

October 14, 2010

THAT the meeting was called to order by Commissioner Peckens at 9:30 A.M. in the Board Room of the Livingston County Road Commission, 3535 Grand Oaks Drive, Howell, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in accordance with Act #267 of 1976.

A. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Stephen F. Crane
John T. Dunleavy
David R. Peckens

Staff Present: Michael Craine, Managing Director
Michael Goryl, Traffic and Safety Engineer
Kim Hiller, Utilities and Permits Engineer
Rick Little, Technical Services Supervisor
Donald Kuchnicki, Finance & Policy Director
Jodie Tedesco, County Highway Engineer
Steve Wasyk, Director of Operations

Others Present: Pat Convery, Howell Area Chamber of Commerce
Tom Darling, WHMI
Steve Hasbrouck, Tyrone Township
Cathy Johnson, Beck Road
Jerry Joseph, Broadmoor Court, Howell
Jason Davis, Daily Press & Argus
Bob MacGillis, Genoa Township
Rick Terres, Howell Public Schools
Sandy Taylor, Nixon Road, Howell

B. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Dunleavy, seconded by Commissioner Crane, to approve the agenda as presented.

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

C. CALL TO THE PUBLIC (1)

No Response

D. ACTION ITEMS

1. Monumentation/Remonumentation Peer Review Committee
 - Agreement with Livingston County
(Resolution 1010-064)

The county has been engaged for some time in a survey monumentation and remonumentation program. A key element of the program is the Peer Review Committee which is comprised of professional land surveyors with knowledge of the monumentation needs of the county. The Road Commission's surveyor has participated since the committee's inception. The county has identified a funding source to reimburse employers for meetings attended by their

designated representatives and provided a proposed agreement for this purpose. The agreement was reviewed by staff and recommended for approval.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Dunleavy, seconded by Commissioner Crane, to approve Resolution 1010-064. (Certified Copy on file in the Board Meeting Resolutions.)

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

2. **Traffic Control Order #10-008**
 - Placement of Stop Sign**Brighton Road West of King Road**
(Resolution 1010-065)

Mike Goryl reviewed with the Board a recommendation for placing a stop sign on Brighton Road west of King Road for eastbound traffic. The intersection was recently modified and visibility for eastbound traffic is somewhat limited by trees and brush. Staff recommended replacing the yield sign with a stop sign.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Crane, seconded by Commissioner Dunleavy, to approve Resolution 1010-065. (Certified Copy on file in the Board Meeting Resolutions.)

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

3. **Audit Engagement**
 - Fiscal Year 2010**(Resolution 1010-066)**

Board members reviewed the terms of engagement for conducting an audit for fiscal year 2010 as set forth in a proposal from Bredernitz, Wagner & Company.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Dunleavy, seconded by Commissioner Crane, to approve Resolution 1010-006. (Certified Copy on file in the Board Meeting Resolutions.)

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

4. **Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions (ASMRC)**
 - Election of ASMRC Directors
 - Election of ASMRC Director to Serve on CRAM Board

There was discussion of the excellent candidates for directors for the Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions. After careful deliberation, the Board decided to cast their votes for Douglas Fuller of Washtenaw County, John Michalec of Shiawassee County, Blair Ballou of Eaton County, Roy Townsend of Washtenaw County, and Steven Warren of Kent County.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Dunleavy, seconded by Commissioner Crane, that the Board cast their votes for Douglas Fuller, John Michalec, Blair Ballou, Roy Townsend, and Steven Warren.

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

5. Approval of MDOT Contract #10-5668
 • Old U.S. 23, Center Road to Hogan Road
 (Resolution 1010-067)

Mr. Craine reviewed with the Board the MDOT project agreement for the improvements to Old 23 between Center and Hogan Roads. The estimated cost of this third phase of the plan to rehabilitate portions of Old 23 is \$532,800 with \$466,134 coming from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the balance from Transportation Economic Development funds. Staff recommended approval of the MDOT agreement.

Steve Hasbrouck of Tyrone Township asked if the Road Commission was going to resurface Center Road while it was working on Old 23. Mr. Craine informed him that Center Road was outside of the scope of the federal aid project agreement. Mr. Hasbrouck stated that the project needed doing in any event. Mr. Craine stated that the Road Commission was aware of the condition of the roadway but had not identified a funding source for any rehabilitation activities.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Crane, seconded by Commissioner Dunleavy, to approve Resolution 1010-067. (Certified Copy on file in the Board Meeting Resolutions.)

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

6. Latson/I-96 Project Background
 • Discussion

Mr. Craine stated that at the Board's request he had prepared a presentation on the background of project activities that led to the development of the Latson/I-96 interchange. The Board had a detailed report that provided some of the key documents from the project. Mr. Craine stated that at a subsequent meeting on October 28, a report would be given on the project funding issues.

Mr. Craine stated that the project was locally initiated. It was in response to a growing consensus that there needed to be a north/south roadway between Howell-Pinckney Road and Old 23 that would also have access to the freeway. This would help with mobility on local roads as well as access to the interstate highway network. He summarized the early activities that led to the commission of a major investment study that ran with a parallel environmental impact study. Funding for this study came from a congressional appropriation secured through the then congressman for the sixth district, Bob Carr.

The study was jointly sponsored by the Road Commission, MDOT, and the Southeast Council of Governments. A consultant was hired to work with agencies and community residents to determine the feasibility of the access improvement in the east Howell area. There was a detailed discussion of the study phases and study work products.

Mr. Craine stated that ultimately the project study team selected a hybrid alternative that preserved and improved the Lake Chemung exit as well as established full access to the freeway at Latson and Nixon Roads. The Federal Highway Administration approved this selection and accepted the study and the environmental impact statement in the fall of 2000.

The Michigan Department of Transportation, working with the Road Commission, spent some of the money identified for this project immediately on improvements to the Lake Chemung interchange and corrected some of the geometric deficiencies and perceived safety problems at the interchange. There also was complete mitigation of the wetlands taking of the project through the construction of new wetlands in Oceola Township.

Since that time a good deal of the work has been to develop detailed construction plans including the geotechnical recommendations, defining and describing required right-of-way, and determining what type of funding template the project required and how to develop additional funding for completion. There also was a new traffic report done to make sure that the recent economic decline had not reduced traffic so significantly that the project was no longer relevant. The project was submitted to final review by the Federal Highway Administration in July of 2009.

This review resulted in several technical findings regarding the proposed new interchange. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) concurred that the "...traffic and operational and safety benefits... are significant and well documented." The FHWA approved the access modification for I-96.

There also was a quick review of some of the plan sheets to provide the Board with adequate information about the geometric design.

The chairman then asked if anyone in the audience wished to ask a question or make a comment. Bob MacGillis of Genoa Township stated that he lived south of the I-96 freeway and finds the lack of access to the north to be a real hindrance. He wants the bridge and the interchange constructed. He believes this is a great opportunity for the county but is concerned that the money may dry up if it isn't done soon.

Tom Darling of WHMI asked how far north of Grand River would Latson be five lanes. Mr. Craine stated that the Latson Road improvements would only extend far enough north to get through the intersection with Grand River. They would terminate shortly after the northerly drive into the Meijer's store. He stated that there were plans to make Latson five lanes between Grand River and M-59 but it is unfunded and unlikely to be brought forward any time soon.

Pat Convery, President of the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce, asked to address the Board regarding the strong support of the project by the Chamber and its members. She identified specific businesses and industries that believe that the interchange is necessary for their continued competitiveness in the marketplace. She further stated that she believes the interchange will help to develop new jobs and that this would be extremely good for the community.

Jerry Joseph of Howell addressed the Board regarding the project. He stated that he was a resident of Genoa Township and that he knew the project had many benefits. He wondered if this was the time to undertake such a project given the economic climate. Other roads have needs and the amount of resources for this project were considerable. He stated that the question he would ask the Board to consider is whether a project like this a necessity or merely a convenience.

Steve Hasbrouck of Tyrone Township asked how many dollars have been spent to date on this project. Mr. Craine said that he was not in a position to identify all expenses inasmuch as most of them have been by MDOT. His best estimate was somewhere between \$7 and \$10 million have been spent in developing the original MIS and EIS, the wetlands construction and Lake Chemung improvements, and subsequent project activities regarding the development of plans and similar activities. He did indicate that the Road Commission has not had significant out-of-pocket expenses, that these were borne principally by MDOT and the Federal Highway Administration.

Sandy Taylor of Nixon Road informed the Board that she is one of two property owners present who know that their property will be purchased for the project. She explained the hardships associated with not being sure of what to fix around the house. She stated that she has lived with much uncertainty for many years and requests that the project either be built now or put to rest completely so that she can get on with her life.

Rick Terres, Assistant Superintendent for Business, Howell Public Schools, addressed the Board. He stated that he had been involved in this project for at least 15 years. He emphasized that his remarks reflect his personal opinion and not that of Howell Public Schools. He said the Board may want to consider the long term effects of this project. He understands that some short term dislocation of other projects may occur but that the long term effect of a project like this is a "game changer" for the Howell area. He addressed the importance for an additional crossing of the freeway for student bus transportation and the obvious future economic development that would occur from having a freeway interchange at this location. He stated that he supports this personally and believes it's a good project for construction.

Chairman Peckens thanked people for their comments. He said that this was a difficult decision and their comments were helpful and that he looked forward to the discussion of project funding at a subsequent meeting.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were presented to the board as information only:

1. Clip Sheets (September 23-29, 2010)
2. Clip Sheets (September 30-October 6, 2010)
3. Clip Sheets (October 7-13, 2010)
4. Status of High Impact Permits

Commissioner Peckens asked Kim Hiller about the proposed EZ Mart on Oak Grove Road. He asked if there were going to be changes in traffic control at the intersection. Ms. Hiller said that the matter had been discussed with Mike Goryl and that he would be reviewing this further after the project was constructed and opened. There was a discussion about the requirements of state law to follow the manual of uniform traffic control devices.

F. CALL TO THE PUBLIC (2)

Jerry Joseph asked if there was an update on the Howell Loop Road Project. Mr. Craine said this was a City of Howell project that was still in development. It was not scheduled for construction at this time as far as Mr. Craine knew.

G. LEGAL

No Report

H. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

1. Minutes

- a. Regular Board Meeting
September 23, 2010

The proposed minutes of the meeting of September 23, 2010, were presented to the Board for its review and approval.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Crane, seconded by Commissioner Dunleavy, to approve the meeting minutes of September 23, 2010.

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

2. Bills

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Crane, seconded by Commissioner Dunleavy, to approve vouchers 069162 through 069265 in the net amount of \$249,250.94.

Ayes: Commissioners Crane, Dunleavy, Peckens.

Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

3. Meetings Announced

- a. Next Regular Board Meeting
October 28, 2010 - 9:30 a.m.

- b. **Seven County Council Meeting**
Tuesday, October 26, 2010 – 9:00 A.M. (new date)
Hosted by Eaton County Road Commission
- c. **Association of Southern Michigan Road Commissions**
2010 Annual Conference
December 6-8, 2010 – Soaring Eagle, Mt. Pleasant

4. **Financial Reports Reviewed**

- a. **Cash Position Statement**
- b. **MTF Comparison Report**

5. **Miscellaneous Road Items**

No items.

I. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Peckens declared the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m. Motion carried.

Signed _____
David R. Peckens, Chairman

Signed _____
Michael Craine, Managing Director