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**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Cass County Commission

FROM: Thomas Soucy, County Engineer 

DATE: October 30, 2024

SUBJECT: Road Advisory Committee Meeting – November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 pm

Call to Order / Note Participants

Approval of Agenda

Minutes – July 16th, 2024

2:00 – 2:15	Update of 2024 & Proposed 2025 Construction Projects	Information
2:15 – 2:25	C31 Sheyenne Bridge Closure Update	Information
2:25 – 2:45	2025-2029 Hwy & Bridge Plan	<b>Action</b>
2:45 – 2:55	Grant Opportunity Updates	<b>Action</b>
2:55 – 3:00	Other Business	
3:00	Adjourn	

**ROAD ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
JULY 16, 2024 – 2:00 PM**

**1. MEETING TO ORDER**

Commissioner Duane Breitling called the meeting of the Road Advisory Committee to order at 2:01 PM on Tuesday, July 16th, in the Commission Conference Room, Cass County Courthouse. Members present were as follows: Duane Breitling, Mary Scherling, Tony Grindberg, Jim Kapitan, Tom Soucy, Bill Hejl, Scott Saewert, and Kyle Litchy. Also, present Jesse Jahner, Robert Wilson, Tracy Peters and via Microsoft Teams Blaine Laaveg, Ben Griffith, and Bob Henderson. Chad Peterson and Keith Monson were absent.

**2. AGENDA, Order approved**

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Saewert moved and Mrs. Scherling seconded the order for the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.**

**3. MINUTES APPROVED**

***MOTION, passed***

**Mrs. Scherling moved and Mr. Kapitan seconded the minutes of the previous meeting held on March 18, 2024, be approved as written. Motion carried.**

**4. 2024 CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UPDATE**

Mr. Soucy said an update on the 2024 Construction Projects include the I-94 Lynchburg North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) Interchange Project should meet the completion date of September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He said the Ethanol Plant has hired Dakota Underground to construct a staging truck parking area and the project is in progress with completion in approximately a month and will remove the truck parking issues along County Road 23.

Mr. Soucy said the 2024 Bridge Replacement Projects include County Road 6 and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South on the Sheyenne River in Stanley and Barnes Townships, County Road 6 in sections 15 and 22 of Clifton Township on the Maple River and County Road 32 West of Amenia between sections 22 and 27 of Amenia on the Rush River. The Hill Township bridge between sections 28 and 33 over Maple River is planned for removal. The remaining structures are concrete box culverts. He said three will be installed by contractors and two are in Cornell Township on Drain 46 between sections 10 and 15 and 15 and 22. The third is in sections 28 and 29 of Everest Township on Buffalo Creek. The remaining box culverts will be installed by County Entities and are as follows: Sections 30 and 31 of Rochester Township on a tributary of the Maple River and Drain 46. Two in Howes Township are in sections 26 and 25 and 26 and 35 on the tributary of Buffalo Creek. Another one is in section 35 Empire and 3 in Wheatland Townships on Swan Creek, and the last one on County Road 34 Southeast of Erie between sections 13 and 24 of Erie Township on the Rush River.

Mr. Soucy said the 2024 Highway Projects include the Roundabout on County Road 6 and 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South, Concrete Paving on County Road 23 and County Road 30 at the Soybean Crushing Plant, Mill and Overlay asphalt work on the County Road 17 from 68<sup>th</sup> Avenue South to the ND Diversion Inlet structure along with County Road 14 from the Sheyenne River to I-29

and County Road 6 from County Road 17 West about a half mile. Also, a subgrade repair and grading project from County Road 34 from I-29 West to the South branch of the Elm River.

**5. 2025 PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Soucy said the projects will be presented at the July 24<sup>th</sup> Budget Hearings. He said the 2025 Box Culvert Projects include 1 Kinyon and 6 Noble Drain 16, 11 and 12 South Wheatland Township, Swan Creek, and 25 Kinyon and 30 Noble Drain 19. Bridge Projects include County Road 10 - 22 and 27 Tower Township on the Maple River and two 2024 bridge carry over projects. He said one on the Maple River in sections 28 and 33 in Hill Township is a bridge removal project and on County Road 32, over the Rush River in sections 22 and 27 in Amenia Township a bridge replacement project.

Mr. Soucy said the 2025 Highway Asphalt Paving Projects include County Road 16 from State Highway 18 to Davenport and County Road 26, from State Highway 38 West to the Barnes County Line. County Road 26 project is a joint project with Barnes County Road 6, which received State Aid funding. The final Federal Aid Asphalt Paving Project is from County Road 5 North to State Hwy 18. Subgrade Repair on County Road 34 from State Highway 18 to the Elm River. Grading Project on County Road 10 from Tower City to State Highway 38, along with Culvert Lining on County Roads 16, 10, and 81.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mrs. Scherling moved and Mr. Kapitan seconded to approve all 2025 Proposed Projects as presented and be heard for consideration at the July 24, 2024, Budget Hearing for potential approval. Motion carried.**

**6. 2025-2029 HIGHWAY & BRIDGE PLAN – 2030-2034 HIGHWAY PLAN**

Mr. Soucy said the five and six-to-ten-year Capital Improvement Plan Proposed Highway Projects suggested motion is to approve the 2025-2029 Highway and Bridge Plan and the 2030-2034 Highway Plan as presented and to be on a future 2025 fall Commission and Road Advisory Meeting Agenda for final approval and adoption. He said the Highway and Bridge Plan for the next ten years would include all listed Highways: 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 25, 26, 31, 32, 34, 36 and 81. Mr. Soucy said the Highway and Bridge repairs would include mill and overlay, grading and surfacing, subgrade repair, shoulder paving, grade raising, culvert lining, roundabout and bituminous surfacing.

***MOTION, passed***

**Mr. Kapitan moved and Mrs. Scherling seconded to approve the 2025-2029 Highway & Bridge Plan and the 2030-2034 Highway Plan as presented and to be on a future 2025 fall Commission Meeting Agenda for final approval and adoption. Motion carried.**

**7. C31 SHEYENNE BRIDGE CLOSURE UPDATE**

Mr. Soucy said the County Road 31 Sheyenne Bridge is 2 miles East and 3.8 miles North of Harwood. He said in 1955 County Road 31 was known as County Road 81 and changed to County Road 31 when I-29 was built and the County assumed ownership of US Hwy 81, now County Road 81. The previous bridge was 204' long and had two Center Piers rotating towards the river and out of plum about 1' and in 1957 two 30' extensions were added to the bridge to remove soil loading. Mr. Soucy said the bridge was closed for a year or more prior to 1978 and between 1978 and 1979 a new 6 span

30' wide 450' bridge was constructed on County Road 31. He said this was the first of its kind with no expansion joints and the longest type of this design in the USA. Mr. Soucy said the proposal on July 16<sup>th</sup> at the Commission Meeting is for a Soil Analysis and Preliminary Design Recommendations and the study could take between six and twelve months. He said the cost of a new bridge is estimated between eight to ten million dollars and is seeking funding assistance options. Mr. Soucy said the 2025 budget that is being proposed is to carry over \$5.5 million into 2025 and plan for a fall bid with new construction beginning in 2026.

### **65 MPH ROUTES – REVISED**

Mr. Soucy said he and staff met with Sheriff Jahner and Leah Kelm the Cass County Vision Zero Coordinator to discuss potentially adding the 65 MPH speed limit to Highway 5 and 11, with no raised concerns. He said Highway 11 between Highway 10 West to Highway 4 completed slide repair work near the Rush River Bridge and this segment now meets all the 65 MPH standards. Mr. Soucy said Highway 5 between I-94 and Highway 6 Bridge over Buffalo Creek currently has no guardrail and to add the guardrail would cost \$50,000.

***MOTION, Denied.***

***Suggested Motion: Approve increasing the speed limit from 55 MPH to 65 MPH on Highway #4, #5, #6, #10 and #11.***

***Mrs. Scherling moved and Mr. Kapitan seconded to deny the motion and seek public feedback on revising the speed limit to 65 MPH. Motion carried.***

### **8. GRANT FUNDING UPDATE**

Mr. Soucy said the Grant Application Update includes the Agricultural Grant, Bridge Improvement Program Grant (BIP), Flexible Transportation Grant, Highway Safety Improvement Plan Grant, and Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant.

Mr. Soucy said the State Agriculture Infrastructure Grant Program is appropriated for \$10 million to be used towards county and township roads, bridge improvements, along with utility improvements to water, gas, electricity, and sewer. He said an application will be submitted when the program becomes available. This grant was submitted for the County Road 30 concrete road improvement that will serve the North Dakota Soybean Plant and this grant was not successful.

Mr. Soucy said the Bridge Improvement Program (BIP) and RAISE Grants would be used for the Georgetown Red River Bridge Project and the local share would be split with Cass and Clay County or the amount of \$1.4 million. He said the Nielsville and Hendrum Red River Bridges are included in this application. Mr. Soucy said the Georgetown Bridge is \$14,026,584 and Hendrum Bridge is \$13,389,012. He said the 2028 Interchange Project is projected at \$72 million, BIP for \$33.5 million, NDDOT for \$31,1 million, City of Fargo for \$6.2 million and Cass County for \$1.2 million and no word on the BIP projects to date. He said the RAISE Grant submitted for the improvement of County Road 10 between Tower City and State Hwy 18 was also not successful.

Mr. Soucy said the Flexible Transportation Grant Funding projects include a Soil Cement Stabilization on 153<sup>rd</sup> Avenue southeast on I-94 to County Road 16 and was not approved, Hot Mix Asphalt (HMA) Surfacing on County Road 16 in Davenport to State Highway Road 18 and this was not approved. County Road 26 to State Highway 38 to Barnes County and was approved for FLEX funding.

Mr. Soucy said the Highway Safety Improvement Plan for the County Road 20 and 45<sup>th</sup> Street Roundabout Construction Project was not submitted successfully.

Mr. Soucy said a joint Transportational Alternative Funding Project between Fargo and Cass County to reconstruct the Shared Use Path along University Drive South and County Road 81 was approved and is planned for the 2026 Construction Year.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

***MOTION, passed***

**On motion by Mr. Kapitan seconded by Mr. Hejl all-in favor,  
the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 PM.**

Minutes prepared by Jodi Miller, HR Assistant