Bond County Transit Facility Groundbreaking

November 1, 2012

Bond County Senior Center, Greenville, Illinois - www.bondseniors.org

At 102 Bowman Industrial Drive, Greenville Illinois

This was a big day in the history of Bond County Transit. Construction should be complete by early 2013.

[photos by rainofhearts]

Welcome by Doane Bonney, Chairman, Bond County Senior Center

The Korte Company, Tindall Construction, Bond County Senior Center Board, City and County Leaders
Anna Oestreich - Executive Director, Bond County Senior Center

The Korte Company, Tindall Construction, Bond County Senior Center Director and Chairman of the board
Senior Center board members

City and County leaders

Bond County Transit Staff and Regular Riders
The wait was long, but ground was finally broken Thursday morning for the construction of a building for Bond County Transit. A crowd gathered along Bowman Industrial Drive in Greenville, immediately west of the Illinois Department of Transportation property, for the special event.

Anna Oestreich, administrator of the transit system, said work on the project began about three years ago, working with the state and federal governments to obtain funding and complete paperwork.

During Thursday's event, most of those speaking about the project complimented Oestreich for her work in making it become a reality.

Immediately after the ground-breaking ceremony, the contractor for the building, Tindall Construction, began dirt work at the site.

Oestreich said if the weather cooperates, she hopes that the transit-system building will be in use in early 2013.

Several individuals spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony. Donna Romney, chairman of the Bond County Senior Center, told those gathered, "This is a very important occasion. It takes a lot of people to make something like this happen.

"First and foremost, it has to start as a dream and that started in Anna Oestreich's heart and mind. I suspect that over the time this has been going on, there's been about two foot of documentation that's been prepared by Anna and her staff to get this thing passed through the different levels of bureaucracy."

Romney said that the senior center board's job in the project was easy. "Just ask Anna the questions, she answered them and then we passed it onto the county board," he said.

He concluded by talking about what the project means to the people of the county. "The services that will be provided by this building will help a lot of people," Romney advised. "Anybody in the county can take advantage of this transportation service. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing."

Brook Williford, county board chairman, also praised Oestreich. "She has been the blood, sweat and tears for this project for many years and I want to commend her and her staff for all the work done."

Williford also recognized his predecessor as chairman of the county board, Bill Pranke, for helping get the ball rolling on the project.

"We've all seen an expansion of the transit system over the years. It's helping bring people to hospitals, to schools. This will only enhance that and provide a great resource for the county," he stated.

Williford added that the people of Bond County have also been instrumental in the success of the transit system and will continue to benefit from it.

Greenville City Manager Dave Willey commented on the road taken to reach the groundbreaking ceremony. "Anna Oestreich drove this train and got us here," he stated. He said that while the city reviewed plans and approved some resolutions of support for the project, all of the hard work was done by Anna and her staff.

"We've been very happy to have this (the transit building) within our city limits," Willey concluded.

Tedd Korte, president and CEO of The Korte Company, said his firm is glad to be partners with Bond County for the building. The Korte Company is the construction manager for the project. He presented Oestreich with a plaque to commemorate the construction of the transit building.

Scott Garman, project manager for Tindall Construction, reported that his firm was ready to begin work.

Oestreich, who is also executive director of the Bond County Senior Center, spoke to those gathered.

"The mission of Bond County Transit is to provide safe, affordable and convenient transportation to all residents of Bond County," she began.

"The development of the system is due to the vision of the board of directors of the Bond County Senior Center and the Bond County Board. "Since becoming a general public operator with a single vehicle in 2000, we have grown to a system with 13 vehicles with two more expected. In transit terms, we are still small, but continually growing."

Last year, the transit system provided approximately 30,000 trips for residents of the county. They covered over $280,000 miles. "Today marks a significant milestone for Bond County Transit," Oestreich continued. "The construction of this facility, dedicated to transportation for Bond County residents, shows that we have made a commitment to improving the lives of our residents through increased mobility."

"Access to education, employment, medical services, nutrition, shopping and more means a better quality of life. It also leads to improved economic development for our community."

"The building will allow us to provide more efficient service through desperately needed upgrade dispatch and communication facilities. The protected areas for vehicles will extend vehicle life and permit a safe area for detailing, inspections and minor maintenance on site."

(Please turn to page 10)
Transit Building

Oestreich expressed appreciation to the Illinois Department of Transportation for awarding a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). She said that without the funding the facility would not be possible.

She stated, "We are also deeply grateful to the dedicated staff of the county, personnel and elected officials who daily work so diligently to provide this service to Bond County. Nothing gets done without them."

"We also thank the public for their support, their input, and their patience as we continue to grow the system for their future use."

Oestreich expressed gratitude to the Bond County Board of Health which is providing the land for the transit building under a lease of the property for $1 per year.

(Darryl Rison, also a member of the senior center board, also gave praise to Oestreich for her work on the project. He concluded by commenting, "Hallmark Cards say the best things in life are worth waiting for, so this should be one unbelievable building."

The county obtained $149,000 of state and federal funds for the transit building. This included $138,000 from ARRA. The state is providing the remainder of the money from the Illinois Job Noah capital construction program.

The transit building will not be a location for area residents to go to for a ride. Passengers will continue to be picked up at their homes or at various transit stops.

The structure will include office space, a reception/dispensing area, a conference/training area, restrooms and a kitchenette.

The parking area will be large enough for a wash bay and the storage of more than 10 transit vehicles.

There will also be space for a power-wash equipment, an emergency wash station, a wash bay, parts storage area, exhaust ventilation system, emergency lighting, lighted exit signs, three-phase power, and a tool and small parts room.

Outside of the building will be parking for transit vehicles that are not parked inside, employees parking and limited public parking.

(Continued from page 1)

GROUND BREAKING MOMENT: Todd Korte (left), president and CEO of The Kane Company, presents a plaque to Anna Oestreich, administrator of Bond County Transit, in commemoration of the start of the project to erect a building for the transit. Behind Oestreich is Greenville City Manager Dave Willey.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE BOND COUNTY TRANSIT ground breaking ceremony last week were (l-r) Scott Garman from Timbol Construction; Todd Korte from The Kane Company; Anna Oestreich, administrator of the transit system and executive director of the Bond County Senior Center; Dianne Roney, chairman of the Bond County Senior Center board; Dave Willey, Greenville city manager; Brook Wilford, chairman of the Bond County Board; and Darryl Rison, vice chairman of the Bond County Senior Center Board.