

WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS - HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

DATE: April 17, 2023

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PRESENT: David Albrecht, Highway Committee Chairman  
Tom Egan, Highway Committee Member  
Chuck Farrey, Highway Committee Member  
Ralph Harrison, Highway Committee Member  
Donald Nussbaum, Highway Committee Member  
Robert Doemel, Highway Commissioner

ALSO PRESENT: Tom Buchholz, WisDOT-Director  
Chad DeGrave, WisDOT-Deputy Director  
Tim Rank, WisDOT-PDS Chief  
Scott Nelson, WisDOT-SPO Chief  
Matt Ternes, WisDOT-Maintenance Supervisor  
Andy Maracini, Land and Water Conservation Dept.  
Sid Opperman, 4608 County Rd. E, Oshkosh

Chairman Albrecht called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made by Supervisor Nussbaum, seconded by Supervisor Farrey to approve the minutes from the March 20,2023 meeting as written. Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Albrecht asked for public input on the agenda items.

Sidney Opperman, 4608 CTY E, thanked the committee for looking into the water issue along CTH E further. With vegetation starting to sprout he hopes a maintenance plan can be put in place to reduce the cattails and drainage issues.

Members of WisDOT are present for the annual update.

Tom Buchholz, WisDOT Director introduced the WisDOT team. Mr. Buchholz stated that the signed 2022 bill funding has finally been approved by Congress and signed by President Biden. A 20% increase for WisDOT to recruit and increase funding to the locals. The overall 20% increase to budget is sizable however, the unfortunate part of it is that prices have increased by about 10%. When you look at the 20% increase to revenue it is offset by the inflationary increase. This has caused the WisDOT to rebalance and push back 37 projects. Mr. Buchholz stated that the new bill provides opportunities to apply for grants. He talked about the 511 website which has been updated and now has real time coverage. Cameras are now able to be accessed on the 511 website.

Scott Nelson, WisDOT SPO Chief spoke about a few things from a traffic standpoint. The Winnebago County Safety Committee as well as the WisDOT are dealing with many of the same things. Speed compliance, inattentive driving, impaired driving and the recreational traffic that goes through Winnebago County. Mr. Nelson stated it is good that we have a much better infrastructure on Highway 41 but that there are still some challenges. Mr. Nelson stated that 5 projects in Winnebago County have received bill funding. WisDOT SPO Chief, Scott Nelson spoke about parcels within the State Right-of-Way. Back in the 1960's parcels were purchased by the Department of Transportation and deeded to the county. After the Department of Transportation was classified as the WisDOT, the deeds started having the WisDOT's name on them. If a parcel is no longer needed and is still in the county's name, the county and WisDOT can do a quit claim deed to transfer the parcel.

Matt Ternes, WisDOT-Maintenance Supervisor, spoke about the different areas that make up the maintenance budget. RMA is designated for winter maintenance, vegetation, pot holes, litter pick up, etc. Winter makes up 40% of the RMA budget. DMA is project related such as patches. Mr. Ternes noted the importance of having crash attenuators out in the field while working. The WisDOT is looking into having arrowboards become a smart device. The arrowboards would have Google Earth, Google Maps and be able to populate to the 511 website as well. Mr. Ternes also stated that the one time mowing needs to be completed by July 15, 2023 and that liter pickup is limited to only one time a year.

Tim Rank, WisDOT-PDS Chief provided the 2023-2028 project list and presented a brief summary of the upcoming projects. Supervisor Egan expressed concerns on the timing of the Sawyer Creek project. WisDOT Director, Tom Buchholz explained that not all land has been acquired and they are coordinating the work with the City of Oshkosh whom will be also be doing work in this area. Supervisor Nussbaum requested a specific timeline of the projects. Tim Rank, WisDOT-PDS Chief, stated that at this time, they are not able to provide a detailed timeline for the projects that are further out. Supervisor Farrey questioned if project 6430-24-71, the 76/Larsen Road roundabout, could be moved up. The project is currently in the queue and scheduled for 2026. WisDOT Director, Tom Buchholz stated that the project may be able to be bumped up a year if they are able to purchase real estate and move utilities. Chairman Albrecht questioned concrete repair to the approach onto USH 45 from STH 116. He stated this has been filled with mix but the mix repair does not last. WisDOT will take a look at this. The WisDOT team left the meeting at 9:40 a.m.

