

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE

May 31, 2006

A special meeting of the Highway Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Wednesday May 31, 2006 at 10:00am in the Conference Room of the DeKalb County Highway Department, DeKalb, Illinois.

Chair LaVigne called the meeting to order at 10:00am. Committee members present were, Vice-Chair Faivre, Ms. Fauci, and Mr. Whelan. Also present were County Engineer William Lorence, Wayne Davey, Highway Department Support Services Manager, Mr. Ralph Griswold, Mr. Carl J. Heinisch, Mr. Raymond Heinisch, Mr. Gerald Latimer, Mr. Robert Rosemeier and Mr. L.G. Sanderson.

Chair LaVigne welcomed everyone and introduced Mr. Carl Heinisch. Mr. Carl Heinisch stated that residents living in and around the intersection of Rich Road and Glidden Road have some concerns about the safety of the traveling public at that location. He provided all in attendance with an outline of the residents' concerns.

Mr. Carl Heinisch stated that due to continuing growth of DeKalb County, traffic is increasing, especially on Rich Road. Since 2001, twenty-four accidents have been recorded by the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department at the intersection of Glidden and Rich Roads through May 10, 2006. Most of these accidents occurred during daylight hours, not weather related, with the majority of these accidents caused by drivers not stopping or stopping then pulling out in front of oncoming traffic. The Sheriff's presence in this area has increased over the years but it appears to have very little effect on the number of accidents that occur. Mr. Heinisch went on to state that during the day cars travel without lights or their lights make less of a statement than they do during the nighttime hours. He feels something needs to be done to attract the attention of the traveling public to this dangerous intersection.

Mr. Ray Heinisch stated that the intersection in question was ranked as the fifth busiest intersection where accidents have occurred during the calendar year 2005. There was some concern over the input of the data into the database from the accident reports. If you were to search the database using the parameters of Rich road and Glidden Road you would miss the accidents reported as Glidden and Rich Road or Glidden Avenue or Annie Glidden Road. If all accidents were included at this intersection this intersection would rank as the second busiest intersection for accidents.

Mr. Griswold indicated that something needs to be done at this intersection. He does not know what the answer is but knows that more needs to be done than is presently in place to improve the safety of the traveling public.

Mr. Latimer stated there are near misses at the intersection all the time. People

pass in the intersection even though they are not supposed to. Something needs to be done to improve the safety of this intersection.

Chair LaVigne inquired if the speed limit could be reduced in this area. Mr. Lorence stated that more than likely if a speed study was completed it would show the 85th percentile at a speed of greater than 55 mph. Ms. Fauci indicated that she is concerned about drivers as they exit our urban area and enter the rural area. It is like they just can't wait to get out in the open and exceed the speed limits.

The citizens would like to see safety improvements made and consideration given to a 4-way stop, improved rumble strips, flashing red and yellow lights, deceleration lanes on Glidden and a no passing zone on Glidden at the Rich Road intersection.

Mr. Lorence indicated that the County was in the process of widening the shoulders on Glidden. The intersection would be reworked but that was not scheduled for at least two to three years in the future. The rumble strips are on the schedule to be refreshed this year. The County can place no passing stripes at the intersection, but not until September when the stripers come through the County. We have been looking at information concerning flashing lights and are seriously considering that option. That intersection does not meet the warrants for a four-way stop. Mr. Faivre asked if these warrants were just suggestions. Mr. Lorence indicated they were warrants established by the Federal Highway Authority and adopted as the National Standards for Traffic Control Devices, which all the States follow.

The Committee thanked everyone for coming and taking the time to bring this information to their attention. Chair LaVigne accepted the report for consideration and appropriate action by the County Engineer. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55am.

Respectfully Submitted

Pat LaVigne
Chair