

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting
March 03, 1998

Meeting Began at: 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Ended at: 9:40 a.m.

Members Present: Coleen Seng, Curt Donaldson, Linda Stienman, Steve Svoboda

Member Absent: Dale Young, Darlene Tussing

Others Present: Roger Figard, Bruce Michaelson, Larry McNeel, Michele Maly, Nan Welsh, Kimberly Farabee, Public Works and Utilities; Don Thomas, County Engineer; Dick Nuenberger, County Treasurer; Bill Kuester, Attorney; George Gallardo NDOR Laisison Representative; John Ludden, Keith Bartels, citizens

Order No. 98-01

Coleen Seng called the meeting to order and asked for discussion regarding the previous minutes. There were no correction or additions. L. Steinman motioned to approve the previous minutes; and S. Svoboda seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Order No. 98-02

Dick Nuernberger read the Treasurer's Report. He said the County Treasurer's balance for the District was \$385,115.52, as of February 25, 1998. L. Steinman motioned to approve the previous minutes; and S. Svoboda seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Order No. 98-03

Roger Figard announced that they are finishing plans for the underpass and approaches of 3rd and 'F' Street. Proposed to bid the project in May and start work the 1st part of June. Bids have been taken for some associated paving projects in and around 3rd Street and some of the alleys in the area. Waiting for acknowledgment and approval from Urban Development to award that contract.

Mr. Figard provided updates on the 'X' Street project. Jim Morgan and Bill Austin along with Mr. Figard, attended a meeting with Union Pacific right-of-way in Omaha, where they tried to determine what the proceedings on that line and how it interacts with proposed trail overpass at 27th and 'X' Street and the 'X' Street Tract Consolidation project of the Districts. Unless the RTSD project moves forward which builds new tracks, along the corridor, the Union Pacific Railroad will be unable to abandon the tracks in 'X' Street, all the way to 33rd Street. It would be necessary to keep

that line for them to switch their grain cars. Additionally, without the assurance that the RTSD project is going to move forward, the Union Pacific Railroad is unwilling and uncomfortable in suggesting giving the City an easement across 27th Street to construct a pedestrian overpass.

Mr. Figard met with Union Pacific Burlington Northern Santa Fe and the University to discuss the status the RTSD track relocation project. The meeting topic was on how the 'X' Street project has gone from 4 million to about 7.3 million dollars and how we're going to pay for it. The District was willing to contribute and offer up some additional money if they would also. It was asked that an additional \$200,000.00 each be contributed from the University, Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific for a total of \$600,000.00. The District will offer an additional 1 million dollars over the 5 million budgeted to try to make the project happen. It was recommended that we remove the under crossing near the Devaney Center from the project because the Antelope Valley Major Investment Study has work in the area, and an under crossing built by our project may be removed or destroyed with the Antelope Valley project, if approved.

Linda Steinman asked what were the responses when asked for more money. Roger explained that Union Pacific is willing to spend 2 million dollars to move from 4th Street to the 3rd Street Corridor, no cost to the City, and therefore the District perhaps could offer to spend more on the 'X' Street project. The University, despite all the work the District and City has done to improve their safety over the past ten years, relayed they were money poor, but did put the \$200,000.00 in their proposed C.I.P. for fall 1998 consideration.

Coleen asked if OLB play any role now in the 'X' Street piece. Roger explained that they are a piece of it but they have made it very clear that they get no benefit, they are not accepting any additional liability and will not contribute to this project.

Order No. 98-04

Roger Figard stated the role of the District and the County is growing and changing and our goal is to start thinking farther ahead and planning. Don Thomas and Mr. Figard are discussing the changing to a percentage split, based on the value of the County Evaluation of property in and out side of the city limits. The evaluation is approximately 8 million dollars, 15% of this number is outside the city limits and 85% is inside the city limits. Continuing to work with County Treasurer to plan out a long range capital improvements program, taking projected revenue and allocate them to within and out side the city, based on the percentage split.

Mr. Figard explained that the District pays 25% of an Engineers position to cover the management of the District. More time is being spent on District activities, and suggests that some additional Engineering time allocated within the Engineering fees portion of the budget and to continue to use outside consultants. The District has been asked to provide ongoing maintenance for 3rd and 'F' Street underpass. The City maintenance forces are strapped, therefore you will see a budget item of about \$20,000.00 for sweeping, trash pick-up, snow removal, and maintenance of pump system.

No money has been spent on the Strategic Vision Plan, which has been budgeted each year at \$100,000.00. We need to begin to plan and organize our priorities on projects and be prepared to be first in line to ask for money or ask the State to be involved in our projects within Lancaster County. We had \$40,000.00 dollars in this years budget for the Engineering for the Firth Road overpass. We need to increase this in next years budget \$17 or \$18 thousand.

The rest of the budget is about the same, Legal and accounting fees have gone up. Don Thomas and Mr. Figard will continue for work on the County Levy and the 6 and 10 year plan. Will continue to understand more about budget levy and will be requesting for the maximum levy of 2.6% for the budget.

Don Thomas spoke on new changes with the Highway Department replacing the Public Services Commission for regulatory control of railroad crossings in the state. The new Federal Highway Act, suggests that 20% larger then previous funding. This means more money into the state of Nebraska and part of that dedicated to railroad crossings. State controls that federal funding. Mr. Figard added that we are working with accountant and attorney to evaluate the Districts cash accrual program along with capital improvement programs.

Following each update, Coleen opened the floor to the public. there was no response.

Order No. 98-05

Roger Figard finished with an update on the S. 3rd Street project, with which we have a contract of \$106,000.00 and need an additional \$10 thousand to complete the underpass. Would like to authorize Roger Figard and Colleen Seng to sign a contract amendment for the additional \$10 thousand to complete the design of 'F' Street interpass. L. Steinman motioned to approve the Report: and C. Donaldson seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Next meeting will be set up in June to approve the budget. Coleen asked for a motion to adjourn. L. Steinman made the motioned; and S. Svoboda seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Prepared by: Kim Farabee
Kimberly Farabee, Public Works and Utilities