

**MINUTES
CITY-COUNTY COMMON
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015
12:45 P.M.**

Present: County Commissioner Deb Schorr, Chair; City Council Member Trent Fellers, Vice Chair; Roma Amundson, Todd Wiltgen and Bill Avery, County Commissioners; Roy Christensen, Carl Eskridge, Cyndi Lamm, Jane Raybould, Leirion Gaylor Baird and Jon Camp City Council Members

Absent: Larry Hudkins, County Commissioner and Mayor Chris Beutler

Others Present: Dan Nolte Lancaster County Clerk; Roger Figard, City Engineer

Advance public notice of the City-County Common Meeting was posted on the County-City Building bulletin board and on the Lincoln and Lancaster County, Nebraska, web sites.

The Chair noted the location of the Open Meetings Act and opened the meeting at 12:46 P.M.

Per direction of the Chair, roll call attendance was taken.

AGENDA ITEM

1. APPROVAL OF COMMON MEETING MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

MOTION: Amundson moved and Raybould seconded approval of the September 1, 2015 minutes. Amundson, Avery, Raybould, Christensen, Eskridge, Lamm, Fellers, and Schorr voted aye. Wiltgen abstained from voting. Hudkins, Camp, Gaylor Baird and Beutler were absent from voting. Motion carried 8-0 with one abstention.

Gaylor Baird arrived at 12:48 P.M.

Camp arrived at 12:54 P.M.

2. BOARD OF PUBLIC ROADS MINIMUM DESIGN STANDARDS - Roger Figard, City Engineer. (EXHIBIT A)

Roger Figard, City Engineer, explained the responsibilities of the Board of Public Roads Minimum Design Standards (NBCS). He said that they are not part of the Nebraska Department of Roads but a board of eleven people appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Legislature.

Figard provided a power point presentation on the Nebraska Board of Public Roads Minimum Design Standards. He explained how there are gaps in the existing process and how Resurfacing, Restoration and Rehabilitation (3R's) works and how it will benefit municipalities and counties by preserving and improving existing roadways, bridge and roadside features, improve safety, and extend the life of the facility without the cost of full reconstruction or requesting a relaxation of standards.

Carl Eskridge asked about growth in areas, particularly in areas of the County that will in the near future become part of the City and encouraging public engagement. Figard explained that when the City grows and annexes an area with a two-lane asphalt road we can make it a 2+1 with turn lanes and right turn lanes. By doing so, it can meet transportation needs longer before becoming an urban roadway. The City when dealing with meeting these standards, has public meetings to encourage neighborhood engagement in these projects.

Camp asked if the County is encountering an owner's burden with the Rural-to-Urban Transition for Streets (RUTS) program, a joint program between Lancaster County and the City of Lincoln for the planning, funding, design and construction of roads within the 3-mile jurisdiction. He asked if the 3R's will help with that burden. Figard stated he didn't think that the 3R's would help but it would help extend the use of a County road.

Pam Dingman, County Engineer, spoke briefly on the RUTS and the grading process. She stated that she will continue to work with Figard on road designs.

Bill Avery asked who approves the new standards. Figard said that they have general affirmation from Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) and the Nebraska League of Municipalities (The League) for approval of the new standards and that his staff is also working with the Attorney General. The formal approval will come after the public hearing and the approval from NBCS. The approval will then be sent to the Governor for his signature.

3. 33rd and CORNHUSKER RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT PROJECT UPDATE Roger Figard, Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) Executive Director; Kris Humphrey, Senior Engineer Engineering Services.
(EXHIBITS B & C)

Figard reminded everyone that this was a RTSD project not a County or City project. Figard went over the handout (Exhibit B). Figard introduced Mark Lutjeharms, Consultant Project Manager; They have met with major stake holders. The first open house will be November 5, 2015, and after that they will be looking at alternatives and refinements. The second open house will be late February or early March, 2016 and there will be a final study report in June, 2016.

Todd Wiltgen asked Humphrey to explain what happens at the open house meetings. Humphrey explained that there is not a formal presentation but a series of stations that explain everything about the project. There are about twenty boards with the first one introducing people to the project and explaining the reason why the study is being done and what the next steps will be. The next station will be information that they have gathered. There will be stations that discuss environmental resources that have been investigated. The last station will be evaluation forms for the public's input.

Jane Raybould, City Council Member, asked what the time line was for the Railroad Crossing Crash summary data. Raybould also inquired if the projections were going to be the same in the year 2040. Humphrey stated that they received the revised number from Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) immediately prior to the meeting. Lutjeharms said based on other related reports from across the United States the current projections are that the freight would increase 35% to 40%. Using those statistics right now and looking at future conditions they are assuming 88 trains per day which includes 2 passenger trains and 86 freight trains.

City Council Member, Gaylor Baird, asked about information from the multiple designs, and how that will be narrowed down to a final design. She also inquired about environmental impacts, and cost analysis, and how those will be used in evaluating the three options. Figard said that cost estimates are at a higher range right now. Humphrey explained it is like a funnel. They are at the highest level right now and all the environmental issues will continue to be the same as they proceed through the entire process.

Avery asked if the railroad crossing data includes crashes that only involve trains with cars and pedestrians or is there more relevant data that includes accidents that involve car verses car. Figard said yes there could be a number of other crashes that could be caused by congestion and back ups with people waiting for trains. The goal here is safety and to decrease the potential of fatalities at the railroad crossing.

Jon Camp, City Council Member, inquired about the cost and designs of the two super roundabouts discussed last year and if they are still being considered. He asked if is there a potentially less expensive solution that is in the \$30,000,000.00 to \$40,000,000.00 range. Figard said the potential solution that was drawn up was approximately \$75,000,000.00 and the plan is not being considered right now but it could come back in the future. Figard said that there could be a plan that could be in that cost range if you build less. The real question is if there are alternatives that meet the purpose and needs. Figard added the goal isn't to have a more expensive project, but to have the right project at an appropriate cost.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR 2016

MOTION: Christensen moved and Raybould seconded to nominate Fellers as Chair of the City County Common. Amundson, Avery, Wiltgen, Camp, Christensen, Lamm, Raybould, Eskridge, Gaylor Baird, Fellers and Schorr voted aye. Hudkins and Beutler were absent from voting. Motion carried 11-0.

MOTION: Raybould moved and Fellers seconded to nominate Avery as Vice Chair of the City County Common. Amundson, Wiltgen, Schorr, Camp, Christensen, Lamm, Raybould, Eskridge, Gaylor Baird and Fellers voted aye. Avery abstained. Hudkins and Beutler were absent from voting. Motion carried 10-0 with 1 abstention.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business the Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:57 P.M..

Submitted by Tory Carkoski, County Clerk's Office