

**Minutes of Meeting
SATS Communities Committee
April 27, 2016**

ATTENDANCE

Communities Committee Voting Members

<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Jerome	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Leland Grove	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Village of Riverton	Joe Bartley, Trustee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Village of Rochester	Joe Hill, Trustee
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Village of Sherman	Trevor Clatfelter, Village President
<input type="checkbox"/>	Village of Southern View	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Village of Spaulding	Brian Cuffle, Mayor
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rochester Township	Darrell, Maxheimer, Highway Commissioner

S-SCRPC Staff

Linda Wheeland – Senior Transportation Planner

Jason Sass – Associate Transportation Planner

Others

Robert Plunk – Resident, Clear Lake Township

Brian McFadden – Sangamon County

Tom Kelso – IDOT Urban Program Planning

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Clatfelter called the meeting of the SATS Communities Committee to order at 4:32 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF 1/27/2016 MEETING MINUTES

Linda Wheeland introduced Tom Kelso to the Communities Committee. Mr. Kelso is the liaison between the SATS Technical and Policy Committees and IDOT Office of Central Planning.

Chair Clatfelter requested a motion to approve the minutes from the 1/27/2016 Meeting. Joe Bartley made a motion to approve the January 27, 2016 meeting minutes as submitted. Brian Cuffle seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

III. UPDATE ON SANGAMON-MENARD AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT (SMART)

Mr. Brian McFadden, Sangamon County, updated the Communities Committee members on the status of the Sangamon-Menard Area Regional Transit (SMART) initiative. He told the Committee that SMART has been in the works for quite a while, and that most members of the Committee were somewhat familiar with it. At the beginning of 2015, SMART was almost to the point of rolling out, but was delayed, due to funding cuts from the Governor’s Office to the Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP). The Sangamon and Menard County boards decided to delay implementation of SMART until funding issues were resolved. Both Boards received assurances from IDOT that adequate funding was forthcoming, but decided to wait until the funding issues were resolved. A favorable court ruling allowed funding and assistance to flow from the State to Transit Authorities, and the County Boards decided to begin implementation of SMART. SMART was scheduled to begin providing transit services to people who need transit that originates or

terminates in Menard County, beginning May 1, 2016. IDOT is requesting that Sangamon County service begin July 1, 2016, at the beginning of the next fiscal year. Mr. McFadden said that the Sangamon County Board is unsure that service would begin unless funding and budget issues at the State level were resolved. He said that there was more certainty at the time of the meeting than there was at the beginning of the fiscal year, but rollout of service in Sangamon County would still be dependent upon funding from the State.

IV. FY2017-2020 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM PROJECTS FOR SUBMISSION TO SATS

Linda Wheeland told the Committee that SATS had asked the Committee members to submit projects they thought were important for inclusion in the 2017-2020 Transportation Improvement Program as illustrative projects. The TIP must include every federally funded transportation project for the time period of the document. Illustrative projects are planned projects that have not procured funding. They are included in the TIP so that communities can apply for federal funds and the projects are known by IDOT, FHWA and other SATS jurisdictions.

Joe Hill, Village of Rochester, outlined Rochester's proposed illustrative projects. The first project was located on Maxheimer Road, which runs between Illinois Route 29 and Buckhart Road. The Rochester School District is planning to build a new school next to Maxheimer Road and expected bus and automobile traffic would be too heavy for the existing tar and chip road bed. It was estimated that the cost to upgrade the road bed to concrete and asphalt would be approximately \$3,200,000. Mr. Hill added that there was planned multi-family and commercial development adjacent to Maxheimer Road as well. The Village of Rochester did not have the necessary funding to complete the project and needed to look toward federal funding for assistance.

Mr. Hill outlined a second project, East Main Street in Rochester. It is a decommissioned Illinois State Highway that was transferred to the Village of Rochester approximately 15 years ago. The road has deteriorated to the point where truck traffic has been banned, and the Village was looking to re-construct the road at a cost of \$550,000.

The third project Mr. Hill presented was the Mill Street Bridge in Rochester. The bridge was built to accommodate light traffic and was constructed as a box culvert to allow Mill Creek to flow underneath. The road bed is narrow and there are no rails or guards on the bridge, making the bridge a safety hazard. The Village would like to upgrade the bridge to modern standards at a cost of approximately \$700,000.

Mr. Clatfelter asked the Committee if other members would like to present possible illustrative projects for inclusion in the 2017-2020 TIP. Mr. Cuffle told the Committee that the Village of Spaulding requested a Road Safety Audit for the intersection of Illinois Route 54 and Main Street, as suggested by Mr. Chris Isbell, IDOT, at the January, 2016 meeting. He said that IDOT had designed a plan for the intersection and was aware of the safety hazards at the intersection. IDOT decided to not undertake an additional study, as the intersection is known to IDOT. Mr. Cuffle said that he doesn't believe that the Village of Spaulding needed to include the project in the TIP because it was already included in IDOT long-range planning. Ms. Wheeland asked if IDOT would be the lead agency undertaking the reconstruction project. Mr. Cuffle confirmed that IDOT would be the lead agency, as they have jurisdiction over Illinois Route 54. He said there were jurisdictional and design challenges in putting a stop light at the intersection. Mr. Hill said that the Village of Rochester has a similar situation at the intersection of West Main Street and Illinois Route 29. He said that he went to an IDOT District 6 meeting where it was proposed as a safety improvement. It had been approximately two years since that meeting and Mr. Hill said that the Village had not heard anything more about the safety improvements.

Ms. Wheeland said that the Illinois Route 29 project in Rochester is currently in the 2016-2019 TIP as an illustrative project. The Illinois Route 54 project was not included. She asked Mr. Cuffle if she should contact IDOT to get information for the intersection improvement so that it could be included in the 2017-2020 TIP as an illustrative project. Mr. Cuffle confirmed that he would want the project included. He said he will have the Village engineer contact her. Mr. Cuffle added that Main Street, south of the intersection was previously given to the Village of Spaulding by Sangamon County approximately twenty years ago. The road is a concrete base and its maintenance is beyond the scope a village the size of Spaulding can afford. Mr. Hill added that the Village of Rochester was paying for maintenance of State roadways and intersections and that the State owed the Village approximately forty-thousand dollars.

Mr. Clatfelter asked if Old Tipton Road in Sherman was included in the TIP document. It was not listed as an illustrative project. Mr. Clatfelter said that the road was designated a State Emergency Route and was in need of overlay and resurfacing work. Ms. Wheeland asked what the overlay project would cost the village. Mr. Clatfelter said that the best estimate was approximately \$500 thousand. Ms. Wheeland said she could include the project as an illustrative project in the 2017-2020 TIP. Mr. Clatfelter said that the Village Engineer prepared a Capital Improvement Plan for the village that identified approximately \$2 million in transportation improvement needs. Mr. Clatfelter identified another potential project for the TIP, saying that the Village would like to build a bike trail to link the Village Park to the Sherman-Williamsville Bike Trail. The approximate cost of a link from the park to Andrew Road would be \$330 thousand. Ms. Wheeland asked if the Sherman-Williamsville trail should be included in the TIP. Mr. Clatfelter said that the Village was working on that at the time of the meeting. Mr. Kelso asked if the Village was seeking ITEP grant money. Mr. Clatfelter confirmed that Sherman was seeking ITEP funds. Ms. Wheeland said that the project should be included in the TIP document.

Mr. Hill told the Committee that the Village of Rochester had done some preliminary design work for a bike lane on Cardinal Hill Road, and said that Rochester should apply for ITEP grant money to complete the project. He said that an earlier application for ITEP had been declined and asked Mr. Kelso if Rochester should apply again. Mr. Kelso confirmed that the village should apply every time the ITEP grant application process is opened by IDOT. Ms. Wheeland asked for more information regarding the project so it could be included in the TIP document. Mr. Hill expressed concern that the State of Illinois could not afford to pay ITEP money. Mr. Kelso said that most of the funding for ITEP grants came from the Federal Government as pass-through money.

Mr. Bartley said that most of Riverton's streets were in good condition and that Third Street had overlay work done two to three years earlier. He said the roads that needed the most attention in Riverton were outside the Village's jurisdiction. Ms. Wheeland told the Committee that projects they wanted to put on the TIP Illustrative Project list must be included in the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). If any of these projects were not included in the LRTP at the present time, an amendment would be submitted to the SATS Technical and Policy Committees to add them. Mr. Bartley said that it was the Village's wish that Sangamon County mark Seventh Street for bike paths the next time it is striped.

Mr. Clatfelter asked what level of funding was available through the TIP process each year. Ms. Wheeland said there was no set funding level, and that the amount of funding depended on the approved projects scheduled for each funding year. The only funding SATS has control over is ST-U funding, which is a set amount every year. The FY2016 ST-U funding level was \$1.5 Million. SATS asks its constituents for applications for funding and those applications are scored. Funding for ST-U projects is projected out to 2019 and has been allocated. There was the possibility of extra funding or cost under-runs being used to fund additional projects. There were, at the time of the meeting, six projects on the ST-U Illustrative Projects list. The next project on the ST-U Illustrative Projects list is the Iles Avenue reconstruction project in Jerome. Ms. Wheeland said the application process may open again in a couple years, as cost figures change. ST-U funding is 80% Federal and 20% local match.

V. COMMUNICATION WITH SATS

Ms. Wheeland told the Committee that there was an item on the SATS Technical Committee agenda where other SATS committees are given the opportunity to update the Technical Committee. She asked if the Committee would like to send a representative to speak to the Technical Committee. Mr. Cuffle recommended that somebody from the Communities Committee be present at the Technical Committee meetings. He recommended that Mr. Clatfelter represent the Committee, and if Mr. Clatfelter could not attend, Mr. Cuffle would represent the Committee. Ms. Wheeland said that information regarding Illustrative Projects could be presented and that each member should send as much information as possible.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

No report was given.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Plunk addressed the committee. He said that he knew that competition for grants and funding was intense and that one way for a jurisdiction's project to stand out was to be "shovel ready". He encouraged the Committee to complete engineering and pre-project activities so that their project applications would look better if funds were to open because other jurisdictions were not ready to start their funded projects. He understood that there were risks associated with paying for project work before funding and that each community had to balance that risk with the possible reward.

Mr. Plunk asked Mr. Kelso if he knew when IDOT would be releasing its Multi-Year Transportation Planning Program. Mr. Kelso said that it was close to completion and release. Mr. Plunk said that normally the Program was released before the General Assembly adjourned for the summer.

Mr. Kelso said that the intersection project at Main Street and Illinois Highway 54 could be included in the Multi-Year Program and that the Village of Spaulding may not be aware of it. He also said that pre-planning for the next year's Multi-Year Plan begins in the fall and that the Village's engineer should ask for inclusion again. Mr. Kelso and Ms. Wheeland said they would notify Communities Committee members when the planning meeting would take place.

Mr. Cuffle thanked Mr. Plunk for his comments, noting that small villages worked with budgets where pre-engineering and local match funding were cost-prohibitive. He said that the intersection of Main Street and Highway 54 was probably not as cost-prohibitive due to the nature of the project, but other projects were not affordable. Mr. Hill said that Rochester spent close to \$10-15 thousand dollars on pre-engineering for a bike lane project that was not granted funding and that the engineering requirements may change, making another pre-engineering study necessary. Such outlays were expensive for small communities with smaller budgets.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Mr. Bartley asked if there were any updates to the retro-reflective sign replacement project. Mr. Clatfelter said that he had not spoken to the Village of Sherman's engineers recently and did not have any new information. Ms. Wheeland said that the project was on the April, 2016 letting. She did not know if there was a successful bid. Mr. Plunk said that the bids should be published on the IDOT website. He asked Ms. Wheeland to send details of the letting to the Committee.
- B. Ms. Wheeland asked if there were any topics the Committee would like to discuss at the next meeting. She said that if members wanted to include a topic, they should email her.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2016 at 4:30 PM.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cuffle made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bartley seconded the motion. The vote to adjourn was unanimous. The regular meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Sass
Recording Secretary