Andy Maracini, GIS Specialist, Land & Water Conservation Department, provided an update on the MS4 annual report showing illicit discharges and a storm water management plan. A State Planning Grant has been applied for to upgrade the storm water modeling in support to the MS4 permit. Mr. Maracini explained since the EPA does not have a current map available, the DNR has instructed him to overlay the 2020 Census over the 2010 Census map to provide an updated version of the area road segments. Mr. Maracini anticipates hearing back this fall if the grant is approved or not. He also stated that the grant requires a County Board Resolution and this will be going in front of the Board on April 18, 2023. Supervisor Nussbaum asked what the grant money would go towards. Mr. Maracini explained that the grant would provide half of the budget for the analysis of the storm water modeling. Mr. Maracini left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Commissioner Doemel provided an update on the 2025 construction project on CTH P. He stated when the initial application was completed it was pre-Covid and estimates were just over \$7 million. Now that the design phase is 60% completed, an environmental application and another estimate was completed. With inflation, the project has jumped up to over \$9 million and we are still a year out from construction. The STP-Urban project is 80% federally funded and 20% of the funding is local; Village of Fox Crossing, City of Menasha and Winnebago County. This project was chosen because of three different municipalities being involved and the project scope. Grants are considered based on the scope of project. The scope of this project is a two-lane facility, middle left-turn lane, bike accommodations, and sidewalks. In March, the Court of Appeals awarded a decision regarding condemnation of property for sidewalks. The current scope of the project includes sidewalks and if the scope of the project needs to be changed this may jeopardize the funding of this project. The current 80% federal funding is locked in on the initial \$7 million estimate. Any additional costs would be the local municipalities responsibility. Commissioner Doemel has reached out to East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning, and they advised going back to the MPO for possible additional funding for this project. He has not heard back from them, and is hoping to hear back by the end of the week.

Commissioner Doemel attended a Public Information Meeting which was held on April 6, 2023 at the Airport regarding the CTH I, 2024 Project. This project will be completed in conjunction with the City of Oshkosh's storm sewer project. No real estate or townships are involved with the road construction project, it is all Winnebago County.

Commissioner Doemel stated the 2023 asphaltic concrete bid was awarded to Northeast Asphalt in Demandstar for the CTH II project. However, the WisDOT does not accept Demandstar's bid awarding. This bid will require the Highway Committee's approval. A motion was made by Supervisor Farrey to award the 2023 asphaltic concrete bid to Northeast Asphalt, including the LRIP project along CTH II. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Nussbaum. Motion carried 5-0.

WisDOT reached out to Commissioner Doemel regarding a summer media blitz on Work Zone Safety. WisDOT wondered if the Winnebago County Highway Department would partner with them. The WisDOT would come to our facility along with Wisconsin State Patrol, Winnebago County Sheriff's Department and some local Law Enforcement Departments as well. They will film a short You Tube video or commercial that will be posted online and possibly on television.

The following were reported as general operations:

- Bridge washing has been postponed due to the weather. However, bridge inspections are still taking place. Navigation opens up on April 20<sup>th</sup> and goes through October 15<sup>th</sup> at midnight.
- Highway Department employees have brought up that they would like the Highway Department to have a procedure for accidents. Commissioner Doemel has been working with HR and the paperwork has been finalized. Commissioner Doemel will next meet with the County Executive and go through the procedures and how this will be rolled out to the employees.

The 3-step procedure is as follows:

- Completion of property damage/loss paperwork by the end of the shift as well as photos.
- Disciplinary procedure.
- Code of conduct.

Highway Committee Meeting  
April 17, 2023  
Page 4

Supervisor Farrey wondered if there has been feedback on the wage study. Commissioner Doemel stated when letters were handed out many questions came up, most were in regards to their time in position.

Supervisor Egan would like to address extra funding for trucks. Finance Director, Paul Kaiser has been out of the office therefore, funding confirmation has not been obtained.

The next meeting of the Highway Committee is scheduled for Monday, May 15, 2023.

A motion was made by Chairman Albrecht, seconded by Supervisor Harrison to adjourn. The motion was carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:36 a.m.

Corey Merckx  
Financial Associate