

**Facilities and Infrastructure Committee Special Meeting
March 4, 2008
Courthouse Conference Room**

Approved 4/17/08

Present: L. McBean-Clairborne, Chair; K. Luz Herrera; M. Koplinka-Loehr; D. Randall; D. Kiefer
Staff: E. Marx, Commissioner of Planning and Public Works; R. Nicholas, Airport; C. Chock, Legislature; K. Fuller, Deputy Clerk of the Legislature
Guest: Jim Morrissey, C&S Engineers, Inc.

Call to Order

Mrs. McBean-Clairborne, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:07 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. - AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL CONSULTANT AGREEMENT NO. 9 WITH C&S ENGINEERS, INC., FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PARALLEL TAXIWAY RELOCATION (PHASE III) PROJECT – ITHACA TOMPKINS REGIONAL AIRPORT

It was MOVED by Ms. Herrera, seconded by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr. Mr. Nicholas explained that due to a lack of adequate funding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has requested that the Parallel Taxiway Relocation Phase III Project be scaled back with a Phase IV taking place during 2009 to complete the project. The Committee discussed the specific aspects of the amended project, noting that Phase III would provide for the preliminary work for the new lighting, with the actual installation of the lights taking place during Phase IV. In addition, it was explained the changes are being made solely at the request of the FAA and it is not a decision made by the County or its engineers. Two designs are being presented, however, it is believed the FAA would approve the less expensive project due to funding limitations. In response to Ms. Chock’s question, there is no restriction on traffic at the airport as a result of the project.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes –0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, through Resolution No. 119 dated July 5, 2005, the Legislature awarded a contract to C&S Engineers, Inc., to design the mandated Relocation of the Parallel Taxiway (Phase III) project, and

WHEREAS, the design was completed and the County has been awaiting funding from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to construct said Parallel Taxiway Relocation (Phase III) project, and

WHEREAS, the FAA has applied for Discretionary Funding to complete this third and final phase during 2008, and

WHEREAS, though grant money will be made available for this project, it appears unlikely it will be sufficient to complete the entire project, and

WHEREAS, the FAA has asked the County to authorize a re-design of the project that will postpone certain elements of the original construction plan until a later date and thus reduce expected construction costs, and

WHEREAS, the re-design work is necessary to deal with consequent changes to elevations, drainage patterns, lighting, signage, and significant revisions to contract drawings and bid documents, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That Supplemental Agreement No. 9 with C&S Engineers, Inc., for additional design services in connection with the Parallel Taxiway Relocation (Phase III) project at a cost of \$45,167 be approved, and that the County Administrator is hereby authorized to sign the contract documents and the Finance Director is authorized to make payments until Federal and State reimbursements are received,

RESOLVED, further, That the budget for said Supplemental Agreement No. 9 is as follows:

Federal Aviation Administration	(95%)	\$42,909.00
New York State Department of Transportation	(2.5%)	\$ 1,129.00
Airport Operational Budget	(2.5%)	\$ 1,129.00
Total		\$45,167.00

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-2

RESOLUTION NO. – URGING A GREATER STATE COMMITMENT TO MAINTAINING THE SAFETY AND INTEGRITY OF LOCAL HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

It was MOVED by Mr. Koplinka-Loehr, seconded by Mr. Randall. Mr. Koplinka-Loehr said this is one of many suggested resolutions coming from New York State Association of Counties regarding concerns within the proposed State budget. He was informed it would be better to relay the concerns to Albany as soon as possible.

A voice vote on the resolution resulted as follows: Ayes – 5; Noes – 0. RESOLUTION ADOPTED.

WHEREAS, Tompkins County is responsible for 304.4 miles of roadways, and 109 bridges, and

WHEREAS, a safe and efficient highway infrastructure is necessary for trade, economic development, and revitalization, and functioning of our schools, businesses, health, and hospital facilities, emergency responders, as well as the general traveling public, and

WHEREAS, the State’s Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs) funds are vital to the Tompkins County Highway Department in order to maintain and upgrade important components of the local transportation system, and to purchase necessary highway equipment and materials, and

WHEREAS, the level of CHIPs funding in the current five-year capital plan falls well short of what is needed to assist counties in addressing the ever-deteriorating conditions of local roads and bridges, and

WHEREAS, while structural deficiencies in the State Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund (DHBTF) and expenditures for non-transportation infrastructure construction and maintenance purposes threaten the flow of capital funds to this vital, local transportation funding program, and

WHEREAS, the Marchiselli Funding Program is the State component of a successful Federal, State, and local partnership, delivering transportation improvements to federally aidable local-highway projects, and

WHEREAS, Marchiselli Funding has decreased and this means the County may not be able to take full advantage of the availability of federal funding, and many qualifying projects go unfunded, and

WHEREAS, the demands on the County-owned 109 bridges, too many of which are in aging and deteriorating condition, necessitate the establishment of a new funding commitment by the State to a local bridge and culvert program, and

WHEREAS, while the local system remains woefully under-funded, costs of maintenance, fuel, equipment, and materials continue to increase and the local infrastructure continues to deteriorate, making it necessary to substantially increase CHIPs funding to meet today’s and future needs and make up for the deleterious effects of inflation, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, on recommendation of the Facilities and Infrastructure Committee, That Tompkins County appreciates the Governor’s recognition of the construction and maintenance needs of local bridges and supports additional, recurring, and dedicated revenues to fund bridge and highway projects as a good first step in addressing the critical needs of the local transportation system as long as the financial mechanisms will ensure the integrity and long-term viability of the State Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund,

RESOLVED, further, That Tompkins County supports proposals to restore the fiscal integrity of the State Dedicated Highway and Bridge Trust Fund by phasing-out the responsibility for non-capital expenditures, which are unrelated to construction and repair of transportation infrastructure,

RESOLVED, further, That Tompkins County urges the Governor and the Legislature of the State of New York to support increases in local transportation programs, particularly for CHIPs and Marchiselli, to ensure the safety of the local transportation systems, which are so important to the State’s economy and the thousands of citizens who rely on local roads every day to get them to and from their places of employment,

RESOLVED, further, That the Tompkins County Legislature shall forward copies of this Resolution to Governor Spitzer, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

SEQR ACTION: TYPE II-20

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Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Fuller, Deputy Clerk.