

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting
September 12, 2000

Meeting Began at: 08:10 A.M.

Meeting Ended at: 09:18 A.M.

Members Present: Coleen Seng, Bernie Heier, Jonathan Cook, Jon Camp, Bob Workman

Members Absent: Linda Steinman

Others Present: Roger Figard, Bruce Sweney, Tom Leikam, Fran Mejer, Roger Ohlrich, Dick Nuernberger, Kurt Micek, Mike Grieger, Wynn Hjermsstad, Bill Kuester, Harlan Layton, Melissa Ramos and Tina Mackel

Order No. 00-14 Call to Order. Approval of Previous Minutes

Coleen Seng called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the previous minutes. Bernie Heier motioned to approve; Bob Workman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Order No. 00-15 Report of Treasurer

Dick Nuernberger read the Treasurer's Report. As of August 31, 2000, the district had investments in various banks for a total of \$13,886,690.31. A balance of \$33,566.85 was carried in the District's checking account as of September 5, 2000. The County Treasurer's balance for the District was \$1,202,682.75 as of July 31, 2000.

Seng asked for a motion to approve the report of the treasurer. Heier motioned to approve; Workman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Order No. 00-16 2000-2001 Budget Hearing

Roger Figard informed the Board that the County Board has approved the RTSD levy request of 0.026. He continues to recommend the budget as stands.

Bob Workman inquired as to whether or not Roger foresees a reduction in the levy any time soon. Roger stated that he does not feel that this would happen within the next twenty years. Once the projects currently in the budget are completed, there will only be \$3,000,000 per year which will only provide for one grade separation or less per year for the future..

Order No. 00-20 Journal Star Track Removal

Roger Figard informed the Board that the Journal Star has sent written approval to have the tracks in 8th and 9th Streets removed. Figard suggested that with the winter season approaching, there would be a substantial benefit in removing the crossing material in Q Street and along the Journal Star building between P and Q. The street would be replaced with permanent pavement, with some temporary asphalt along the building. This would reduce the maintenance costs that would be incurred in the winter months.

Roger Figard then asked Bruce Sweney to come forward and explain to the Board the maintenance that would be needed on the tracks this winter. Bruce explained that the concrete has broken out of the inside of the metal bracketing. When those become loose they could puncture a tire and pose a hazard for vehicles.

Heier motioned to approve the track removals using an existing City Contract up to \$25,000; Camp seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Order No. 00-21 Project Updates

Roger Figard asked Bruce Sweney to present the project update for the 'X' Street Track Consolidation. Bruce discussed that the street removal and replacements are done, and they are continuing to work on the Antelope Creek bridge. They anticipate finishing sometime around the end of October. Burlington Northern will be working through November to complete their work.

Wynn Hjernstad came forward and presented the project update for 3rd and 'A' Street. She explained that the environmental assessment is finished and proceeding to the Federal Highway Administration today. After they review it and approve releasing it, it will then go to other Federal agencies as well as the public. Removal of the 4th Street tracks is critical to the success of this project. The concept that was agreed upon by both Union Pacific and Burlington Northern was that there would be a joint track agreement where by Union Pacific would utilize Burlington Northern's tracks. A better solution has been brought up to build new tracks near the airport. This has added a few elements to the project and has required more negotiations with the railroads. We continue to work with them to leverage district dollars to get the best deal for the district.

Roger then addressed rumors that 3rd and 'A' has been put on hold to reduce conflicts with the businesses and that the money has been diverted to the City's baseball project. He went on record to put those rumors to rest and say that this is not the case. The environmental report will be finished and negotiations with the railroads will continue. There is a responsibility to keep the cost to the district as low as possible and to make sure they are feasible costs as they relate to the project.

Order No. 00-22 Non-Agenda Items

Roger reminded the board that it was time to elect officers for this fiscal year. Heier moved to keep the present slate of officers: President Coleen Seng, Vice President Linda Steinman, and Secretary Bernie Heier; Cook seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

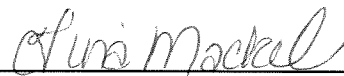
Coleen then opened the floor to the public for comments or questions.

Mike Grieger came forward and inquired about the agreement with Union Pacific regarding 3rd and 'A' Street. He was mainly concerned with the completion date of the bridge. Roger explained that the agreement is still being worked on. There will be an 18 month period for final designs. If an agreement can be reached by the railroads, we would expect the bridge construction could be started by the end of 2001 or the beginning of 2002.

Harlan Layton then came forward and addressed concerns to the Board regarding the Firth Road overpass. He has heard that many residents in that area did not support it. Bob Workman replied that the County Board is waiting to hear from the Firth City Council on that matter. Roger Figard stated that he would contact Don Thomas, the County Engineer, to discuss some of the issues in that area.

Heier motioned to adjourn the meeting; Workman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Prepared By:



Tina Mackel, Public Works & Utilities