

**REGULAR MEETING
FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2007
3:30 P.M. - SCOTT HEYMAN CONFERENCE ROOM**

APPROVED APRIL 24, 2007

Present: D. Kiefer, Vice Chair; P. Mackesey; D. Randall; G. Stevenson
Excused: K. Luz Herrera, Chair
Staff: C. Nelson, Public Works Administrator; E. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; R. Nicholas, Airport Manager; P. Younger, Deputy County Administrator; W. Sczesny, Highway; M. Lynch, Public Information Officer; R. Kissinger, Assistant Director, Facilities; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Vice Chair Kiefer called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Agenda Additions or Deletions

There were no additions to, or deletions from the agenda.

Persons Wishing to Address the Committee

No one was present to speak.

Facilities and Infrastructure Goals

Ms. Kiefer, Vice Chair, thanked Ms. Younger, Deputy County Administrator, for attending the meeting on short notice, explaining that she had asked Ms. Younger to provide committee members first hand with a basic understanding of the approach to developing and characterizing committee goals that Ms. Younger is helping the county with this year. Ms. Kiefer noted that in Ms. Herrera's absence this will replace Agenda item #7, which needs to be done with the full committee.

Ms. Younger distributed information and provided an overview of the process she has been introducing this year to Committee chairs to assist with establishing Committee goals. The meeting(s) with Committee Chairs have assisted with distinguishing between goals and standard committee work. A goal starts with a perceived need, a recognition of what should be different in the future. Once a goal has been decided on, Ms. Younger can help identify strategies to accomplish the goal. She also has been providing insight to the goal process to Department Heads to enable them to comprehend the best manner to present information to the Committee as well as timeframe. Ms. Younger said she hopes that upon completion of the process it will be possible for all Committee goals to be charted on a master schedule that will enable all departments, divisions, and committees to be aware of each other's goals for the year and to see where there is overlap and possible reinforcement/synergy across the entire organization and thus to have knowledge of the inner workings of the County.

Ms. Kiefer indicated it was her belief that the goals would be something the Committee as a whole would identify. Ms. Younger agreed, explaining that she has provided information that will assist in setting the goals; what she is concerned about is people trying to conform to a format rather than talk about the goals among themselves. Ms. Mackesey said it is important for the Committee members to understand the format; however, she does not feel it is appropriate until after goal discussions take place. Ms. Younger explained the discussion should focus on what the key goals are for the year, or what are the seeds to be planted for future years' goals. Ms. Mackesey noted the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee's already has many long-term goals in place such as the highway maintenance plan, building projects, etc. Ms. Younger stated it is not for strategic planning but to focus on key items and how they

Minutes Facilities and Infrastructure – February 13, 2007

may relate to one or more committees. As an example, Ms. Younger spoke of Ms. Herrera's goal of Workplace Violence and how it may relate to facilities.

Ms. Nelson inquired about whether the Committee wished to follow the usual procedure of distributing the previous year's Facilities and Infrastructure goals and their end-of-year status to the Legislature. *Ms. Nelson was directed to copy the Legislature on the 2006 goals and work plan.*

Chair's Report

Ms. Kiefer, Vice Chair, shared information on an upcoming Cooperative Extension Whole Community Program regarding the problem of youthful obesity. She had been asked to bring this topic forward to the committee as walking is one activity that assists in better health and, therefore, sidewalks along county roads would be good to include in design plans. Ms. Kiefer believes it would be worthwhile to support their being a presentation about the program to the full Legislature.

Ms. Kiefer spoke of the Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) meeting earlier in the day, at which time information on Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) was provided. Of the approximately \$250 million requested for highway and bridge projects in our Department of Transportation region, only \$50 million was available for road and bridge work, and Tompkins County received only a small portion of this. The Department of Transportation had recently completed a cost-benefit analysis of all proposed projects, in which the estimated costs were divided by the number of persons who benefit. Tompkins County competes with more heavily populated areas. Our relatively expensive reconstruction projects do not compare favorably to e.g., Syracuse and Onondaga County, and she noted that the higher-use roads received more funding in this year's process.

Ms. Kiefer also noted the MPO discussed widespread concerns regarding garbage truck traffic, specifically the use of jake brakes and their speed on the smaller roads such as Route 89 that are not designed for truck routes.

Ms. Kiefer's final item to report was a positive one: there are no vacancies on any advisory boards connected to the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee.

Commissioner of Planning and Public Works Report

Natural Gas Drilling

Mr. Marx reported on discussions held with Mr. Nicholas, Airport Manager; Mr. Whicher, County Administrator; and Ms. Herrera, Chair of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, regarding natural gas drilling requests by Ansbro. Presently, requests have been made to obtain information from other airports that have had contracts for drilling on their premises to determine a variety of issues that may accompany this type of endeavor. In addition, the group discussion came to a determination that it would be beneficial to seek Requests for Proposals as other companies may have an interest in drilling rights as well; this may be done in combination with Cornell University to make it more appealing to potential bidders.

