

John C. Ackerman

Tazewell County Board

Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service

August 27th, 2009

***** News Update *****

Cooper Road Grant for Deer Creek Township

Last night it was announced that Senator Dan Rutherford has awarded a \$300,000 grant to Deer Creek Township for the repair and upgrading of Cooper Road in Northeastern Tazewell County. This grant request was processed by Deer Creek Township with assistance from John Anderson and the Tazewell County Highway Department.

Last year while visiting with each of the townships in District Three, the issue of funding road work projects came up in every single township as a top priority. The issue in many of the townships is with a shift in population trends and driving habits, we have seen a large increase in traffic on township roads, but unfortunately no increase in the funding for the maintenance of these township roadways.

One roadway that was in desperate need of repair is Cooper Road in Deer Creek Township. Over the past decade this rural township road with a few hundred cars at most has become a major county crossroad for traffic from Northern Tazewell County looking to get to Bloomington and the I-74 interchange at Goodfield. Over a thousand cars a day pass along this township road that has one taxpayer living on it. A large part of this increase is from State Farm Corporate employees relocating to Tazewell County but still working in Bloomington.

With all of increased traffic and no new funds to repair the increased damage from the increase, the roadway has quickly fallen into disrepair. Currently, it is nothing more than a gravel road in some parts. Even with this, the amount of traffic has not decreased but I would say has increased due to the time savings by using this county "short cut".

With this in mind, Tazewell County Highway Engineer John Anderson and the Deer Creek Township Road Commissioner Thomas Wallace applied to Illinois Senator Dan Rutherford for a grant worth \$300,000. The Tazewell County Transportation Committee, of which I am a member, discussed this at our last meeting and several of the members stated that they would contact the Senator's office and voice support for this project. We also discussed other township roadways that are in a similar situation.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the Senator for noticing the immediate need of this funding. I also want to recognize the efforts of John Anderson and Thomas Wallace in identifying and communicating the issue that has been developing and also for finding and submitting the for the grant request. As always, I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you on the Tazewell County Board and if I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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