

Ohio River Bridge Task Force
November 7, 2007

Call to Order: 7:03 PM

Ruby Greathouse made a motion to accept minutes from the October 3, 2007 meeting as presented. Rosey Miller 2nd it.

DVD:

JD Carpenter presented the Video.

Special Guests:

Bob Whip

Ben Hark

Greg Bailey

Jim Soathen

Jim: Congrats to committee for getting together on our presentation and our committee. Wanted to extend an apology (Paul Maddox send a person) no one showed up from that meeting. The office messed up and they (highway dept) are sorry for not showing up. Commission is not dragging feet on this project. HDR Engineering is going to be doing the research. They are going to be moving this project forward. They are not trying to slow this project down. There is funding in place to do the next step. Rumor that the money is marked is for this project is going to be used for another project. It cannot be used for any other project. They cannot take it and use it anywhere else. It has to stay here. There is another bridge but the money set aside cannot be used for it.

Highway (WV) does not have the dollars to do the construction of this bridge. 80/20 match Federal Dollars. Since 1993 the gas tax has not increased. Gov. has allowed the wholesale tax to increase by 4%. WVDOH dollars have not increased. We are spending more than 50% on routine maintenance. They have less money to put in construction. We have to find a way to fund these projects in the future.

Ohio is also a partner with us. WV, Oh, Fed funds. Agreement to do the design study. \$600,000. From Ohio and \$600,000 from WV. To go to the next phase. OH is on board with us. Typically WV funds the 70/80 cost. WV owns to the low water mark.

Future meetings they would like to have a rep here every month. To bring us up to date of the progress. That invitation is open.

Greg:

Agreement process. Thanks committee for letting them come to the meeting. He did not have a full understanding of what our group is. What we are doing is perfect for the process. We are headed to do some environmental study and design work. They will be engaging the community. Committee/BHJ has jump started the process. This study is going to be exactly where it should be. They will be doing mapping and talking to the people. Resources, archaeological, historical, etc. Just because they were not at our last meeting should not show that they are not interested. They go through the selection process. Then they have a

scope with the consultant. Internally they have to get an estimate of what the cost should be. Then the Consultant give their estimate. Then they sit down and hash it out. Very important on a large project that we have to make sure that the environmental process has been met on both states.

1st stage is joint funding WV/OH. We have to have an executed agreement crafted.

Environmental Project then Engineering Project. The more tied down we get the scope. The better off we will be.

Ben:

Environmental

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act. Since it's Fed \$ we have to do an environmental assessment. National Registry/Boundaries, Dangerous Species, residences and businesses. EPA, US cost guard. Comply with their regulations. Permits. Coast guard. 2 or 3 months to get started with HDR Consultants.

What can we do to help (Ruby)?

Total funds estimated at 100 million. (Jim)

Tell everyone how critical this bridge is. Go see Sen. Byrd.

Greg would be happy to host us in Charleston to have a meeting with legislation and Department of Transportation.

Time Frame (JD)

(Greg) We would hope to get them started in 2-3 months (HDR)

Processes environmental 2 years process for environmental decision

Contract plans must start prior to the environmental study being done.

18 months to 2 years to design a bridge.

Back to meeting:

Petitions:

Collecting keep collecting them. Manual copy of Petitions and Resolutions will be housed in Brooke County Court House. Tara will give to Joan or Ruby to file in the EPA's cabinet.

Web Site:

Reviewed web site and offered suggestions

Adjournment: 9:45 PM