

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Kane County Transportation Committee

DATE: 9/24/2007

REPORTING: Anne Francissen

ATTENDING: Carlson, Davoust, Hoscheit, Jones, Kenyon, Kissane, Wolfe (ex-officio Hurlbut)

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDING: YES X NO _____

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: YES _____ NO _____

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Resolutions passed:

- 1) No Lead Gasoline and Diesel Fuel, Kane Cty. Div. Trans;
- 2) Approving an Impact Fee Improvement Credit Agreement between Kane Cty and PAR Development regarding Tyrrell Rd. and IL 72
- 3) Approving Engineering Agreement with Robt Anderson & Assoc. for Jericho Rd. over Blackberry Creek
- 4) Approving an Intergovernmental agreement with State of IL for Jericho Rd over Blackberry Creek (Phase I engineering)
- 5) Ordinance to approve alteration of speed limit from 55 mph to 50 mph on Randall Rd. north of I90 to the McHenry County line.

Resolutions not passed:

1) Vacating county highway right of way, Wasco Road

Motion failed because council members concerned why the county would simply vacate the ROW instead of selling it back to the developer, since the county had to pay for the ROW in the first place (Approx \$700). Committee chairman recommended staff come back with better explanation

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1) Mark Canan (sp ?) Dir. Public Works, City of St. Charles. Request that Randall Rd. south of Oak Street be resurfaced this fall before construction season ends. The road surface is too rough and hazardous to wait until 2008 as scheduled.

PUBLIC COMMENTS, continued...:

2) Kaneland School Dist. Representative regarding intersection of Meredith Rd. & Rte 38.

Following serious accident last spring, KDOT requested IDOT to install signals. IDOT responded that they will install flashing lights. Committee chairman requested letter be sent to IDOT to follow up on the implementation.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S):

1) Jeff Dailey, Chief Engineer, Illinois Tollway gave presentation

Highlights:

- * I-Pass usage 80% - more than any other US tollway
- * I-355 Tollway from Army Trail to I80 will be renamed Veterans Memorial Tollway
- * Grand Opening of Veterans Memorial Tollway from I-55 - I-80 will be 11/11/07 ceremony, 11/12/07 motor traffic.
- * Reviewed major construction schedule thru 2012
- * Orchard Road Toll Plaza will be widened to 6 lanes. As part of this, the Route 31 ramps will be closed from 4/2008 - 9/ 2008

Stearns Road Bridge Corridor Update:

Contract 1: Environmental / /bridge approach complete 12/08

Contract 1A: 12/07 complete Rte. 31 over new Stearns Rd.

Contract 2: McClean & Rte 31: Working on ROW; target letting 6/09

Contract 3: Stearns, Dunham & IL-25: Working on ROW

Contract 4: Fox River Bridge & approaches

Contract 5: Randall to McClean segment (includes LaFarge site)

Notes:

There will be 4 lanes across river from McClean to Rte 25

Reducing scope of project to compensate for \$65 million funding shortfall. They will still need to issue a bond element to raise money. Scope reduction includes a variety of changes including redesigning bridge approach roads from 4 to 2 lanes.

There was criticism from some committee members regarding the scope reduction as they argued it will only create traffic congestion on the approach roads and increase re-engineering costs. There was also concern regarding the lack of progress on property acquisition.