

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2000
7:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Larry Hudkins, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Linda Steinman
Bob Workman

Others Present: Don Thomas, County Engineer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners convened and was called to order on Wednesday, November 1, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Chambers regarding a public hearing on the One and Six-Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program.

The Chair opened the public hearing and introduced the County Board and County Engineer, Don Thomas.

Thomas welcomed everyone to the Fiscal 2001 One and Six-Year Road and Bridge Improvement Program public hearing. He highlighted completed improvements for Fiscal Year 2000 and gave a summary (Exhibit A) of the Fiscal 2001 program (Exhibit B).

Thomas requested letters from the following individuals be made a part of the record:

- < Richard B. Campbell regarding North 134th Street north of Highway 34 (Exhibit C)
- < Chad and Kelsey Trapeur regarding 176th Street south of Davey Road (Exhibit D)
- < Shari Heidtbrink regarding a portion of Wittstruck Road east of South 162nd Street near Bennet (Exhibit E)
- < Bill Goa, Jr. with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln regarding Northwest 70th and West Superior Streets (Exhibit F)
- < Rich and Rosemary Wiese regarding West Superior from Northwest 56th Street to Northwest 70th Street (Exhibit G)

Thomas also stated he received a telephone call from Maureen Stavas, 3000 South 98th Street, requesting improvements to South 98th Street.

Heier stated he had also received a telephone call from Mrs. Stavas.

In response to a question asked by Workman regarding lighting at Waverly Road and Highway 77, Thomas stated he sent a letter to the State of Nebraska, Department of Roads requesting that the County be a part of the Local Responsibility Warrant. He explained that Local Responsibility Warrant means the State would put the request in the program and the County would pay half of the cost for the lighting. Thomas stated he has not heard back from the State regarding the status.

Sandy Smith, 18303 North 162nd Street, appeared and urged Thomas to consider the traffic counts and move the paving of North 162nd Street forward.

Jack Wagener, 11740 Van Dorn, stated he is pleased that the improvement of Van Dorn is moving forward. He also said he would like to see the County proceed with right-of-way acquisition.

Thomas stated right-of-way acquisition would take place in fiscal year 2002.

In response to a question asked by Wagener, Thomas explained they can't begin right-of-way negotiations at the present time due to funding, however, they would begin those negotiations in fiscal year 2002. He explained that fiscal year 2002 actually begins July 1, 2001.

Dan Benes, 13401 West Little Salt Road, appeared and stated he has concerns regarding the intersection at 126th Street and West Little Salt Road. He stated that the approach from the west is a very steep grade and that it is difficult to get through the intersection with a heavy load. Approaching from the south, he said, there is a blind spot. Benes said he had been unofficially contacted by the Cattlemen's Committee to hold the Cattlemen's Ball at his farm/ranch operation in 2002. He stated there would be approximately 3,000 ticket sales and many of those individuals would be unfamiliar with the area. Benes requested that the intersection be improved prior to the ball scheduled for the first weekend in June, 2002.

Hudkins stated there is a lake, named Meadowlark Lake, near the area which does attract quite a bit of traffic. He indicated he has driven on the portion of 126th Street which Mr. Benes discussed and noted that it is very steep to the west. Hudkins stated the intersection is also dangerous to the right.

Thomas stated they would look at the intersection.

Daryl Bohac, 1985 South 98th Street, stated he would like to see South 98th Street, between "A" and Van Dorn Streets, accelerated into the program for maintenance and traffic reasons.

Thomas responded that they will be taking traffic counts next year. The 1998 count between "A" and Van Dorn Streets was approximately 260 vehicles. The 1999 count for the following two miles was approximately the same. Thomas stated next year they would obtain counts for all three miles.

Campbell stated she had received a telephone call from an individual regarding South 98th Street between "A" and Van Dorn Streets and indicated she had visited with Don Thomas and Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, regarding the issue. She said Sheriff Wagner has been sending deputies out to monitor the traffic speed and those counts are being given to Don Thomas.

Rich Wiese, 730 Pier 3, appeared and requested West Superior Street from Northwest 56th Street to Northwest 70th Street be upgraded to gravel to allow him access to his property at 6400 West Superior. He also stated there is native prairie at the location which they intend to preserve. Wiese also requested that the ditches be cleared of trees.

Dan Shestak, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, urged the rocking/graveling of Northwest 70th Street from Superior to Adams Streets. He explained the University is planning to construct an adventure challenge ropes course at the location to promote leadership and survival training for the University community, Lincoln Public Schools community and outside corporate groups. Shestak said if construction begins next spring they hope to be able to facilitate 200 individuals per day for 330 to 350 days per year. At the present time, he stated, it is impossible to access the property during inclement weather.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins, Shestak responded that they are working with Facilities Management on the University campus and have received approval to construct the parking lot and the roadway entering the property.

Thomas stated there is an additional problem of poor site distance at the intersection of 70th and Adams Streets.

Kalmer Knudson, 801 West Rock Creek Road, stated it was his understanding that Northwest 1st Street and Rock Creek Road would be improved in 2001.

Thomas explained right-of-way still needs to be acquired and stated they would improve the dirt portion of the intersection at Northwest 1st Street and West Rock Creek Road in 2001 or 2002.

David Hobelman, 709 Everett, Firth, Nebraska, appeared on behalf of the Village of Firth and asked if the right-of-way for the viaduct would be finished in 2000.

Thomas stated it will be partially finished.

Hobelman asked if 82nd Street would be completed prior to constructing the viaduct.

Thomas responded yes.

Hobelman also said the Firth Village Board is concerned about the speed of the traffic.

Campbell stated they would inform Sheriff Wagner of the concern.

Frank Bohac, 1901 South 98th Street, stated he lives on South 98th Street between "A" and Van Dorn Streets and noted that water comes up over 98th Street in the summer due to debris. He also stated he counted 50 vehicles traveling on South 98th in less than ten minutes.

Bohac asked when the County would be improving that portion of South 98th.

Thomas stated he would inspect the ditches and that new traffic counts would be taken next summer.

Rick Geiler, 21900 North 162nd Street, appeared and expressed his concern about vehicles traveling at a high rate of speed and the number of vehicles on North 162nd Street. He urged Thomas and the County Board to pave the road as soon as possible.

In response to a question asked by Workman, Thomas stated the traffic count north of Davey Road was in the upper 300 range to the high 200 range near the Geiler property.

Harlan Layton, 740 Skyway Road, asked about a start date for construction of the viaduct on South 68th Street at Hickman.

Thomas stated they would budget for the engineering next year.

Layton also asked if 82nd Street would be paved past the railroad crossing.

Thomas said South 82nd Street would be relocated to the east so it matches up with the City street.

Charles Vinson, 19000 North 162nd Street, appeared and expressed his concern regarding truck traffic, safety and gravel piles on North 162nd street.

The Chair asked if anyone else wished to provide testimony.

No one appeared and the public hearing was closed.

At the direction of the Chair, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk