) add lanes projects, and 3 (7% for \$18M) new road extension projects.

Mr. Osborn offered a brief summary explaining certain aspects of the HIP to the Committee. Each year the MCDOT looks at the cost of current projects and then reviews projected revenues. Last year the MCDOT saw a 6% decline from Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) allocated from the State and a 9% decline in the County Option MFT (4 cent per gallon tax in McHenry County).

Mr. Osborn displayed charts that explained program revenues, expenditures and needed funding.

This program includes approximately \$300,000 to \$500,000 per year to support para-transit. This is a new approach and the numbers were based on a full evaluation of the County's needs that staff feels is a sufficient amount for a small grant program.

Discussions ensued.

On a motion by Ms. Peschke, seconded by Ms. Yensen, the resolution approving the FY2009 to 2013 Highway Improvement Program (HIP) was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

A roll call vote was taken with all members present voting "yes"; motion carried.

#### **ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY**

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) staff requests the approval of the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified groups into the MCDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Lynn Seger State Farm Agency – Deerpass Road from Bockman Road to River Road – new group

Platinum Auto Service and Detail – Pyott Road from Willow Road to Oak Street – new group

In order to augment the MCDOT's litter collection efforts, the County enacted an Ordinance to allow for volunteer groups to adopt various sections of highways for litter collection. With the approval of these agreements, the MCDOT has 122 groups enrolled in the program covering 141 centerline miles of the 214 available miles in the program which is roughly 66%.

The ordinance requires that the volunteer groups enter into an agreement with McHenry County defining the responsibilities of the group and the County. This resolution approves the County to enter into an agreement with two groups for two sections of highway.

On a motion by Mr. Dvorak, seconded by Ms. Peschke, the resolution approving the inclusion of the identified groups into the McHenry County Adopt-A-Highway Program was approved with a recommendation to the County Board.

A voice vote was taken with all members present voting "aye"; motion carried.

#### **PROJECT STATUS REPORT**

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The report was discussed.

Mr. Korpalski advised that the Illinois Route 23 road closure discussed at the March 4, 2009 Transportation Committee meeting scheduled for April 3, 2009 will now go into effect on May 1, 2009, because of uncompleted utility relocations. The detour route is east on Illinois Route 176, to north on Illinois Route 47, to northwest on U. S. Route 14, to south on Illinois Route 23 or the reverse route.

The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) has a new and easy access website: [www.McHenryCountyDOT.org](http://www.McHenryCountyDOT.org)

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

- ***MFT Allocation Process***

Informational materials were provided to update Committee members on several issues that could be useful at the upcoming Strategic Planning Board Retreat. These handouts were distributed at the March 12, 2009 Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Policy Committee meeting which Mr. Korpalski attended. Mr. Korpalski revisited and emphasized relevant sections of the Executive Summary.

It was reiterated that the gas tax is not adjusted for inflation and that it is a “per gallon” tax.

- ***APWA Top Ten Public Works Leader of the Year Award***

The American Public Works Association (APWA) Chicago Metropolitan Chapter is the oldest and one of the largest, most active Chapters in the Association. The Chapter includes eight (8) counties in the region: DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Lake, McHenry and Will. Currently, the Chapter has five (5) branches: Suburban, Lake, Fox Valley, Southwest and Chicago.

The Chapter was officially formed on January 15, 1933, which is the first date that the APWA came into existence.

The Chapter is widely known for its active and dedicated leadership. The Chapter has almost 1,500 members and has produced more than 25 APWA Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year.

This year, Mr. Mark DeVries, McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) Maintenance Superintendent, has been chosen as the Chapter’s recipient of the award and will represent the Chapter at the National level, competing for the highest honor of APWA’s Top Ten Leaders of the Year.

The Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year seek to inspire excellence and dedication in public service by recognizing the outstanding career service achievements of individual public works professionals and officials from both the public and private sectors. The primary focus of the award is on career service to the public works profession, rather than on any one event or project.

The Top Ten Public Works Leaders of the Year Award is presented to individuals by representatives from the Association during National Public Works Week, May 17 through 23, 2009.

Mr. DeVries has previously won awards at the Branch, Chapter and National levels. McHenry County is well known throughout Public Works for its efforts in snow and ice removal, environmental best practices and its innovations. Mr. DeVries has led the effort and the MCDOT was awarded the Local Chapter and National Award for technical innovation for its blending system. The system also won awards from the National Association of Counties and the McHenry County Council of Governments. The system and the resulting mixes have been duplicated across the world.

Mr. DeVries is known as a national speaker and shares his experiences at conferences across North America and throughout Europe. He has been published in every major industry magazine and in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Public Works and Infrastructure*. Mr. DeVries was rewarded for his

efforts in 2007 when he was the recipient of the Donald C. Stone Award as the top educator in APWA, both at the Chapter and National level.

Mr. DeVries, the MCDOT, Public Works agencies and the citizens of McHenry County are the benefactors of this success. Opportunities and innovations led to new methods and new success stories. The MCDOT is looked at as a model in Public Works and Mr. DeVries as a leader in the industry.

Mr. Korpalski went on to read a letter of reference for Mr. DeVries from Mr. Larry Frevert, P.E., and Vice-President /National Program Director-Public Works of HDR Engineering, Inc. to the APWA.

Congratulations were offered to Mr. DeVries.

• ***New Employees***

- The McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) is pleased to welcome Mr. Karl Spealman to their staff, as one of the newest Maintenance employees. Mr. Spealman has been assigned to the Maintenance Shop section, where he will assist in the day to day operations of the MCDOT.

Mr. Spealman offers 22 years of vehicle and equipment knowledge along with a vast experience in the repair of trucks and equipment.

Mr. Spealman spends his free time enjoying his wife and children. When not spending time with his family, he enjoys motor sports. He was a lifelong resident of McHenry County, but is currently residing in Walworth, Wisconsin.

- The McHenry Division of Transportation (MCDOT) is pleased to welcome the addition of Mr. Scott Dunker to their staff as one of our newest Maintenance employees. Mr. Dunker has been assigned to the Sign Shop section, where he will assist in the day to day operations of the MCDOT.

Mr. Dunker offers 31 years of vast excavating and trucking experience.

He enjoys hunting, golfing, and boating with family and is a N.I.U. fan. Mr. Dunker is a lifelong resident of McHenry County and currently resides in Marengo.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Executive Session was not held at today's meeting.

**NEXT MEETING DATE & LOCATION**

8:30 A.M. on April 1, 2009 – McHenry County Division of Transportation

Ms. Peschke noted that she would not be in attendance at the April 1, 2009 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ms. Yensen, seconded by Mr. Ryan, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 A.M.

A voice vote was taken with all members present voting "aye"; motion carried.