HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: May 13, 2014
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Koukol, Judy Gilmour, Scott Gryder, Jeff Wehrli (arrived at 4:03 PM), and Amy Cesich (arrived at 4:05 PM)
STAFF PRESENT: Fran Klaas & Ginger Gates
ALSO PRESENT: Angela Zubko

The committee meeting convened at 4:00 P.M. with roll call of Committee Members. Wehrli and Cesich initially absent. Quorum established. Absent members arrived later.

Motion Gilmour; second Koukol to approve the Highway Committee Minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Koukol presented four Intergovernmental Agreements with local agencies in Kendall County as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program. Projects include paths and walks along Route 71 in Oswego for $20,000, a path connection at Grove Road with Oswegoland Park District for $6,000, sidewalks on Ben Street with City of Plano for $25,000 and sidewalks along Route 47 with City of Yorkville for $5,000. Agreements were prepared and reviewed by David Berault at the State’s Attorney Office and are ready to be presented to the County Board. Klaas gave a brief overview of the TAP to Committee Members. Motion Gryder; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the TAP Agreements to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

An intergovernmental agreement between Kendall County and Village of Millbrook was presented to the Committee relating to professional engineering services being provided by the County for roadwork that will be done on city streets during 2014. Committee members discussed some of the specifics of the agreement and how fees were eventually waived as a concession for using Whitfield Road as a detour route on the Fox River Drive bridge project. Motion Koukol; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the intergovernmental agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

A Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between Kendall County and Hampton, Lenzini and Renwick was presented to the Committee in the amount of $450,730. Said agreement is related to proposed improvements to Grove Road between Sherrill Road and U.S. Route 52, and includes all Phase I and Phase II Engineering, as well as plats and legals for the project. A bridge and another major culvert are included in the design work. Wehrli asked how long the engineering would be good for if the project wasn’t built right away. Klaas indicated that it would be good indefinitely, but there might be minor changes to specifications and some permits might have to be renewed. Motion Cesich; second Wehrli to recommend approval of the agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

A Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement between Kendall County and Willett Hofmann & Associates, Inc. was presented to the Committee in the amount of $139,835.80. This agreement is related to proposed improvements at the Grove Road Bridge just south of Van Dyke Road, near Plattville. The bridge itself has been labeled as a Legal-Load-Only structure
due to its deteriorated condition. Additionally, storm waters flood over Grove Road frequently in this area. The agreement is for Phase I only, because there is uncertainty in what will actually be proposed for road and bridge improvements that will solve the flooding problem. Wehrli asked about coordination with Army Corps of Engineers and Klaas confirmed that they would be involved all the way through the process due to the nature and size of the drainage area. Motion Koukol; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

The Phase II Engineering Agreement with HRGreen for the Eldamain Road Extension Project was presented to the committee. The agreement has a total cost of $2,888,426.09. This agreement has been negotiated and refined over the past couple months and still needs to be approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation due to the 80% federal funding. Motion Gryder; second Wehrli to recommend approval of the engineering agreement to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

