

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORK SESSION
Commissioner's Room / Government Services Building
Tuesday, March 6, 2018, 8:30 a.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order. Members present: Gillen, Docken, Malecha and Miller. Steve Bauer was absent. Jeff Docken chaired the meeting. No members of the public spoke.

II. HIGHWAY: Dennis Luebbe

Proposed Highway Designation & Jurisdictional Changes

Highway Engineer Dennis Luebbe presented the Board with an update of the proposed Highway Designation and Jurisdiction Change.

On June 13, 2017 the County Board adopted Resolution #17-023 and established a portion of Baseline Road as County Road #76. Subsequently the Board programmed portions of Acorn Trail and Baseline Road for complete reconstruction in 2019, and 2020. These two projects total 4.3 miles of roadway. To provide funding for these two reconstruction projects, a combination of State Aid funds and County Sales Tax funds have been identified.

In order to utilize State Aid funds, the 4.3 miles of road segments must be designated as State Aid, not County Road. Because Rice County's State Aid mileage is limited by State Rule at 282.2 miles, and all but 0.2 miles of this is already designated, it is necessary to adjust existing State Aid designations to allow for these new designations to be made.

Principal requirements of a State Aid route are that it must terminate at another State Aid route, a State Highway, or a Municipal State Aid Street. Additionally, State Aid routes should provide continuity to and between communities and provide an integrated and coordinated highway system. Lastly, State Aid routes are subject to the final approval of the Mn-DOT Commissioner. It is financially beneficial to have all available State Aid mileage designated, so the proposal has been developed to achieve this.

Most changes are in designation only, however a State Aid 'turn back' to the City of Lonsdale is proposed. This turn back could be accomplished by an agreement with the City. The City has indicated support of this turn back. Note that the designation of a road does not materially effect maintenance efforts or service levels. Additional jurisdictional and designation adjustments are likely as the County continues to respond to growth and long term planning needs.

This item will be brought to the County Board on March 13, 2018 for formal action, pending action by the City of Lonsdale. Mn-DOT has reviewed the plan and finds it acceptable. The Transportation Committee has also reviewed and supports the proposed plan.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Malecha, seconded by Gillen, carried 4-0, to adjourn the meeting.