

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

MONROE COUNTY FEDERAL AID COMMITTEE

DATE & TIME: November 14, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Monroe County Road Commission
840 S. Telegraph Rd.
Monroe, MI 48161

MEMBERS PRESENT: Matthew Snell, Monroe County Road Commission, Chairman; Patrick Lewis, City of Monroe, Vice-Chairman; Jason Berry, Monroe County Community Planning and Engagement; Florence Buchanan, Monroe County Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Panel; J.T. Hensley Lake Erie Transit; Al VanWashenova, Frenchtown Charter Township; Michelle Zawerucha, MDOT

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Paul Pirrone, Bedford Township

MEMBERS ABSENT: Townships Association Representative

OTHERS PRESENT: Kyle Bryant, Frenchtown Charter Township; Michelle Fedorowicz, SEMCOG; Lisa Householder, TMACOG; James Gardner, City of Luna Pier; Mike Grodi, Erie Township; Brian Pawlik, SEMCOG; Ally Racisz, SEMCOG; Chris Schaffer, City of Monroe; Ryan Simmons, Monroe County Community Planning & Engagement; Jeff Thomas, Whiteford Township; Dave Uhl, Frenchtown Charter Township

1. The meeting for the Monroe County Federal Aid Committee was called to order by Chairman Snell at 10:05 a.m.

Chairman Snell asked the people present at today's meeting to introduce themselves.

Chairman Snell listed the voting members of the Committee. Vice-Chairman Lewis asked if the representative to this Committee from the Townships Association has been voted on. Mr. VanWashenova stated that he did not recall a member being voted on by the Townships Association.

2. Approve Minutes of December 20, 2023 Meeting – Chairman Snell asked for a motion to approve the Minutes.

Motion by Vice-Chairman Lewis, supported by Mr. VanWashenova, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023 Monroe County Federal Aid Committee meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

3. Public Comment – No members of the public wished to make a comment.
4. Old Business – There was no old business conducted.
5. New Business:
 - A. Review of Projects Completed in 2024 – Chairman Snell and Vice-Chairman Lewis reviewed the various projects that the Road Commission and the City of Monroe completed in 2024. Mr. Pawlik asked if the work on North Macomb Street was bike lanes or a wide paved shoulder. Vice-Chairman Lewis replied that they are 6-foot bike lanes and that the street was converted from three lanes to two lanes. Mr. Pawlik stated that SEMCOG's new non-motorized maps will be updated to include the new bike lanes.
 - B. Outline of 2025 Projects – Chairman Snell displayed a map of the Road Commission's 2025 proposed projects and then explained each of the projects. Mr. Thomas asked what the timeframe for completing the roundabout project is. Chairman Snell stated that the road will probably be fully closed for about three months and that it could be completed anytime during the construction season next year.

Vice-Chairman Lewis outlined his project on First Street between Macomb and Winchester, which will have bike lanes that was intended to be done in 2025, but stated that this project would need to be put off due to utility work that needs to be done by the railroad. Instead, he outlined the heavy maintenance project on North Dixie Highway that the City is proposing to do in 2025. Chairman Snell said that this will free up some more money that the Road Commission will now use on some of the roads in the County to add paved shoulders and to patch up some pavement.

Chairman Snell presented a spreadsheet showing where the funding for each of the proposed projects will come from.

- C. Review of Funding Targets – Chairman Snell displayed the spreadsheet showing the proposed funding targets for fiscal years 2025 through 2029. He explained how the urban area monies and the rural money is distributed to the County, and displayed a map showing how the urban areas have changed since the 2020 Census.
- D. Development of the 2026-2029 TIP – Chairman Snell went over the proposed project list for each year from 2026 to 2029.

Mr. VanWashnenova asked the difference between chip sealing versus microsurfacing and the difference in when each would be used. Chairman Snell explained that microsurfacing is better suited for higher volume roads with a lot of commercial traffic compared to chip sealing.

Chairman Snell presented a project list that showed the proposed amount of money that would go into each road project for 2025 and 2026. He then showed pictures of the various roads that illustrated their current condition. Mr. Gardner asked if anything would be done to improve the shoulder of Luna Pier Road. Chairman Snell said that there would not be any additions as there is already a paved shoulder there and that the whole road width will be microsurfaced. He said that there is not a lot of grade width there and that the road was already widened as much as it could be

Monroe County Federal Aid Committee Minutes

back in 2018, and that widening the road more would cost a substantially larger amount of money as it would involve the movement of ditches and utility work.

Vice-Chairman Lewis explained that his proposed Jones Avenue project for 2025 is in response to the LaPlaisance Road non-motorized pathway project that will run from the City of Monroe to Bolles Harbor.

Ms. Buchanan says that it has been a tremendous collaborative effort between the Township and City to coordinate this project. Vice-Chairman Lewis said that the biggest problem will be dealing with the railroads and the railroad crossing issue. He said that, if the City can get its portion built, then it will make future TAP applications for the rest of the project stronger.

Chairman Snell stated that the Road Commission's plans for 2027 through 2029 are still to be determined and that the road network is reevaluated every year. Vice Chairman Lewis said that the City's projects for those years will include the I-75 project and the Elm Street railroad underpass.

Chairman Snell asked for a motion to approve the revision to the 2025 projects, to approve the Road Commission's microsurfacing project for 2026, and to approve the advance construct project for the City of Monroe at Jones Avenue.

Ms. Buchanan asked if the bids are still out for the Loop Trail project. Chairman Snell stated that the bids are in but that the contract has not been rewarded yet. She asked if the Trail would likely be completed in 2025. Chairman Snell stated that he does not think that it will be completed until June of 2026, but that if there is a mild winter that it may be completed ahead of schedule. He said that worst case scenario it will start next spring, but that regardless it probably will not be completed until 2026. Ms. Buchanan stated that she is hoping to tie in the Loop Trail to the upcoming Cornerstone 100 as a more casual ride option.

Motion by Mr. VanWashenova, supported by Mr. Hensley, to approve the revision to the 2025 projects, to approve the Road Commission's microsurfacing project for 2026, and to approve the advance construct project for the City of Monroe at Jones Avenue.

Chairman Snell asked for a roll call vote. (Yes Votes: Berry, Buchanan, Hensley, Lewis, Snell, VanWashenova, Zawerucha; No Votes: None)

MOTION CARRIED

6. Committee Member Items:

A. Updates from SEMCOG –

1. Ms. Racic went over the 2025 amendment schedule. She also said that the call out for CMAQ Carbon Reduction projects is ongoing at the moment and that there will be an upcoming informational meeting about this program.

Ms. Fedorowicz clarified that reductions for the 2025 targets are not changing the targets for the 2026-29 projects. She also said that there will be an upcoming SEMCOG University in January regarding the TAP program.

2. Multi-Modal Planning Tool Presentation – Mr. Pawlik went through the Multi-Modal Planning Tool, why it was built, and how it works. He said that it is a joint tool between SEMCOG and

Monroe County Federal Aid Committee Minutes

MDOT. He stated that the tool could help with road safety audits as well as for general analysis for other projects.

Ms. Buchanan asked if a layperson like herself would be able to use this tool. Mr. Lewis said that the tool is very user-friendly. Ms. Buchanan asked if this tool could be used to look at the possibility of putting bicycle lanes on a road that she is concerned about like Elm St. Mr. Lewis said that this would be difficult for a road like Elm Street to have bicycle lanes, but that he believes that the tool could be tested on any cross-section. Mr. Pawlik said that the tool could even be used for roads in other locations in the country, or for roads that do not even exist yet.

Mr. VanWashenova asked what information that SEMCOG would need from the local municipalities to keep this tool current. Mr. Pawlik replied that as soon as municipalities are comfortable giving information to SEMCOG, they would welcome them sharing it. He said that they are hoping to update the databases at least once a year, but that they could do it quarterly if there is enough staff availability.

Ms. Buchanan asked if SEMCOG is looking for information from every local municipality or from a county wide document. Mr. Pawlik said that SEMCOG would ideally like information from all of the municipalities, but if a county-wide document existed that covered every municipality, then that would be great. He said that if SEMCOG receives a county-wide document, then they would likely confirm with each municipality that everything is covered in that document. He said that they would be willing to assist municipalities with GIS updates if they wanted to do some of that work themselves.

Mr. Gardner said that he would like using the tool for his bike lane project in Luna Pier and Mr. Pawlik said that he would be glad to help out with that. Mr. VanWashenova asked if the tool could help his community qualify for grants. Mr. Pawlik said that the tool would definitely help with this but that it is important to also make sure that all of the stakeholders are involved. He said that it would definitely help an application for TAP funding, though.

- B. Updates from MDOT – Ms. Zawerucha went over some of MDOT’s staffing changes. She mentioned the redistribution funding that was received from FHWA. She mentioned earmarks for 2024 projects and that they are now currently identifying 2025 projects. She said that there will be no buyout program for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. She mentioned that the project planning guide is posted and said that the link is in her handout, and she emphasized that agencies allow enough time for the various approvals that submitted projects need. She said that a few projects currently in the project queue concern her because they do not have ProjectWise folders yet and that she can be reached for assistance on this.

C. Updates from other Committee Members –

1. Vice-Chairman Lewis mentioned the Elm Street underpass project and they finally have grant documents. He said that Mannik and Smith will be the primary consultant and that construction will probably start in 2027. He said that this project was an earmark so it did not need to be approved by the FAC, but that it is an exciting project nonetheless.
2. Ms. Buchanan talked about how the second Cornerstone 100 took place earlier this year. She thanked the Road Commission for its support and mentioned that the riders have complimented most of the roads in the County. She said that they are planning to hold the ride again next

Monroe County Federal Aid Committee Minutes

year. She said that she is looking forward to including the Loop Trail as a family-friendly ride option in 2026. Mr. Gardner said that he has seen a lot of road improvements along the route.

7. Next Meeting Date: Chairman Snell stated that the Committee will meet again sometime in 2025, and that the 2027 projects will be presented then and that he and SEMCOG have also been looking at some proposed bylaw changes.
8. Adjournment: Motion by Vice-Chairman Lewis, supported by Mr. VanWashenova, to adjourn the meeting

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Snell adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.