



MARATHON COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, August 5, 2021, 9:00 a.m.
Marathon County Courthouse, Wausau, WI

Attendance:	Present	Excused	Absent
Randy Ffrrick, Chair	x		
Sandi Cihlar, Vice-Chair	x		
John Robinson	x		
Jeff Johnson	x		
Alan Christensen	x		
Richard Gumz	x		
Chris Dickinson	x		

Also Present: James Griesbach, Kendra Pergolski, Kevin Lang, Lance Leonhard, Gerry Klein, Andrew Lynch, Brian Grefe, Judy Pagryzinski, Jean Maszk, Mitchel Fox, Michael Puerner, Allen Reimer, Carol Wesley

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Ffrrick at 9:00 a.m.
2. **Public Comment:** Judy Pagryzinski of Ringle, representing Rural Riders, addressed the committee requesting that more roads be open to ATV/UTV use in the county.

Richard Gumz of Dorchester encouraged the committee to take into account the potential loss of revenue the county could be losing due to ATV/UTV users going to other counties due to the open roads.

Allen Reimer of Athens addressed the committee regarding the ATV/UTV use, citing that he also believes more roads should be open due to the volume of tourism Marathon County could receive.

Kevin Clint of Stratford provided the committee with a petition to open roads as well as a petition on behalf of Eau Pleine River Rats ATV/UTV Club also expressing support of opening county roads; additionally, they requested that hours of operation be extended to 24 hours a day.

Carol Wesley of the Achieve Center, Wausau, approached the committee regarding the 28th Avenue corridor. Wesley stated that the Achieve Center currently has plans for expansion with digging to begin next month. The loss of right away would be detrimental to their expansion.

3. **Approval of the Minutes of the July 1, 2021, Infrastructure Committee Meetings**
MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY CIHLAR, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 2021, INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
 - A. Review of Right of Way Corridor Along 28th Avenue Potential Sale/Acquisition
Discussion: Commissioner Griesbach reviewed with the committee the process by which the county acquires property. Griesbach explained to the committee that the 28th Avenue Corridor in question was purchased with the mentality that there would be significant growth in said area in which a separate corridor would be necessary. The plan, developed in 2005, sought to prepare for such growth using the rationale that a separate corridor would allow for better traffic flow. Conversation between committee members ensued with the most viable points being: caution should be taken if the intent is to deviate from the 2005 plan due to the costs associated with later acquiring a corridor if needed vs. ridding the county of unnecessary land purchases such as this one due to the original aspirations of growth in the area being depleted. Griesbach stated there is the ability to work with affected businesses, in this case The Achieve Center, to potentially develop a solution, e.g., a retaining wall. Committee members noted the importance of working with local governments, such as inviting them to future meetings to discuss their affected areas.
Action: N/A
Follow through: N/A
 - B. Use of ATV/UTV on County Highway System
Discussion: Commissioner Griesbach reviewed with the committee the current process for which roads are opened/approved and the factors of approval. The committee discussed connectivity being a major factor, cost of

signage, policing/enforcement, and implementation. Committee members discussed the need for a better mapping system including input from the local townships/villages. Leonhard reminded the committee that there is merit in the current evaluation process and that it would be beneficial to revisit the current criteria. In addition, he also recommended a map be created that would use county highways as connector segments to trails but would also respect local control of those townships that have chosen not to open their roads. Griesbach stated that twenty-two separate segments of county roads have been opened based on the current safety criteria with only three being denied. Griesbach also posed the question to the committee as to where the funds for new signage would come from as there is not currently room in the budget.

Action: MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY GUMZ, TO OPEN ALL ROADS UNLESS OTHERWISE POSTED. – MOTION WITHDRAWN.

MOTION BY CHRISTENSEN, SECOND BY GUMZ, TO OPEN ROADS THAT HAVE A TRAFFIC COUNT OF LESS THAN ONE THOUSAND PEOPLE PER DAY.

MOTION BY JOHNSON, SECOND BY CIHLAR, TO TABLE THIS TOPIC UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through: N/A

5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:

A. Amending Sec. 7.125, Gen. Code of Ord., Relating to the Designation of ATV/UTV Routes and Trails and Regulation of ATV/UTV Operation within Marathon County

Discussion: Tabled until next meeting.

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion:

A. Ransomware Presentation

Discussion: Tabled until the next meeting.

B. WCA Update

Discussion: Robinson updated the committee regarding new General Transportation Aids in the Infrastructure bill as well as noting correlated amendments to statutes.

C. CCIT Update

Discussion: Report provided. Klein noted the intent to have costs developed regarding the new financial software this week to present to the county board.

D. Commissioner's Report

Discussion: Griesbach updated the committee with current projects and requested that a pay evaluation be done by the county.

7. Announcements:

A. Future meetings and location, agenda topics
September 9, 9:00 AM, Marathon County Courthouse

8. Adjourn

**MOTION TO ADJOURN BY GUMZ, SECOND BY ROBINSON. MOTION CARRIED.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 11:01 AM.**

Minutes prepared

By Kendra Pergolski on August 7, 2021.