

Idaho Transportation Board Subcommittee on

State Highway System Adjustments

November 20, 2019

Idaho Transportation Board (ITB) Subcommittee on State Highway System Adjustments Chairman Jim Kempton called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at the Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) in Boise, Idaho. ITB Members Bob Hoff and Dwight Horsch were present.

Key principals from ITD in attendance were Chief Engineer (CE)/Highway Development Administrator Blake Rindlisbacher, Planning Services Manager (PSM) Ken Kanownik, Planner Robert Beachler, Deputy Attorney General Renee Hollander-Vogelpohl, District 6 Operations Manager (OM) Wade Allen, District 6 Planner Mark Layton, and Executive Assistant to the Board (EAB) Sue S. Higgins. Highway Operations and Construction Administrator Dave Kuisti joined the meeting in progress.

October 16, 2019 Meeting Minutes. EAB Higgins requested a revision to the October 16, 2019 minutes to correct a route number. Member Horsch made a motion to approve the October 16, 2019 Subcommittee meeting minutes as corrected. Member Hoff seconded the motion and it passed unopposed.

Farm/Field Road, District 6. Planner Layton said the Department secured an easement on Farm/Field Road, also known as East Side Frontage Road, due to the elimination of at-grade crossings on US-20 when the Thornton Interchange was constructed. To avoid land-locking property, the easement was secured to provide access from those properties to local roads. Staff would like to negotiate with Madison County to assume jurisdiction of Farm/Field Road. Planner Layton added that he believes the local jurisdiction would be receptive to that proposal if the Department provides assistance with two canal crossings.

CE Rindlisbacher noted there is no adjustment to the state highway system involved, so questioned the Subcommittee's involvement. Planner Layton responded that legal's advice was to present this to the Subcommittee because of the potential funding involved as part of the negotiation.

In response to Member Hoff's question, OM Allen responded that the road is not a state highway; however, under the current conditions, ITD is required to maintain it. CE Rindlisbacher asked how much money may be involved to address the canal structures. Planner Layton believes \$800,000 for the two bridges.

Chairman Kempton stated the motion before the Subcommittee: give staff permission to negotiate with Madison County Road and Bridge for the relinquishment of the East Side Frontage Road and provide money for the two canal bridges.

Discussion followed on the language to provide money for the bridges. Member Horsch made a substitute motion to give staff permission to negotiate with Madison County Road and

Bridge for the relinquishment of the East Side Frontage Road. The substitute motion passed unanimously.

Relinquishment of SH-33 in Sugar City, District 6. Planner Layton said staff previously had permission to negotiate the relinquishment of SH-33 in Sugar City with the municipality. Due to the recent realization that the Department cannot relinquish routes to municipalities with less than 5,000 population, he requested permission to negotiate the relinquishment of the portion of SH-33 in Sugar City with Madison County. He added that in preliminary discussions, the county commissioners and mayor expressed interest in this system adjustment.

Member Horsch asked if funding would be involved. Planner Layton responded in the affirmative. He believes the amount may be between \$1.3 million and \$2.6 million, based on future maintenance costs to resurface the road. OM Allen added that this section of highway functions as a local road, not a regional thoroughfare.

OM Allen asked if it would be acceptable to negotiate with two different entities, Madison County and the City of Rexburg, in case one entity is willing to assume jurisdiction of the route, but the other one is not. CE Rindlisbacher said separate negotiations can occur, and gave recent examples of that in Districts 3 and 4. Planner Kanownik noted that if only one entity assumes jurisdiction of SH-33, the route would be disjointed. There would be a gap in ITD's jurisdiction of the state highway.

Chairman Kempton stated the motion before the Subcommittee: give staff permission to negotiate with Madison County Road and Bridge for the relinquishment of SH-33 within the city limits of Sugar City. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Policy 4061 State Highway System Adjustments. Vice Chairman Kempton proposed revisions to the membership of the Board Subcommittee on State Highway System Adjustments as outlined in Board Policy 4061. Currently, there is potential for four members to participate on the Subcommittee. The change requires the Idaho Transportation Board Chairman to appoint a chairman of the subcommittee, a general member, and a floating member. The floating member would step down when a non-appointed member has a route in his/her district under consideration.

The consensus was to take the revised policy to the full Board next month.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

Sue S. Higgins
Respectfully submitted by:
SUE S. HIGGINS
Executive Assistant & Secretary
Idaho Transportation Board