

MINUTES (Corrected 11-17-05)
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS CHAMBERS
FIRST FLOOR, COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2005
7:30 P.M.

Commissioners Present: Larry Hudkins, Chair
 Deb Schorr, Vice-Chair
 Ray Stevens
 Bob Workman
 Bernie Heier

Others Present: Don Thomas, County Engineer
 Patricia Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk

The Lancaster County Board of Commissioners convened and were called to order on Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the County Commissioners Chambers regarding a public hearing on the One & Six Road and Bridge Improvement Program.

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

Thomas welcomed everyone to the Fiscal 2006 One and Six Year Road and Bridge Improvement public hearing. He highlighted completed improvements for Fiscal Year 2005 and gave a summary of the 2006 program. (Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2).

The Chair asked if anyone in the audience wished to present comments or concerns on the proposed One & Six Year plan.

Fred Wagner, 5001 S. 148th Street, appeared and stated that his main concern was the paving of Old Cheney to 148th Street, inquiring about the time line for completion of that portion of the road.

Thomas responded that they hope they can get within a mile. Would be next on the list, but would depend on funding availability.

Wagner questioned when Old Cheney out to 192nd Street would be paved. Thomas responded that the counts right now are only between 250 and 300. The threshold for paving being 400+.

Dan Kubr, 10077 Saltillo Road, appeared and stated that he is concerned with the increased truck traffic and associated dangers now on Saltillo due to the construction of Wal-Mart and Menards. Kubr indicated dust is also an issue in this area.

Thomas responded that traffic counts on the portion of road that Mr. Kubr is referring to are 500+ and that it has been eligible for two years. Thomas indicated that Old Cheney has been ahead of Saltillo due to a larger traffic load, however Saltillo has truck traffic that Old Cheney does not. Thomas additionally indicated that he will visit with the Sheriff's Department about conducting some spot enforcement in that area.

In response to a question by Workman, Thomas indicated that they are studying the Saltillo situation in conjunction with plans for the East Beltway to insure that any improvements to Saltillo are not negated by work on the beltway. He is hopeful that he will have those answers still this year.

In response to a question on traffic counts by Schorr, Thomas indicated that the highest traffic count on Old Cheney, in the 112th to 120th area, is currently 650. He indicated that it does stay above 500 out to 148th Street.

Dennis Eucker, 9500 Saltillo Road, appeared and commented that he would like to reiterate what his neighbor, Dan Kubr, said regarding the truck traffic issues and the dirt and dust issues from the asphalt plant.

In response to a question by Stevens, regarding a wheel tax on vehicles registered in Lancaster County. Eucker indicated he is supportive of the wheel tax concept. Hudkins asked about a fuel tax or property tax, and asked Eucker if he had a preference on the type, or level, of tax levied for roads. Eucker indicated he did not have a specific preference.

Dan Kubr was asked the same question by the Board regarding the tax issue. Kubr indicated that he was in agreement with Eucker with regard to a wheel tax as an appropriate method of taxation for roads. He indicated he preferred this over property taxes. Kubr indicated his support of a fuel tax if it was statewide.

Thomas stated for the record that he did receive a letter from a woman who lived in Fremont, but visited her daughter for a week at 106th and Saltillo, indicating that she has the same concerns for truck traffic and dust.

Stan Campbell, 1111 E. Hillcrest Road, appeared to speak on NW 70th and West Superior Streets. He encouraged the Board to consider graveling both as soon as possible and inquired about the time line to get that accomplished. Campbell indicated that the UNL Recreation Department, as he indicated last year, stood behind their commitment to help pay for their share of the rock for the West Superior portion.

Thomas stated that this project was slated to be bid by the NRD in the fall, with grading to begin next fall. Campbell indicated that UNL had stated two years ago they would contribute \$1300 toward the West Superior portion of this project.

Art Althouse, 8650 N. 134th Street, Waverly, appeared and stated that his concern was in regard to traffic counts on 134th indicated on page twelve. Althouse felt that with the area industry and high school traffic on the road, that the counts are likely much higher. Althouse discussed the overpasses over Interstate 80 and expressed his concern as a farmer about too many closures at one time. He asked the Board to use their influence to insure this did not happen.

Althouse was asked about his thoughts on a wheel tax. He indicated he is not supportive of a wheel tax since this tax will not benefit his area. When questioned about the use of a statewide fuel tax, Althouse indicated he had not had time to consider that type of taxation and its benefits.

Hudkins explained the concept of the statewide fuel tax to Mr. Althouse indicating that this type of tax reached all vehicles, including those that do not have Nebraska license plates, but used our roads. With the revenues being allocated back based on population, used for roads only.

Nadine Link (Village Clerk), 423 Floyd Drive, Malcolm, appeared to express her concerns about West Bluff Road, to the north of Malcolm, indicating they would like to see this paved from 105th to 112th to give Malcolm another paved access road out of Malcolm.

Thomas indicated that paving from 112th to the high school entrance was currently scheduled for the summer of 2007. Link indicated that Thomas may want to provide some clarification since the assumption is that it will be paved from 105th to 112th.

Link was asked about the wheel tax issue, and indicated that the Malcolm Village Board opposed the concept. The Board feels that they are so far out there is no benefit to Malcolm or its residents.

In response to a question from Schorr regarding a smaller wheel tax amount, Link indicated that if this were the case the Village Board would likely revisit the issue.

Workman asked what the estimated cost would be to get the Engineering Department caught up on projects. Thomas indicated that there are eight miles of paving that need to be done. The four primary projects, at an approximate cost of \$1.6 million are:

- One mile on Pioneers from 98th to 112th
- Two and one half miles on east Old Cheney from 112th to 148th
- Two and three-quarter miles on SW 14th Street south of Saltillo down to Highway 33
- One mile of Saltillo between 84th and 96th

Thomas indicated that if he could do three to four miles a year, he would be in a better position. Hudkins indicated he would like to see the Engineer bring their budget in first to the budget process.

With no further discussion by the Board the Chair declared the Public Hearing as adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk