

**HIGHWAY ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
December 20, 2017**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Vierzba, Ed Dills, Cheryl Everitt, Michael James, Ed Houle, Larry Tobias, Jean Meinzer, Richard Robertson, Brian Galpin, Jim Mesite, Brian Wess

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Commissioner Stan VanderWerf (District 3), Jim Reid (EPC DPW), Scot Cuthbertson (EPC DPW), Jennifer Irvine (EPC DPW), John Clack (EPC DPW), Troy Wiitala (EPC DPW), Ellen Heaverlo (EPC DPW), Jana Nemeckova (EPC DPW), Tim Stickle (EPC DPW), Robert Evans (EPC DPW)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Tom Vierzba called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ABSENCES

None

4. MEETING MINUTES

MOTION (Mr. Tobias/Ms. Everitt) to approve minutes of the October 18, 2017 meeting.
MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. COMMISSIONER/CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Mr. Wess had a question in regards to Brownsfield on South Marksheffel Road, on how the contractor was selected. Ms. Irvine explained the process of the selection. Mr. Reid addressed this as well and no further action is needed.
- Commissioner Stan VanderWerf, brought up the importance of HAC members helping to reach out to the community and assist with any and all Toll (Managed Highway) Surveys, all in regards the I-25 GAP project. Rocky Scott and Karen Rowe, both from CDOT, are critical contacts to share public's input on Toll-ways. He strongly believes that Public voice needs to be heard. He also stated that the final decision on this project has not been made yet.

6. STAFF REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION

Jim Reid (Director, Department of Public Works)

- Mr. Reid reminded of the dry season we are in and all the fires that DPW (Department of Public works) is still fighting.
- NO-snow allows DPW to continue with other projects.
- Mr. Reid informed us that DPW (Department of Public Works) received some of the Brine Trailers and will be getting them ready for next year.
- Mr. Reid thanked everyone of a great, productive year together and is looking forward to the 2018.

B. ENGINEERING DIVISION

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

- Road Side Memorial Program
- Ms. Irvine informed us that the County is not required to do Roadside Memorials, therefor the County cannot deny nor approve any roadside memorials at this time on any county roads.
- As the County recognizes the need and wish to honor a life of somebody, the County is also concerned for the safety of the other citizens and realizes the need for a well-planned program.
- Ms. Irvine presented a Resolution Adopting the El Paso County Roadside Memorial Sign Program.
- This program would allow the County to make sure that all Memorials are placed in a safe place and do not create any hazards for the rest of the community.
- The Resolution highlights the whole process of how families can request a sign and maintain the sign.
- If current Memorials are in the County's Right-of-Way and are causing safety issues, the County will contact the families and help them move or remove the Memorials.
- **MOTION (Mr. Wess. Mr. Dills)** to approve the Resolution Adopting the El Paso county roadside Memorial Program. **MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

C. ENGINEERING DIVISION

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

Engineering Highway Updates

- The update of the entire year 2017 will be presented in January.
- Ms. Irvine presented some projects that DPW completed or made a big progress on.
- Oilwell Bridge – substantially completed
- Holtwood Bridge – completed.
- 2017 Asphalt & Concrete Programs for the 3rd and 4th Quarter are all wrapped up.
- Ms. Irvine provided a draft list for the 2018 programs. The final list will be presented for approval in January's meeting.

D. HIGHWAY DIVISION

Troy Wiitala (Highway Division Manager, Department of Public Works)

- Since there has not been much of snow to plow, Highway personnel has focused a lot on the Customer Service Requests, mostly graveling. completed Brentwood and prepared several other roads to start graveling again soon.
- Bridge Deck Replacement was completed on Peyton Highway in Mid-October.
- Mowing is finished for the season.
- Crack Sealing still continues.
- Snow Removal – The Brine Tanks were received as Mr. Reid mentioned. The Highway Division needs to do more preparations to get this program started.
- The Highway division has 5 vacant positions.
- DPW posted for these positions and is conducting interviews.

E. ENGINEERING DIVISION

Jennifer Irvine (County Engineer, Department of Public Works)

John Clack (Construction Service Manager Department of Public Works)

Ms. Irvine re-introduced the County's Pavement Management Program.

- Mr. Clack informs us that the objective of this program is to preserve and extend the life of paved roads and to maintain current roadway operations.
- Mr. Clack states that the cost to maintain paved system is lots greater than the cost to maintain gravel system.
- Mr. Clack also reminds us that the cost to maintain the paved system increases dramatically when the paved roads are not properly maintained.
- Mr. Clack explained how the roads are prioritized and selected for maintenance and improvements.

7. PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON THE I-25 GAP

Tom Vierzba (HAC Chair)

- Mr. Vierzba introduce the proposed Resolution for the I-25 GAP.
- Discussion between HAC members. Pros/cons and suggestions were discussed.
- A special evening meeting to discuss the I-25 Gap was suggested by the Chair Vierzba. He asked to also invite Karen Rove, representative of CDOT.
- **MOTION (Mr. Dills/ Mr. Wess) to approve the resolution in support of the I-25 GAP project. MOTION TO APPROVE CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. AGENDA TOPICS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

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- Mr. Vierzba asked to put the I-25 tolling issue on the January Agenda for discussion. .
- Mr. Vierzba asked for Nomination for the HAC leaderships positions (Election of Officers) and voting on it in February meeting.

- Mr. Vierzba, asked for the list for paving and chip-sealing for year 2018. Action to vote on it.
- Ms. Everitt asked for an update on the Flying Horse North development, specifically on the access points. Mrs. Irvine will have current update at the next HAC meeting.
- Ms. Everitt asked Ms. Irvine to update the HAC calendar for 2018 (revised annual HAC Schedule).
- Ms. Everitt asked for traffic counts on Hodgen Road, past, present and to compare them.

ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jana Nemeckova

Admin Tech for Engineering/Board Liaison – Department of Public Works