Highway Capital Plan

Mr. Marx reported in March the five-year program for the Highway Division outlining how to spend the balance of the funds approved within the capital program should be complete and will be presented to the committee. He noted the plan is subject to amendments due to unknown factors such as deterioration of roads that was unexpected at the time the plan was developed.

Division Goals and Objectives

Mr. Marx reported work is underway to develop the division goals and objectives for 2007; he anticipates completion in March.

Highway Project Requests

Mr. Marx spoke of a current trend of municipalities and residents requesting that traffic calming and speed enforcement be taken into consideration during the design phase of road reconstruction, as well as requests for sidewalks. He spoke of the reduction in funding received for projects that Ms. Kiefer had described, noting that providing the requested additional design items not only increases costs, but also requires retrofitting roadbeds to accommodate them. Mr. Marx indicated his belief that the County will not be able to include such design items when reconstructing roadways and anticipates Legislators being contacted by residents and/or municipal officials expressing disappointment and concern that they can't be included. Mr. Marx will contact the Sheriff to share concerns of speeding on various roads. He explained that a reconstruction requirement is to rebuild the road for the average speed, which is done by analysis of traffic/speed counting mechanisms. Ms. Kiefer recalled previous comments indicating it is not wise to rebuild one portion of Coddington Road to a particular specification if the balance of the road reconstruction cannot be done in like fashion. Mr. Marx explained that no new Tompkins County road projects were approved under this year's TIP funding; which represents the last two years of five-year project schedules.

Approval of Minutes of December 12, 2006

It was MOVED by Mr. Stevenson, seconded by Ms. Mackesey, and accepted by members present, to approve the minutes of December 12, 2006. MINUTES APPROVED.

RESOLUTION NO. – CHANGE OF RULE CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION ON THE AIR SERVICE BOARD

Ms. Kiefer was informed the replacement resolution provided to members was done at the request of Ms. Herrera.

Ms. Mackesey said she thinks the request to amend the rules to accommodate Mr. Shinagawa's appointment to the ASB does not make sense. Although she is not certain there is a need to require the legislative member to the ASB be a member of the program committee, she also feels that it is important for the committee to discuss what the preference is and how they will continue to receive information.

Ms. Kiefer stated that in general it always seems sensible to have the representative to a board of committee be on the legislative committee that deals programmatically with it. She spoke of her research on the topic relative to the ASB and said that did not provide a clear answer to what the legislative intent was. Ms. Kiefer noted the Commissioner of Planning and Public Works is a member of the ASB and can provide direct communication to the Committee. She also noted the revised resolution offered included language that states the program committee will annually recommend the Legislative Representative to the ASB, providing an opportunity to decide if the member will be a program committee member as well, which is a good compromise.

Mr. Randall shared Ms. Mackesey's concerns regarding the relevance of a member of the program committee being on the ASB to keep it informed; however, he acknowledged Mr. Shinagawa's desire and commitment to the ASB. He would like to maintain that the member be on the program committee.

Mr. Marx spoke of discussions at the ASB and their concerns that the program committee has a direct connection with the ASB, and that Mr. Marx's serving on the ASB provided such. He agreed with Mr. Randall that it is beneficial to have a program committee member on the board, however, historically the County has had similar situations when the Legislative Representative is not a member of the program committee.

Mr. Nicholas also spoke of the recent correction to provide members of the program committee with the minutes of the ASB meetings to provide information on the actions taken. Ms. Fuller stated hard copies of the 2006 minutes are available in a special binder in the Legislative office for review.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of someone serving on the ASB from the committee; no one was able to serve due to commitments at the time the ASB currently meets.

Following further discussion, it was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, to submit the following resolution to the full Legislature. A voice vote resulted as follows: Ayes – 3 (Legislators Kiefer, Mackesey, and Stevenson); Noes – 1 (Legislator Randall); Excused – 1 (Legislator Herrera). RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 281 of 2005 requires the Legislative Representative on the Air Service Board (ASB) to also be a member of the program committee responsible for airport operations, and

WHEREAS, there is no member of the 2007 program committee who can fill that position, and

WHEREAS, the 2006 Legislative member of the ASB wishes to continue, and that continuation is supported by the ASB, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That the requirement for the Legislative member of the ASB to also be a member of the program committee having jurisdiction over airport operations be waived for 2007.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Audit of Final Payment

RESOLUTION NO. - AUDIT OF FINAL PAYMENT TO BOLAND'S EXCAVATING & TOPSOIL – TRANSIENT RAMP REHABILITATION - ITHACA TOMPKINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Stevenson, and unanimously approved by voice vote by members present, to approve the following committee resolution.

WHEREAS, Boland's Excavating & Topsoil has completed the Transient Ramp Rehabilitation contract at the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport to the satisfaction of the County, and all Prime and Sub-Contractors' Labor Law Certification forms, executed Lien Affidavit and Consent of Surety to Final Payment have been received, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities & Infrastructure Committee, that the following final claim against the County of Tompkins, be and hereby is audited by the Tompkins Legislature:

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Payment Requested</u>	<u>Account No.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Boland's Excavating & Topsoil	9 (and Final)	HT. 5601.59239	\$ 105,426.05

RESOLVED, further, that the Finance Director be and hereby is authorized and directed to pay said final claim from Account No. HT. 5601.59239.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

Capital Payment Summary Report

Members were provided with copies of the report and were informed the payment is for work associated with the runway safety area directives from the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA), including survey work done in January. Members were also informed that at a future date there will be a stakeholders meeting regarding this project.

