

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Transportation Committee

DATE: March 26, 2007 (CAHolmes)

ATTENDING: Carlson, Davoust, Hoshheit, Jones, Kenyon, Kissane, Wolfe & ex officio Hurlbutt

PRESS IN ATTENDANCE: Chicago Tribune, Kane County Chronicle, Beacon News

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: 1) Kane County Chronicle covered red-light cameras at stop-lights; 2) Beacon News covered discussion on exempting diesel from fuel tax, emphasis on bio-diesel discussion

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Reports given on Finance, Maintenance, Planning & Programming, Permitting and Project Implementation. Passed resolutions on 1) truck and truck body and platform lift, 2) jurisdictional transfer of Damisch Road to Elgin, 3) supplement to Stearns Road Bridge Corridor engineering agreement, 4) construction contracts for Township Road Districts in Aurora, Burlington, Campton and Kaneville.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUE(S):

1. County Motor Fuel Tax Law: Hampshire requested an exemption from the fuel tax increase on diesel and bio-diesel fuels, to prevent loss of jobs and sales tax revenues on the largest diesel retailers in the county (intersection of I90 and Route 20). The future of bio-diesel, a potential agricultural growth industry in Illinois, will be impacted by the increase. A motion was passed to recommend separating bio-diesel from the fuel tax increase at the state level.

2. Ordinance Establishing Engine Braking Noise Prohibition: Staff recommended prohibiting “jake-braking” in three locations, but anticipates more requests. Certain board members recommended covering the entire county. Voice vote indeterminate; roll call failed for now.

3. Red light photo enforcement: Successful in other states and Chicago; HB4835 (<http://www.illinois.gov>) extends to Northeastern Illinois and Metro East area. Red Speed International, with experience in the UK and other countries and US states, presented their system with back-office support from notification and review. The process for state roads will be finalized soon. Pictures of drivers are not allowed under anti-profiling laws. Objections raised that pictures are intrusive and that the Board should hear from other governmental bodies, not from the vendor.

COMMENT/NOTES:

- 1) Unrelated to Transport Committee, CNBC aired piece on bio-diesel potential, quoting farmers from Elburn and Maple Park.**
- 2) In conversations after the meeting, traffic round-abouts were discussed as an alternative to stop lights.**

RECOMMENDED ACTION (S): Plan to attend public hearing April 11, 2007

NEXT MEETING: April 23, 2007, Building A, 9 am.