

**PORTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018
1:30 P.M.**

(The entire meeting is available to watch on the Porter County website.)

This is a Special meeting of the Porter County Board of Commissioners convened at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 15, 2018 in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Administration Center.

Those present were: Commissioners Jeff Good, Laura Blaney, County Attorney Scott McClure; Administrative Assistant Rhonda Young and Recording Secretary Kathy Merle. Jim Biggs was not in attendance.

Call to Order/Pledge

Com. Good, Good Afternoon, welcome to the Porter County Board of Commissioners' Special Meeting. It's Thursday, February 15th, 2018. Com. Biggs is on route and hopefully he will be able to join us before we get done with our short agenda, but we have been in contact with him.

COMMISSIONERS

INDOT – A Project Coordination Contract for new road construction for the Willowcreek Road Corridor study

Com. Good, We have a press release that we will be sending out to the press that has a lot of information in it as to what our purpose is and why we're doing it. We're going to be studying the end of Willowcreek extension from the Portage location where the road ends all the way to 130. So we're stopping at 130, it's about a mile and a half to a two mile piece of road. What this study will do is it will be the route study for where that area goes through, it is the study for where it would go. So it the very first step in many more steps to come. This is a very long process. It takes quite a while to go through all of this. As we move through the process there will be many opportunities for public input. There will be many opportunities for everybody to weigh in, but this is the first step that we need to take. The reason that we're doing it now it's from a timing standpoint to get your match money in in time to be able qualify for the match money. We're running up against the deadline for that. So we felt that we needed to move now to make sure that protected that money that has been set aside for us for this study. This study will be done with federal match dollars. We don't the percentages of the federal match dollars yet because that is determined once the project starts but today is sort of a new step for us. It's a big step for the County. I think everybody knows that for a long time we have been needing to work on another North/South corridor within the County more on the west side rather than the east side. We think it will open up a lot of new areas for a lot of great things to happen. And again I think by doing it this way, by doing the 700 North to 130 option will give us a lot of opportunity to study this area before we take the next 6 miles which would be all of the way out to 30. Did I forget anything in here?

Atty. McClure, The only thing I would add is this is the route study so there will be multiple different routes that would come out of the study and it also gets you the environmental and financial impact of each one of those routes. So there will be public input, all of those things going into the study. It's not just one route it's multiple taking in different considerations.

Com. Good, There is also a whole process that you have to work with INDOT. There have been teams that have submitted proposals to do the engineering work. This once again is the first step of that where the teams have been put forth. Now there is a whole grading process that needs to be happening at the State level and the local level. Like I said there is a very very long progressive period of things that we have to do to make this happen and this is the first one in order to be able to decide where a road goes you have to study it first and that is what we're going to be doing here and this is how all roads are done within this type of thing. I would also like to point out too that for those of you who are very familiar with NIRPC, Northern Indiana Regional Transportation Authority I think it's the 2028 vision report for NIRPC this project is No. 3 on the list. So it is a very highly ranked project. It's one that our regional planners have wanted to see done for a long time. It has been talked about for a long time, but this is a very highly rated project. That is what we will be doing today is acting on the project coordination contract which we would execute and then this would sent down State at the point

to be graded and the process would start down there. So that is what we would be voting on today. Any questions?

Com. Biggs, No.

Com. Blaney, moved to approve project coordination contract, Com. Good, second, motion carried.

Com. Good, We are now moving forward on the Willowcreek study options. It's a great day. I'm looking forward to this. I think it's going to take us a while but I think it is the right direction that this County needs to go and I think it was reported on this summer by The Times there was an article that was put out there that talked about how it will relieve a lot of pressure off a lot of the local roads down here. I think it is the right time. Is there anyone wishing to come forward and address this Board?

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PORTER COUNTY, INDIANA

Jeffrey J. Good

Laura M. Blaney

Jim Biggs

Attest: _____
Vicki Urbanik, Auditor