

**HANCOCK COUNTY HIGHWAY, ROAD AND BRIDGE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**September 29, 2021**

The Hancock County Highway, Road and Bridge Committee meeting was called to order by Ms. Davis on Wednesday, September 29, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. Committee members present were Patsy Davis, Wayne Bollin, Harry Douglas, Gary Stansbery, Mark Menn and Pat Cramer. Also present were County Board Chairman Delbert Kreps and County Engineer Elgin Berry. Absent was Randy Bergmeier. No visitors were present.

Review and Approval of Claims and Expenditures

Claims and expenditures for the month of September were presented to the committee for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Douglas and seconded by Mr. Cramer to pay all bills as presented. All committee members present voted 'Aye'.

County Engineer's Report:

Mr. Berry recommended approval of a resolution to expend Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) and Rebuild IL funds to widen and resurface the west end of the Ferris Road (1800N) from the Connable Road (1000E) to the township road intersection at 1300E. The estimated cost of the improvement is \$1,100,000 and the county has received or will receive a total of \$853,730.10 in Rebuild IL funds. The Rebuild IL funds must be spent on a bondable capital improvement and must be spent by July 1, 2025.

Mr. Bollin stated that the problems on the Connable Road should be addressed first because it is narrower and has more traffic than the Ferris Road. No one has complained to him about the Ferris Road, but he hears complaints about the Connable Road almost every day. He said that the Finance Committee and Bellwether consultants are working on a Hancock County infrastructure fund and it should have about \$3M in it by next year.

Mr. Cramer stated that the Connable Road should be "fixed right" if the county is going to do anything with it and he talked about acquiring right-of-way as needed for the full reconstruction option.

Ms. Davis told Mr. Cramer that a 3R option was presented at the August meeting that could provide for a wider pavement surface without widening the right-of-way. That option was estimated to cost about \$6M. Mr. Cramer said that he was not at the August meeting.

Mr. Douglas asked Mr. Berry if he would be willing to approve plans using the 3R guidelines. Mr. Berry said the 3R guidelines are acceptable, but he recommended full-depth reclamation to widen the base to 24 feet instead of placing hot mix shoulders along the edge of the existing road surface. Mr. Berry said that the joint would widen and create future maintenance problems if there isn't a continuous base course under the entire paved surface.

Mr. Menn suggested using the Rebuild IL funds and the county's new infrastructure fund to reconstruct a shorter portion of the Connable Road with a continuous base using the 3R guidelines.

Mr. Bollin stated that the south end of the Connable Road, from the Ferris Road to US Route 136, should be done first because it is narrower and has more hills.

Mr. Berry stated that \$3M, along with the \$1.1M Rebuild IL and MFT funds should be sufficient to reconstruct the south end of the Connable Road using the 3R guidelines. The Rebuild IL funds are more than sufficient to cover the engineering work that will have to be done in 2022. The bulk of the financing will not be needed until the construction phase of the project, which will be 2023 at the earliest.

After some further discussion, Mr. Berry said that he would present a resolution for the expenditure of Rebuild IL funds at the next committee meeting for reconstruction of the south end of the Connable Road.

Mr. Berry also stated that all available accident reports for the Connable Road have been printed and examined to determine the severity of crashes that might be attributable to the narrow road surface. There was only one fatality and it was due to snow and ice, not road width. A detailed crash report will be presented soon, to help guide the committee on the urgency of making improvements on that road.

#### Old Business

None Presented

#### New Business

Mr. Bollin requested tree removal at two locations to improve visibility at intersections. One location is a tree at the Bob Coeur residence near 1200E / 1800N and the other is near the Edwin Weber residence at 2000N / 1000E. Both locations are township road intersections with a county road. Mr. Berry said he would try to meet with the landowners to remove the entire trees, but if they refuse, the county can only trim the limbs off at the right-of-way line.

#### Adjournment

As no further business was brought before the Committee at this time, a motion was made by Mr. Menn and seconded by Mr. Douglas to recess until Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 8:30 A.M. All committee members present voted 'Aye'. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Patsy Davis  
Chairman