



RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting

July 24, 2007

Meeting Began At: 8:00 A.M.

Meeting Ended At: 8:15 A.M.

Members Present: Deb Schorr, Ken Svoboda, Bob Workman, Ray Stevens, Dan Marvin, Robin Eschliman

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Roger Figard, Susie Filipi, Scott Cockrill, Kris Humphrey, Fran Mejer, Tina Queen, Bill Kuester, Kurt Micek, Rick Haden, Harlan Layton, Gary Irvin.

Order No. 07-15 Budget Revision.

Figard addressed a budget revision request from the City of Lincoln. The City of Lincoln received bids on the Harris Overpass which were over the engineer's estimate. The City, NDOR, and the Engineer reviewed the bids and find that the low bid of Cramer and Associates is a responsible bid and are recommending award of the contract. The RTSD is the primary local funding source for this project and currently has \$4.0 million in the 07/08 budget. In order for the City to move ahead with this project, it is necessary to increase the appropriation. They are requesting the RTSD to increase the appropriation \$1.8 million from \$4.0 million to \$5.8 million. This proposed change does not change the proposed levy. It does not delay any of the proposed projects within the six year program. \$1.5 million would still be maintained at any point in time in the six year period. The Board Members were given a copy of the motion to amend that was in front of the City Council, fact sheet, and a letter of recommendation from the Director of Public Works and Utilities to the Council recommending award of that contract.

Eschliman asked if Figard could elaborate on the investigation process.

Figard replied that the City of Lincoln, the consultant and NDOR did investigate this in coordination with DOT's in Kansas and Iowa to determine what is going on with similar types of contracts. It was found that the bids on the Harris Overpass were not out of character. In the last NDOR letting, the actual bids were 11% over their estimates. Within the Harris bid itself, there were three major items that made up the majority of that increase including concrete for the bridge and H steel beams. Costs are going up and the price of asphalt has doubled in the last few months. Steel prices continue to climb.

Marvin asked whether the winning bidder has done work in the Lincoln area.

Figard replied that Cramer and Associates, a large contractor out of Des Moines, has not done work in the City of Lincoln recently. A meeting will be held to make sure everything is in order before work is started. Cramer and Associates indicated that they will meet the time table. Incentives are given to finish the project early.

Stevens asked what the City's contribution to this project is and how the total cost of the project is broken down into responsibility for the railroad, State, and City.

Figard replied that he doesn't have those numbers currently. The project was started to get federal bridge replacement funds and the local share would come from the RTSD. For the most part, the RTSD is picking up approximately 20%. The City has directed some of its federal urban aid funds to assist. A water main is to be relocated and the Lincoln Water System would pay for that. There is some storm sewer work to be done and the Storm Sewer System would pay for that. Some street lighting will also be done and the City's general fund would pick up that cost.

Stevens stated that this is a 45% increase to the RTSD for this particular project.

Figard added the 45% increase is in one year. This has been an ongoing project so the \$1.8 million added to the overall contribution that the RTSD has made is less than 40%. Of the \$2.2 million that was over the estimate, the District is picking up \$1.8 million and the remainder is coming from City funds.

Stevens stated that the fact sheet shows that the contribution to this project from the RTSD is \$9.6 million.

Figard stated that the \$9.6 million is the overall contribution, some of which has already been expended. He added that the 80/20 split was never reached with the NDOR. They gave the project almost four years of bridge replacement funds which does not equate to a full 80% of the total project costs.

Svoboda motioned to approve raising the budget \$1.8 million by increasing the Harris Project appropriation to \$5.8 million for fiscal year 07/08. Workman seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

Schorr stated that the Board Members did receive a letter from the South Salt Creek Community Organization written by Gary Irvin.

Stevens motioned to adjourn the meeting. Marvin seconded the motion. Motion approved 6-0.

Schorr added that the next RTSD Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 11, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.

Prepared by: _____
Tina Queen, Engineering Services