An access variance has been requested by Ronald and George Reinert to allow a private access on the north side of Fox Road just east of 12345 Fox Road. Due to the expected reduction in traffic on this portion of Fox Road in the future Eldamain Road scenario, and considering the numerous other private accesses in the area, Klaas gave a positive recommendation for the variance. Motion Wehrli; second Gilmour to recommend approval of the access variance to the County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Klaas discussed the currently-proposed alignment and configuration for the Eldamain Road and Fox Road intersection that was detailed in the Phase I Engineering for said project. Because the alignment of Eldamain Road at the intersection is in a horizontal curve, there is a required 4% superelevation of the proposed roadway, which causes the profile of Fox Road to have a very dramatic change on the east and west side of Eldamain Road. The east side would have a 5’ cut below existing ground, while the west side would have a 9’ fill above existing ground. So there would be a 14’ difference in elevation from the east side of Eldamain to the west side. Klaas discussed the negative impacts of this alignment and proposed a different geometry for the intersection, which would include a roundabout instead of a tradition style intersection and traffic signal. The roundabout would allow the intersection to be built near existing grade and would be expected to save between $250,000 and $500,000 in the construction. Gryder asked about signalization of the intersection. Under the current plan, traffic signals would likely have to be included at the intersection. If the new plan is accepted, a roundabout would eliminate the need for traffic signals and it would also eliminate the need for 9’ of fill material. Wehrli asked about railroad crossings and whether they would be allowed for Eldamain Road and for the new crossing of Fox Road. Klaas thought that the County would have a very good argument to allow the crossings through a petition to the ICC. The cost of construction would rest with the County. Wehrli also asked about proposed speed limits across the railroad and at a proposed intersection. Posted speed limit for Eldamain Road would be either 45 mph or 50 mph. In order to eliminate all superelevation on Eldamain, the speed limit would have to be reduced to something like 20 mph. The Committee discussed whether there was a proposed rail crossing with the previous Inland residential development proposal. Klaas was looking for feedback from the Committee in regard to whether an amendment should be made to the Phase I Project Development Report to provide for a roundabout at this location as opposed to a traditional intersection with traffic signals. Gilmour was not sure what proposal she liked better. Cesich liked the idea of a roundabout and felt it was a much better long-term solution for the area. Koukol liked the proposed cost savings and safety improvement of a roundabout. Wehrli also liked the
roundabout proposal better, but suggested the concept be brought before the Committee-of-the-Whole. Gryder wondered about the connection to existing Fox Road as well as the costs for each alternative. Klaas reminded the Committee that any additional work for Phase I amendments would be funded with 80% federal money. Motion Koukol; second Wehrli to send this matter to the next Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting for consideration by the entire Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Other Business, Cesich asked about the status of Little Rock Road, where there had been a roundabout proposed previously. No additional measures have been taken since the County Board turned down the intergovernmental agreement between the County and City of Plano in 2013. Since that time there has been no consensus by the Committee on any specific improvements to be made at that location.

Motion Koukol; second Wehrli to forward bills for the month of May in the amount of $269,080.75 to the Finance Committee for approval. Motion carried unanimously

Dick Wade, Little Rock Township Highway Commissioner, came before the Committee to request assistance in completing the connection of Mitchell Drive, which would connect Schaefer North Subdivision (unincorporated) to Lakewood Springs Subdivision (City of Plano). The connection has been contemplated for many years, and Mr. Wade stated that both the City and Little Rock Fox Fire Protection District would like to see the connection completed for life/safety reasons. Klaas gave some history on this project, which has already been designed, but was never funded. The original developer didn’t complete the improvements because it was expected that the roadway would be built with future phases of the subdivision. The County actually had money at one time in the 5-year plan to make the improvements, but it was taken out of the plan because of opposition by some members of the County Board. Wehrli stated that this road was always intended to go through and should go through. Klaas indicated that the County has the legal right to fund roadway improvements on both County and Township Highways, if they deem that appropriate. Koukol requested that this matter be put on the Highway Agenda for further discussion at the regularly-scheduled June meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:23 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Francis C. Klaas, P.E.
Kendall County Engineer
**ACTION ITEMS**

1. Intergovernmental Agreement between Kendall County and Village of Oswego for construction of paths and walks on Ill. Rte. 71 as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of $20,000.

2. Intergovernmental Agreement between Kendall County and Oswegoland Park District for construction of paths at Grove Road as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of $6,000.

3. Intergovernmental Agreement between Kendall County and City of Plano for construction of sidewalks on Ben Street as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of $25,000.

4. Intergovernmental Agreement between Kendall County and City of Yorkville for construction of sidewalks on Ill. Rte. 47 as part of the Transportation Alternatives Program in the amount of $5,000.

5. Intergovernmental Agreement between Kendall County and Village of Millbrook to provide engineering services for the improvement of roadways within the Village.

6. Preliminary Engineering Services Agreement with Hampton Lenzini and Renwick for roadway improvements to Grove Road from Sherrrill Road to U.S. Route 52 in the amount of $450,730.

7. Phase I Engineering Services Agreement with Willett Hofmann & Associates, Inc. for roadway and bridge improvements on Grove Road south of Chicago Road in the amount of $139,835.80

8. Phase II Engineering Services Agreement with HR Green for professional engineering services on the Eldamain Road Extension Project in the amount of $2,888,426.09.

9. Access variance ordinance providing for a private access to the north side of Fox Road just east of 12345 Fox Road.