

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING
October 31, 2014

The Steuben County Commissioners met at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, October 31, 2014 in the Commissioners Room of the Steuben Community Center. Present this day were Commissioners Ronald L. Smith, James A. Crowl and Loretta S. Smart. Also present were Bill Boyer, Eric Henion and Amanda Cope from the City of Angola, Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer and Engineers from Donohue/Herceg & Associates, DLZ/VS Engineers and American Structurepoint.

This was a meeting for the three (3) highest scoring engineering firms on the 200 N/SR 827 project to address the Steuben County Board of Commissioners and the City of Angola.

The first engineering firm to present was Donohue/Herceg & Associates. Nitin Timble introduced the team members in attendance, Ken Miller, Greg Moushon, Ross Ruckel and Larry Misner. Mr. Timble then addressed the Commissioners and the City of Angola with a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Timble went through and explained the project design team and the support staff that would be involved in this project. He further advised the Commissioners and the City of Angola on the teamwork, project team interaction, detail tracking and the approach to the project by Donohue/Herceg & Associates. Mr. Timble stated that if Donohue/Herceg is selected for this project, the team members will be the same as they were for the 200W/200N project.

Mr. Timble further explained the critical elements of the CR 200N Project including coordination with the City of Angola, the County and INDOT, Wetlands, Railroad, Sign Distance Deficiencies, SR 827 impact, future CR 200N needs, utility coordination and drainage.

The second engineering firm to present was DLZ/VS Engineers. Jay Stankiewicz introduced the team members in attendance, John Nelson, Brad Daley, Sanjay, Jody Cobelance and Steve Metzger. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that DLZ and VS have a strong presence in Steuben County and a strong relationship with INDOT. He also stated that they are a full service firm and can handle all the services on this project except appraisals.

Sanjay from VS Engineers addressed the Board of Commissioners and the City of Angola. He stated that VS has partnered with DLZ for more than fifteen (15) years, they are friendly competitors and they also work well together.

John Nelson, Transportation Engineer, explained the complexities of this project including the railroad, wetlands, reimbursable utilities, right of way implications, the fact that there is a state route involved and the high profile users including the Fairview Missionary Church and Glendarin Golf Course.

Steve Metzger discussed the wetlands and the woodlands and the impacts including mitigation options.

Jay Stankiewicz stated that the INDOT right of way process has changed recently and no longer are the documents submitted to the district at certain intervals. Mr. Stankiewicz stated that the central office has taken over the review of those documents. He also discussed the drainage issues with the project and stated that he has been in contact with Larry Gilbert regarding options available.

John Nelson stated that they have visited the site on several occasions and feel familiar with the 30,000 foot view and the challenges presented with it.

Jay Stankiewicz stated that they have an acquisition agent in South Bend for the right of way purchases; however, they also work with other companies as well.

Jennifer Sharkey asked if they have a specific person that manages utility coordination. John Nelson stated that he takes care of that and Sanjay, VS Engineers, has someone that assists in that process as well.

Jay Stankiewicz stated that VS will be assisting with the survey and the roadway design with the MOT component or permitting, utility coordination and if needed, they would help on the right of way engineering. Mr. Stankiewicz also stated that there is an internal agreement when it comes to the percentage sharing. Sanjay stated that with the working relationship with DLZ they look for smart, easily split opportunities to share, they do not want overlap or any duplication of efforts that cause extra effort by team members and extra cost to the customer.

Sanjay stated that this is a local project and 90% of it will be done out of the Fort Wayne Office and 10% out of the South Bend Office.

The third engineering firm to present was American Structurepoint. Craig Parks addressed the Commissioners and thanked them for allowing American Structurepoint to present their qualifications. Mr. Parks introduced the team members consisting of himself, Scott Crites, Breanna Hope, Natalie Parks and Joe Fragomeni.

Scott Crites addressed the Commissioners and stated that American Structurepoint has been working on the first phase of the corridor and realizes that the second phase is different than the first phase. Mr. Crites spoke about the transition from the first phase to the second phase and how to tie the two together.

Mr. Crites also spoke about the portion of the project that includes the intersection of 200 N and SR 827 and the future of that intersection.

He stated that some of the other issues with this project are the existing railroad crossing, wetlands, right of way acquisition and utility coordination.

Breanna Hope addressed the Commissioners about the wetlands. Ms. Hope stated that a red flag investigation was done which gives an idea of what environmental issues could arise. She stated that similar to Phase I, wetlands were a big thing that popped up. Ms. Hope stated that a full delineation would be done and boundaries identified to make sure the representations are appropriate and to verify that the wetlands are there. She stated that the goal is to minimize impact to less than .10 of an acre. Being less than a .10 of an acre, means mitigation would not have to be provided; however, permits would have to be obtained. If impact is over .10 of an acre, mitigation would have to be provided which adds time and expense. With forested wetlands, you have to mitigate to a 4 to 1 ratio, obtain the new site, design it and monitor it to make sure the new site is successful.

Natalie Parks addressed the Commissioners about the utility coordination. Ms. Park stated that she did the utility coordination for Phase I of this project and has relationships with the utilities that will be involved in this project. She also stated that she knows some of the complications that may arise due to working on the first phase. Ms. Parks stated that she is also the railroad coordinator. She stated that she will work closely with the INDOT Fort Wayne District in coordinating with the Northeastern Indiana Railroad.

Scott Crites stated that they are going to try to hold the north side of the roadway and miss the wetlands but do impact the overhead electric on the south side. Mr. Crites stated that they plan on doing that because based on the information they have received from NIPSCO on the first phase it appears they do not have an easement.

Mr. Crites stated that the second phase is a little less right of way intensive as far as the number of parcels that need to be acquired. He stated that the current right of way was not recorded in a manner that is acceptable to INDOT so the existing right of way will have to be reacquired. For reacquisition he stated that they set the apparent right of way at the edge of the existing asphalt pavement and that is where the new right of way will be brought into. Everything under the asphalt pavement is a dollar (\$1.00) for acquisition and everything beyond that is full market value.

Scott Crites spoke about how to maintain access to local residents while the project is underway. He stated that when they reach the railroad crossing, the roadway will be closed down for a period of time. Mr. Crites stated that luckily there is SR 127, SR 827, Harcourt Road and CR 300 N to help in the detouring process.

Mr. Crites stated that if the curb and gutter section is used up until the golf course entrance, with Phase 1 they set the storm sewer deep enough that they knew they could tie it in if needed. He stated that it appears that

most of the existing drainage goes to the railroad and follows the railroad and that would be maintained. Craig Parks stated that typically they try to maintain existing draining patterns.

Craig Parks thanked the Commissioners for giving American Structurepoint the chance to present their vision for Phase 2 of the corridor.

There were no other questions and the meeting was adjourned.

STEUBEN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ronald L. Smith, President, South District

James A. Cowl, Vice President, Middle District

Loretta S. Smart, North District

Attest: _____
Kim Koomler, Steuben County Auditor

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