

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

DATE: December 9, 2025
LOCATION: Kendall County Highway Department
MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Peterson, Dan Koukol, Scott Gengler, Brooke Shanley, and Zach Bachmann
STAFF PRESENT: Michele Riley and Francis Klaas
ALSO PRESENT: PJ Fitzpatrick

The committee meeting convened at 3:31 P.M. with roll call of committee members. Gengler absent. Quorum established.

Motion Shanley; second Bachmann, to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion Shanley; second Bachmann, to approve the Highway Committee minutes from November 10, 2025. Motion approved unanimously.

Motion Bachmann; second Shanley, to recommend approval of a Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code appropriating \$500,000 for the purchase of bulk rock salt and maintenance of highways. Koukol asked how the Highway Department was doing with salt this year and if all this material would be going in the dome. Klaas described this resolution as an annual appropriation allowing the County to use Motor Fuel Taxes for the purchase of salt. Not all of the money will be used for salt. The Department has ordered 3,000 tons of salt for this winter. Purchases can go up to 120% over that amount, if needed. Unit price is \$71.25/ton. All salt purchases should not exceed \$250,000. The balance of the money appropriated will be used for other maintenance activities such as crack filling and pavement markings. Peterson asked Klaas if he thought this amount would last for the whole season. Klaas stated that, even if it doesn't, the Department could tap into the community reserves in the igloo, where they have several thousand tons of salt in reserve. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Gengler arrived at the meeting at 3:34 P.M.

Motion Shanley; second Bachmann, to recommend approval of an Ordinance for the Establishment of Altered Speed Zones on Various County Highways. Klaas described the different items in the ordinance. A couple of the speed zones were for new County Highways that didn't exist before... like Collins Road and Minkler Road. He wasn't sure that the County would legally need to establish speed zones for these highways, but he thought it would be a good idea to codify them. The speed limits in the ordinance are the same as the current posted limits, as well as the design speed of the roadways. Other speed zones were established based on 50th percentile prevailing speed in accordance with the new Policy on Establishing and Posting Speed Limits on the State Highway System, published by IDOT in June, and adopted by the County Board on October 21, 2025. Koukol questioned the proposed 50 mph speed limit on Plainfield Road. Current limit is 55 mph. He referred to a discussion a couple months ago about not changing the limit on Plainfield Road. Klaas referred to the new policy and how it considers the context of the roadway and uses a 50th percentile speed instead of an 85th percentile speed. This provided for a slightly lower recommended speed limit. The committee discussed the

number of crashes at intersections on Plainfield and also in the Oswego Plains area, where the roadway curves a lot and sight distance isn't as good. Shanley pointed out that fines would increase with the lower speed. Bachmann concurred that it should discourage people from driving too fast. Peterson countered with the example of Millington & Millhurst intersection, where you would think that a stop sign would make people stop; but it just doesn't. The County then has to spend inordinate amounts of money to install a roundabout to keep people from getting hurt. He just didn't think it made sense. Committee members discussed types of accidents at different locations along Plainfield Road. Gengler pointed out that Plainfield Road is diagonal and intersecting roadways come in at weird angles, making it problematic. Bachmann emphasized the importance of lowering the speed, even if only 5 mph, as it would encourage people to drive slower and would discourage serious speeders due to higher fines and subsequent court appearances. Gengler also asked if these were County Engineer recommendations. Klaas confirmed. Shanley was supportive of the recommendations. Gengler asked about the posting of new speed limits. Klaas confirmed that speed limits are currently posted at 55 mph. If approved, those signs would all be changed to 50 mph. Motion approved by roll call vote:

Shanley: Yes
Koukol: No
Gengler: Yes
Bachmann: Yes
Peterson: No

In Other Business, Klaas reported that HR Green and Kendall County are receiving a Special Achievement Award from ACEC for the Collins Road Extension project. PJ Fitzpatrick discussed the award from American Council of Engineering Companies. Engineering firms are encouraged to submit projects that have excellent design features or other unique attributes. A couple of years ago, Eldamain Road was one of the finalists for the top award in Illinois. There will be a big awards banquet on February 18, 2026 to honor awardees. Committee directed Klaas to send out a notice to all County Board Members to see if they wanted to attend.

Koukol reported that he had tried to contact the residents who live at the intersection of Plainfield Road and Simons Road, to alert them to the fact that the County was planning an intersection improvement at this location. He hasn't heard back from them yet, but will contact them again after the holidays. Committee discussed some of the other problematic intersections in Kendall County, including the Route 47 & Walker Road intersection.

Peterson asked if there had been any recent activity at the Route 47 & Ament Road intersection. Bachmann noted that Jed Davis was working on this issue. Gengler was certain that there used to be more school zone signing at this intersection. Peterson agreed. They were not sure what happened to this signing. Peterson confirmed that Ament Road is a township highway and Route 47 is a State Highway. Bachmann thought that letting Jed Davis work on this matter might be the most effective, as he works well with IDOT.

Gengler asked how speed limits were set at the State level, and if there was a committee that determined the speed limits. Klaas thought that there are simply IDOT District personnel that determined speed limits. He wasn't sure if the Regional Engineer needed to sign off on the changes; but he didn't think it was similar to the procedure for County Boards, who set speed limits for both County Highways and Township Highways by ordinance.

Motion Gengler; second Bachmann to forward Highway Department bills for the month of December in the amount of \$108,073.19 to the Finance Committee for approval.

Motion Shanley; second Bachmann, to adjourn the meeting at 3:57 PM. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis C. Klaas", written in a cursive style.

Francis C. Klaas, P.E.
Kendall County Engineer

Action Items

1. Resolution for Maintenance Under the Illinois Highway Code appropriating \$500,000 for the Purchase of Bulk Rock Salt and Maintenance of Highways
2. Ordinance for the Establishment of Altered Speed Zones on Various County Highways