

**MINUTES  
BUDGET MONITORING COMMITTEE  
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING  
ROOM 113  
TUESDAY, JULY 27, 1999  
12:00 P.M.**

Present: Kathy Campbell, County Commissioner  
Linda Steinman, County Commissioner  
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Kroeker, County Budget & Fiscal Officer  
Dennis Banks, Attention Center Director  
Don Thomas, County Engineer  
Terry Wagner, County Sheriff  
James Gordon, Attorney, Demars, Gordon, Olson & Shively  
Jim Nissen, Norwest Bank  
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

Absent: John Boehm, LIBA Representative  
Ron Krejci, Hickman State Bank

Don Thomas, County Engineer, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the Lancaster County One and Six Year Road and Bridge Construction Program Fiscal Year 1999 (Exhibit 1). He indicated the One Year is what the County intends to build and is financed to be built and the five years after is the advanced projects that will come at a later date. He said the County is required to hold a public hearing so people have the chance to come the meeting and discuss roads they have concerns about.

Thomas reported the total County road system is around 1,400 miles with 1,051 being gravel, 233 paved, 69 dirt and 45 are rural subdivision miles. He said between 1988 and 1989 the County Engineer obtained traffic counts on every single segment of county road and out of 1,400 miles there are 1,650 segments. Thomas reported the traffic counts has been very beneficial to Lancaster County because it helps to respond to citizens who would like their roads improved. Thomas said if a road reaches 300 vehicles a day, a road should be graded by putting in new culverts, cutting hills, filling valleys and widening it out and getting it wide enough so that if the counts continue to grow it will be wide enough to accommodate new paving. Thomas reported the County Engineer looks at roads that have 500 vehicles a day in terms of when to begin paving.

Thomas also noted the total cost to design, r-o-w acquisition, grading and paving a road is around \$300,000 per mile. He said the County Engineer does not grade and pave in the same year, only when they are rebuilding an existing paved road.

Thomas indicated from 1990-1999 the County Engineer graded 42 miles and paved 54 miles. He said today there are 41 miles that are still above 300 vehicles a day that haven't been graded and 24 miles that have been graded and are waiting for paving. Thomas reported in the mid 80's, Lancaster County issued 70-80 new home access permits per year and from 1997-1998, 332 homes were built outside the city limits.

Thomas also said Rural Subdivision Development has increased over time with 9 subdivisions that were developed from 1980-1989 and from 1990-1999 there were 22 subdivisions accepted for maintenance. He also said he has seen a great impact of traffic from surrounding counties that commute to Lincoln including Bluff Road, Denton Road, Alvo Road, Fletcher Avenue and Old Cheney Road. He indicated there has been an increased popularity at the State Lakes, including Branched Oak and Pawnee Lake.

Jim Nissen asked if the County Engineer receives any money from the area lakes.

Thomas said the money that is received from the State Lakes for the roads comes from the State Recreation Road Fund and Lancaster County has 38 miles that are recreation roads, which are eligible for 90/10 funding.

Thomas stated there are 290 bridges in Lancaster County which total 19,000 lineal feet and he is required by the Federal Government every two years to inspect all the bridges. He said each year annually the Federal Government produces the "National Bridge Deficient List" which is a list that one must go by in order to qualify bridges for replacement. Thomas indicated a new bridge cost between \$1,500 to \$2,000 per lineal foot and the majority of all the major bridges replaced are done with Federal Aid, which is 80% federal, 5% state and 15% local. He reported the use of traffic counts and establishing a replacement program or improvement program has worked out extremely well. He said the paved road mileage represents 17% of the total mileage in the County and it carries 75% of the volume.

Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer, appeared and distributed documentation regarding the budget for FY00 (Exhibits 2 & 3). He reported the Gas Tax, Sales Tax from Motor Vehicles and Fuel Taxes go into the Highway Allocation Fund.

Campbell asked the County Sheriff if he had any comments regarding the roads over the last 10 years.

Wagner reported that the County Sheriff investigates more car/deer accidents in Lancaster County than any other county in the State. Wagner agreed that area lakes generate a lot of activity for the County Sheriff's Office.

Steinman asked where the greatest number of deer/car collisions occur.

Wagner said Wilderness Park.

Campbell reported many years ago there was a “quiet” 3-day hunt inside Wilderness Park that was bow and arrow to try to eliminate and cut down on all the car/deer collisions because it was at the point where County Board members were taking many complaints from the public.

Kroeker stated there were some reductions made in the FY00 budget regarding current expenditures and budget requests, which amounted to around \$100,000. He said the County Board funded certain projects with Keno dollars that was earlier included with property taxes and the end result is that the property taxes should be down \$.02.

Campbell reported the Families First & Foremost Fund is a grant that Lancaster County will be taking over around August 1, 1999 and the grant helps young people who have mental health problems who are at risk of entering the Justice System.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, appeared and indicated there is a three-way participation of Department of Health and Human Services, Lancaster County and Region V and there is an agreement trying to be worked out that will delineate the percentage that each will contribute to the local match.

Kroeker stated the Sheriff's FTE's has increased because they need an additional 4.9 full-time employees for staffing secure entrance to the Hall of Justice and Law Enforcement Center.

Nissen asked what the budget change has been in the previous years compared to the 5.13%.

Kroeker indicated last year it was 6.85%.