



RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION SAFETY DISTRICT

Board Meeting
December 5, 2011

Meeting Began At: 11:02 a.m.

Meeting Ended At: 11:40 a.m.

Members Present: Deb Schorr, Doug Emery, Adam Hornung, Brent Smoyer

Members Absent: Larry Hudkins, DiAnna Schimek

Others Present: Roger Figard, Tina Queen, Susie Filipi, Liz Thanel, Randy Hoskins, Bill Kutilek, Rick Haden, Harlan Layton, Gary Irvin

Order No. 11-24 Call Meeting to Order. Approval of Previous Minutes.

Schorr called the meeting to order.

Hornung motioned to approve the previous minutes. Emery seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Order No. 11-25 Statement of Receipts & Disbursements & Investment Detail.

Thanel presented the statement of receipts and disbursements and investments dated July, 2011 through October, 2011. Investment of money is based on the best rates available.

Hornung motioned to approve the statement of receipts, disbursements and investment detail. Emery seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Order No. 11-26 Current Budget Status, Project Updates, Committee Updates.

91st & Yankee Hill - Continue to budget ½ million dollars for the gates and lights once the road goes through

West Pioneers - NDOR & County Engineering are currently working on the crossing to put new gates and lights up. The RTSD is in agreement to provide the local share.

Harris Overpass - The final change order has been processed. The costs have been accepted by the contractor. There are some remaining final steps with the Nebraska Dept. of Roads to complete an audit, make adjustments and change the split on federal dollars between engineering and construction payout.

West Haymarket - The goal of the budgeted money is to remove old abandoned spur tracks in 8th Street from O south. There are a couple more that come into that commercial area to the southwest. Those will be coordinated with either the City resurfacing projects or the Haymarket M & N reconstruction projects.

68th & Hickman - Project is virtually done. All the quantities and payments are settled with Hawkins. Payments to BNSF are not complete. County Engineering is waiting for the final billing.

Southwest 40th - The bridge plans are currently being reviewed by NDOR. Right-of-way acquisition is moving along. A few more tracks should be acquired in the next couple months. The goal is have the final PS & E plans submitted to the Department of Roads in March 2012 and the plans out to bid in June 2012. This should be an 18 month construction period.

Salt Creek Railroad Underpass - This is on the east bank of Salt Creek just east of Hobson Yard. This has been a long term project with the NRD. The project manager has been out of the office so there are no updates. They are still trying to work through and get an actual agreement with the railroad for the undercrossing.

OL & B & 18th - Completed.

South Salt Creek Quiet Zone - D Street was taken out of this project and put into the South Lincoln Quiet Zone. Still working with BNSF to install a gate at 1st & J and 3rd & J. When that is complete, the notice can then be filed to include the crossing at 1st & J.

South Lincoln Quiet Zone - Established on October 23, 2011. It took several weeks for BNSF to straighten out the rules. The remaining intersection not completed is 27th and Saltillo. The property owner has continued to ask the RTSD for accommodations and therefore has not returned the signed easement contract. City Law and Roger intend to meet with the property owner and their attorney as soon as possible to resolve the issues. Condemnation is still an option. The quiet zone is in place for the rest of the corridor.

Waverly Quiet Zone - Being managed by Waverly and their consultant Schemmer Associates. There has been limited progress due to a couple issues concerning communication with the railroad, some realignment of driveways and accesses with the Co-Op, and trying to realign private driveway accesses.

BNSF Corridor Quiet Zone - Completed. Received a late bill so \$1200 was re-budgeted to pay the railroad.

Hickman Feasibility Study - Thomas Shafer is the project manager. Proposals are in and submitted by Schemmer Associates, FHU and Kirkham Michael. FHU was selected for the project. Rick Haden will be the project manager for FHU. The notice to proceed has been issued and the project kick-off meeting held on December 8, 2011. On December 15, 2011 there will be a diagnostic team meeting with field visits at each of the crossings. The anticipated completion date of the feasibility study is February 2012.

Schorr asked about the LB 84 money and wondered if West Pioneers would be done in conjunction with the West Bypass. Figard replied that it would be on its own and ahead of the improvements on Highway 77.

Schorr asked if there are any concerns in Hickman regarding the private landowner under the bridge with the horns honking and locked access. Figard replied that he is not aware of any issues. The railroad will not need to sound their horns at the private crossings unless someone is trespassing or working.

Schorr asked when money will be allocated for construction in Hickman. Figard replied that it could be done in the next budget year for design and construction. The goal is to have the feasibility study in the February time frame. The next board meeting there will be talks about the feasibility of the project and what it might cost.

Schorr asked if there is any advantage to putting a deadline on negotiations with the Waverly property owners. Figard replied that negotiating in good faith is preferred. The ownership and management rests with the City of Waverly.

35th & Adams Wayside Horn - There were incidents with the wayside horns in inclement weather conditions. Traffic Operations staff worked with a company to get monitoring equipment to see when the wayside horn is not working. There haven't been many failures this fall. Rather than recommending to spend \$50,000 to \$60,000 to change out the equipment, it would be better to monitor the intersection throughout the winter with the new computer program first.

Emery added that one business has already left that area due to the wayside horn issue. It is important to find a solution to the problem.

Order No. 11-27 Old Cheney Sidewalk.

Plans have been drafted to build new sidewalk from the City subdivision on the east side of the tracks to the trail on the west side. There are continuous sidewalks on the north side of Old Cheney. There is only one property that has sidewalk on the south side. To reduce costs and make it feasible, the City drew up plans to construct sidewalk only on the north side. There are two options: 1) go between the railroad gate and light and the curb or 2) go behind the gate and light to the north. The options are currently under review. The railroad seems a little unwilling to discuss an agreement and cost. There will be a need to place crossing material in the railroad tracks for the pedestrian area. A draft agreement will be put together so the railroad has to respond to the cost and acceptability. The Board will have the option to fund the project. If the project had moved along quickly and during this fiscal year, the money would have come out of emergency, safety and study. The project will most likely be done next fiscal year and would have its own line item.

Schorr asked if there were any pedestrian counts available. Figard replied no. Most pedestrians are stepping out onto Old Cheney and walking along the street. With the median in the middle, it makes it more difficult for a car to go around the pedestrian.

Order No. 11-28 Petitions/Letters/Requests.

N/A

Order No. 11-29 Non-Agenda Items.

The March meeting will include the draft budget. If any Board Member has any ideas or thoughts on projects or activities, feel free to let Roger know.

Harlan Layton - "Harlan Layton. 740 Skyway Road. I would guess that 90% of the automobiles using the Old Cheney crossing on the railroad do not live in that area. They could go down Warlick which goes over the railroad and when they go down there they get stopped by a train and sit there and fuss among them and all that. If that crossing was closed, the City could close Old Cheney at Warlick

Boulevard because the people that live in that area can get out on the north side on Valley View onto 14th Street to go into town or whatever. And they can get out Creek Ridge Terrace over to Warlick and go that way. So they really don't need the area of the crossing coming open there at Old Cheney and Warlick. Close that. It would also give the City a better solution to come up with that 3-way Mickey Mouse roads down there at 14th and Old Cheney and Warlick."

Schorr asked if he accounted for the church traffic and how they would get out.

Harlan Layton - "They could go out onto Warlick or go up either way up on the north side depending on where they live and where they were going. There was talk about adding another road onto Warlick from the area south of Old Cheney. To me, you eliminate that crossing down there and the railroad has to pay a little money doing that and you wouldn't need a sidewalk and all that stuff. It makes more sense to me."

Schorr added that they had talked about the expressway and closing that at-grade crossing on Old Cheney many years ago in conjunction with the state project of the West Bypass. As funding dried up, it went away. It was back up for discussion last week.

Schorr announced that the upcoming March and June meetings will be rescheduled due to conflicts with the Commons Meeting. The March meeting will now be held on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 8:15 - 9:15. The June meeting will be held on Monday, June 4, 2012 from 11:00 - 12:15.

Hornung motioned to adjourn the meeting. Emery seconded. Motion approved 4-0.

Prepared by: _____
Tina Queen, Engineering Services