

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

January 16, 2024 - 6:30 pm

Chairman Gorman called the Transportation Committee Meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Committee members present: Chairman Charlie Gorman, Alderwoman Lisa Haderlein, Alderman John Lavalley and Alderman Matt Perkins. Also present were Mayor Kelly, Public Works Supt. Rob Lamz and Gary Rozwadowski, Christopher Burke Engineering.

Citizen Comments Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

None

Project Updates – Public Works

Ayer Street Streetscape Project

Rob updated the Committee on the project which is complete except for striping, repair of a B-Box and raveling road conditions in a couple spots. The contractor is hoping to use infrared for the raveling road repairs rather than coring out/replacement; to be evaluated after the winter. Plants have been relocated from Harmilda's corner to the area. Rob and Darrell are trying to bring different types of trees to the area for some diversity to the downtown. Streetscape and landscaping will be completed in the spring. Issues with the contractor included several delays, a change in project manager halfway through the project, and project cost.

US Route 14

Rob reported that IDOT is resurfacing US Route 14 from the south end of town through the north end and going east on Route 173. IDOT is adding crossings at Jefferson and Garfield, at the City's request; they will be signed and stop barred for crossings. IDOT is also calling out a failing sanitary structure at Garfield and Diggins as a replacement plan.

Road and Sidewalk Programs

Rob and Gary have driven around town to determine which streets would be best for rejuvenation and crack filling and came up with some general notes. Gary will prepare expected quantities; whatever is left in the fund can be used for skip patching. \$225,000 is projected for next year's budget to do one more year of preventative maintenance. After discussion, the consensus was to have staff determine skip patching locations. The patch cart has been a great asset and makes repairs faster and more efficient; Public Works has put down 16 ton of asphalt and will be able to make some repairs previously done by Majestic.

The sidewalk program is in place for next year. Rob would like to do more of the concrete in house each year due to the cost when its outsourced. He is setting aside \$5,000, and can complete 300' - 400' of sidewalk (about ½ block), based upon material quantities. The Committee discussed focusing on an area where there isn't sidewalk on either side of the street and where foot traffic is by the schools. Because it's such a small of a quantity, the consensus was to focus on bad areas. The rest of the funds for the sidewalk program (\$95,000) will be used as has existed in years past to be determined by staff. There was discussion of reinstating the sidewalk program either as a partial match or through a loan program.

EV Charging Station

As directed at the last Transportation Committee Meeting, Rob researched installation costs for an EV charging station. Woodstock installed a free unit in 2020 at a cost of \$7,200, which included 10' of pipe run from the electrical box to the charger. The unit was new/old stock manufactured in 2013 and started having problems in under a year. Alderman Lavalley thought it needs more discussion and was premature at this stage of the game; he commented that it's a very small population right now that has electric vehicles. Alderwoman Haderlein related that the private sector is starting to fill the need. There was additional discussion about the age of the unit and issues at the Woodstock station and the potential cost of electricity.

Project Updates – Christopher Burke Engineering

Gary referred to the Federal Projects Location Map that uses Federal funding of one type or another. He noted he hasn't seen this many approved federal projects come to fruition in the City of Harvard since he has been the City Engineer in 1994.

Diggins Street Resurfacing

The project has been approved by IDOT District 1 and is awaiting federal approval. Letting is scheduled for March 8. It's going to be a quick 6 week construction and will be completed in 2024. At Chairman Gorman's inquiry, Gary said project was extended a little past the tracks. The City's match is 10%.

Marengo Road Rehabilitations

The project is in the Phase I process. The environmental survey is being reviewed by IDOT; process and signoff takes about 6-8 months. Design approval is expected around August. Phase II isn't slated for funding until 2026. Construction is scheduled for 2026. The City's match is 10%.

Marengo Road Bridge (Over Rush Creek)

The project is a separate federal fund, STP Bridge Funds, as opposed to Federal Road Funds. Even though it is all really the same road, it's two separate projects, with two separate funding sources. Contracts haven't been approved by IDOT yet. The way the schedule lays out between the two projects, the bridge will catch up to the road so that it's all constructed at the same time in 2026. The City's match is 20%. Mayor Kelly reported the project cost is \$1 million dollars and indicated the funding is a hurdle the City is working on.

Route 173 Sidewalks

This is an RTA Access to Transit funded project. Gary is working on Phase I right now; the draft report to be submitted in April. A sidewalk is being put in on north side of Route 173 and need to figure out how to get over Mokeler Creek because Route 173, guardrail to guardrail, is pavement and there's no room to fit a sidewalk. Choices were to widen the culvert to put in sidewalk next to the road and then the guardrail or create a separate pedestrian bridge on the land to the north. Research shows that the cost of the ped bridge is going to cost a lot more than widening the culvert due to the width of the floodway/floodplain which increases the structural aspects of the project. Will proceed with widening the culvert. Phase II would be in 2025 with construction in 2026. Both Phase I and Phase II are unfunded at the moment.

Marengo Road Sidewalks

This is a small portion of sidewalk on Ayer St. and the sidewalk on Marengo Rd. The design approval has been obtained for Phase I. The intergovernmental agreement between RTA/CMAQ/City has been done. Phase II will start sometime this year once agreements are approved by IDOT. Construction is expected in 2025 with funding through CMAQ.

US Route 14 Sidewalks

Install sidewalks on the west side of 14 from Brink St. to Airport/McGuire Rd. An application was submitted to CMAQ this past summer and that project was selected to be funded for Phase I engineering. An approval letter is expected to go out this month. Phase II and construction would follow, but is currently unfunded.

Post Office Parking/Steps

Gary had a meeting today to work out some design issues. Once those issues are addressed, the project needs to be approved by IDOT as the project uses MFT funds. Construction should be completed this year. Alderman Lavalley inquired about the MFT funds to be used this year. Discussion ensued and it was clarified that Gary has completed the engineering for the project and that funding still has to be secured; there is no construction schedule at this time.

Federal Funding

Gary highlighted the three major federal funding sources: Surface Transportation Program (STP) which is run through the McHenry Council of Mayors, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP). Each of these programs are now on a two year cycle. An application was submitted to STP for Diggins St. from Front St. to Route 14; will find out this summer if it was selected. The City will not be able to apply to STP for another two years. One of the new rules that McHenry County Council of Mayors instituted is that each community can only apply for one project which is beneficial to Harvard. The next round of applications for CMAQ is in 2025 and ITEP will be coming out later this year. He will talk to staff to see if there is a project to submit to ITEP.

Rob related that a Qualification Based Selection (QBS) policy needs to be written and adopted as part of the rules to use federal funding; he will have everything drafted to present to the City Council for adoption at the January 23rd meeting.

New Business

The collection of the 1% sales tax began January 1st with the first distribution the end of March/early April.

Items for Future Meetings

Nothing that needs to be scheduled at the current time.

A motion was made by Alderman Perkins, seconded by Alderwoman Haderlein to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 7:21 pm.

Submitted by:
Chairman Charlie Gorman