Highway Division

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF GROTON AND THE VILLAGE OF GROTON – SPRING STREET BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION AND FUTURE MAINTENANCE (BIN 3210340)

The Committee reviewed information provided that related to the resolution, including the financial implications and the municipal agreement. Ms. Kiefer asked which figure is correct for the total County construction costs. Mr. Sczesny said he would provide the committee with this information [the correct figure is \$386,400, provided subsequent to the meeting]. Ms. Kiefer then expressed her desire to modify the Municipal Agreement to reflect that the agreement is among the three entities (County, Village of Groton, and Town of Groton). In addition, she asked if there should be separate agreements between each municipality. Mr. Sczesny informed the Committee that the agreement was reviewed by the County Attorney; however *he agreed to consult with the County Attorney concerning whether separate agreements should be considered.* [Following the meeting Mr. Sczesny was informed by the County Attorney that it is not necessary to have separate agreements and that the wording as presented is appropriate].

The Committee then discussed the area of the agreement labeled “3”, relating to obligations of the parties in the event of costs exceeding estimates. Mr. Sczesny said it is not unusual to have increased expenses due to increase in materials, unknown structural damage, etc. Although it could halt the project, normally the parties are able to amend agreements satisfactorily. Ms. Kissinger spoke of American Institute of Architects agreements utilized for facilities projects, and suggested they might be an option available for projects such as this. Mr. Sczesny indicated this would be an area for review by the County Attorney. Mr. Sczesny spoke of the desire of the Town and Village to complete the project and does not foresee any difficulty if there are cost overruns.

It was MOVED by Ms. Mackesey, seconded by Mr. Randall, and unanimously adopted by voice vote by members present, to recommend approval of the following resolution to the full Legislature. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County and the Town and Village of Groton cooperatively maintain a bridge on Spring Street (BIN 3210340) over Owasco Inlet in accordance with Resolutions Nos. 43 of 1946 and 259 of 1998, and

WHEREAS, in response to deterioration of the Bridge, the County is preparing plans and specifications, and will receive bids to build a replacement structure in 2007, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That the County Administrator be and hereby is authorized to execute an Agreement with the Town of Groton and the Village of Groton to fund replacement and to specify responsibilities for continued cooperative maintenance of the bridge.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II- 2

Regional Transportation Advisory Committee

Mr. Sczesny reported on the meeting, noting that of the \$250 million presented as projects, only \$50 million was approved for the region. He said the State emphasized that the approved projects were those that provided a return on the investment. As an example, Mr. Sczesny said of the 36 pavement projects presented to the State totaling \$134 million, the County presented two – Pine Tree Road, with an ADT of 10,000 for reconstruction at a cost of \$7 million, and the west portion of Coddington Road reconstruction at a cost of \$6 million- and the State only approved a regional total of pavement projects at \$13 million, without the County's requests being approved. He explained that the State underwent a cost-benefit analysis to determine how to fund projects, with the higher use roads receiving funding. The County was approved for the Newfield Depot bridge project as it is a less expensive structure.

Mr. Sczesny spoke of the fact that some counties requested funding for repaving projects rather than reconstruction, and that due to the reduced costs involved, those projects placed higher mathematically in the cost benefit analysis.

Mr. Marx stated that the City of Ithaca received \$880,000, and Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit (TCAT) received \$1 million for the purchase of buses. This provides assistance to the County, although not directly for County projects. He stated that when the submitted projects include sidewalks, drainage, etc. it increases the cost and therefore a reduced cost benefit analysis. Additionally, Mr. Marx spoke of all communities having infrastructure requiring extensive work due to deferred maintenance in recent years. He indicated that future discussions will be required if municipalities request projects that include additional design considerations such as sidewalks and the like, as these projects will not have a good cost benefit analysis when presented for funding.

Facilities Project Status Report

The Committee reviewed the report and noted the following:

- Emergency Response Center – the FAA has required removal of the trees encroaching on the fence separating the Emergency Response Center and airport. They are located in a wetland area and although Ms. Kissinger does not desire to cut them, it is required. Ms. Kissinger would like to attempt to receive a variance, but it is unlikely to be granted as their removal is an airport security requirement. Ms. Kiefer asked that the Environmental Management Council be informed of the action and need for it. Mr. Stevenson does not want to have the matter delayed as it could result in a fine being imposed upon the County.
- Biggs B – the unit ventilators will not be installed until warmer weather.
- Emergency Response Center – Ms. Kiefer asked that when regrading the berm area a low-maintenance ground cover be considered to replace grass, which needs regular attention.
- Library Entrance – Ms. Kiefer expressed disappointment in still using the architectural firm of QPK to design the entrance improvements. She said if they were to do the work it should be to correct their original design at no cost.

On motion the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk.