

**WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONERS
VIRTUAL WORKING SESSION MINUTES OF
October 19, 2021**

Present: Road Commissioners Barbara Fuller – Chair, Rodrick Green – Vice Chair,
Douglas Fuller, Gloria Llamas, Jo Ann McCollum

Staff Present: D. Ackerman, J. Harmon, E. Kizer, M. MacDonell, C. Quinter, B.
Schlack, S. Siddall, E. Stewart

Roll Call of Attendance:

Barbara Fuller, Chair – remote from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Rodrick Green, Vice Chair – remote from Superior Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Douglas Fuller, Member – remote from Scio Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Gloria Llamas, Member – remote from Pittsfield Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Jo Ann McCollum, Member – remote from Ypsilanti Township, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Sheryl Siddall, Managing Director
Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering/County Highway Engineer
Jim Harmon, Director of Operations
Dan Ackerman, Director of Finance & IT

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No public comment.

Communications Update

Emily Kizer, Communications Manager, presented a PowerPoint slideshow update on WCRC's communications. Emily provided an overview of the communications team, channel check-in and various communication projects.

FOIA Update

Emily presented a PowerPoint slideshow update on the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The Communications Department has been updating WCRC's FOIA policy, procedures and guidelines, summary, and forms to increase readability for the public. Emily provided an overview of FOIA requirements, the submitting process, fees and WCRC's current efforts. The IT Department has set up WCRC's new data archiving software, Smarsh. Smarsh will allow WCRC to be more responsive to FOIA requests. Emily stated we will continue to improve WCRC's internal processes with FOIA and review record retention practices. The updated policy will be brought to the Board for approval in November.

Board Meetings

Emily presented a PowerPoint slideshow update on WCRC's board room upgrades. The board room will now have the option for in-person, virtual and hybrid meetings. Due to the county's State of Emergency, completely virtual board meetings are allowed through December 31, 2021. Emily stated we hope to have the first hybrid meeting on January 4. AVI Systems Inc. will begin construction on the board room upgrades shortly, but delays may occur due to supply chain issues. Emily stated staff would continue to work on the board room technology upgrades, implement practice sessions and explore agenda center options.

10 MINUTE BREAK

Liberty Rd Bridge – Lima Township

Matt MacDonell, Director of Engineering, provided an overview of the Liberty Rd bridge in Lima Township. The bridge was originally constructed in 1932 and the superstructure was replaced in 1965. WCRC noticed deterioration and began load restrictions in 1999 and the bridge was eventually closed due to its poor condition in 2011.

Funding applications to replace the bridge were submitted in 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020 to allow the bridge to remain eligible to receive federal funding. The bridge was denied funding for various reasons and is not likely to receive funds for replacement in the near future.

Matt stated that MDOT recently reached out to WCRC regarding its bridge bundling program and MDOT's desire to include the removal of the closed Liberty Road bridge in the next bundle. MDOT requires a resolution from the WCRC Board and Lima Township acknowledging the support of the bridge removal. The resolution will be brought to the WCRC Board for approval at the November 16 board meeting. Matt has been in discussion with Lima Township leadership on this issue and hopes to present the project at an upcoming township meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

J. McCollum moved; G. Llamas seconded to adjourn the October 19, 2021 Working Session at 11:51 a.m.

Roll Call Vote:

YEAS: B. Fuller, D. Fuller, R. Green, G. Llamas, J. McCollum

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion Carried.

Barbara Ryan Fuller, Chair
Washtenaw County Board of County Road Commissioners

Sheryl Soderholm Siddall, Deputy Clerk
Washtenaw County Board of County Road Commissioners