



LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

Minutes of August 20, 2020 Transportation Committee Meeting
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

A recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxM3pEHOaJw>

Meeting Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Bob Phillips	Director of Public Works	Deerfield
Mayor Glenn Ryback	Mayor	Wadsworth
Mayor Bill Jacob	Mayor	Long Grove
Shane Schneider	County Engineer	Lake County
Anne Marrin	Village Administrator	Fox Lake
Marc Huber	Village Administrator	Beach Park
Stephanie Hannon	Village Administrator	Bannockburn
Michael Talbett	Village Administrator	Kildeer
David Kilbane	Village Administrator	Round Lake Beach
Steve Shields	Village Administrator	Round Lake
Clay Johnson	Village Administrator	Lindenhurst
Karen Dalton Lange	Village Administrator	Lake Barrington
Denise Kafkis	Village Administrator	Green Oaks
Thomas Maillard	Mayors Office	Waukegan
Kealan Noonan	Director of Public Works	Fox Lake
Mike Brown	Director of Public Works	Lake Zurich
Ed Wilmes	Director of Public Works	North Chicago
Paul Kendzior	Director of Public Works	Libertyville
Nick Leach	Village Engineer	Gurnee
Wally Dietrich	Assist Public Works Director	Lincolnshire
Ray Roberts	Director of Public Works	Zion
Kevin Carrier	Director of Planning & Programming	Lake County
Bob Ells	City Engineer	Lake Forest
Jeff Cooper	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Fred Chung	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Alex Househ	Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Lauren Platt	Community Affairs	Tollway
Rick Mack	Community Affairs	Metra
Tim Dilsaver	Community Affairs	Pace
Linda Soto	Exec. Director/ Board Member	LCTA/ Pace
Mary Weber	Associate	CMAP
Mike Klemens	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Joe Surdam	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Jon Vana		Consultant
Dan Brinkman		Consultant
Jason Fluhr		Consultant
Duane O'Laughlin		Consultant
Chris Bouchard		Consultant
Mark Buwen		Consultant



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Joel Christell
Ben Vander Wal
Dan Schug
Geoff Perry
John Ambrose
Matt Smith
Mark Kozlowski

Consultant
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1. Call to Order

Bob Phillips called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Mike Klemens did a roll call of those in attendance.

2. Approval of the Minutes

With a first from motion from Mayor Ryback and a second from Anne Marrin, the minutes of the August 20, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously via voice vote.

3. Agency Reports

- a. **IDOT Bureau of Programming-** There was no report from IDOT Programming.
- b. **IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets-** Alex did not have project updates to report but offered to answer any questions about the Rebuild Illinois Bond funds. Alex also asked local agencies to send MFT requests electronically for faster processing as IDOT staff is still working remotely.
- c. **Illinois Tollway-** Lauren Platt from the Tollway provided the update to the committee. Ms. Platt informed the committee that the tollway board recently approved the FY2021 budget. Ms. Platt also informed the committee that the tollway is still using only electronic toll collection, and that service centers are currently closed. The tollway has suspended late fees for missed tolls and drivers without an I-Pass can pay online. Ms. Platt informed the committee that the customer service center is now back in operation. The Tollway board of directors continues to meet virtually during the pandemic. Ms. Platt also updated the committee on several projects in the Lake County area.
- d. **CMAQ-** Mary Weber gave the CMAQ report. Ms. Weber informed the committee that CMAQ staff is working remotely and they are able to keep all functions operating remotely. The CMAQ Board and MPO Policy committee recently approved all of the local councils FFY2021-2025 local STP programs. The STP Shared Fund policies and procedures will be approved by the Project Selection Committee next week. The Call for Projects for the Shared Fund, CMAQ and TAP will open in January.
- e. **RTA-** There was no RTA report.
- f. **Metra –** Rick Mack from Metra gave the report for Metra. The Metra Board meeting that took place in October released their 2020-2021 proposed budget which includes \$700 million. Metra also detailed a 2020-2021 Capital Budget of \$386.4 million that continues significant investment in railroads, locomotives, bridges, and stations. The Proposed Operating Spending plan assumes operating ridership will end 2020 at about 20% of its pre-COVID-19 level and to increase to 50% by end of 2021. Metra has one proposed fare change, which will go in affect in February, adjusting the weekend pass to entice more families to discretionary travel plus a new Saturday and Sunday day-pass made available for \$7 and a \$10 weekend pass



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would be retained but only on the Ventra app. Springfield passed a capital bill in 2019, resulting in funds being available on the capital side to make improvements including \$69 million for locomotive and car rehab, \$65.1 million for rolling stock, \$12.9 million for bridges, \$47.3 million for station upgrades, and \$39.4 million for equipment and vehicle purchase. Updates on projects being undertaken in Lake County include the Waukegan station, North Chicago station, Great Lakes station, and Highland Park. Mr. Mack concluded that budget hearings for this year will be held virtually due to COVID-19.

- g. **Pace** –Linda Soto presented Pace’s Report. Public hearing process for the 2021 Proposed Budget has begun. Ridership is averaging between 50-60% compared to the figures at this time last year. The 2021 Suburban Service Budget is \$239 million and proposes no fare increases despite next year’s public funding to Pace is estimated to decrease 21% due to a projected decline in sales tax from the impact of COVID-19. (23:03 to 23:06) The 2021 Capital Program is estimated at a robust \$106 million and majority of the funding is received through the multi-year 2018 Rebuild Illinois Package. Regional ADA Paratransit Operating Budget is also balanced for available funds without the need for a fare increase. Paratransit Budget covers the costs for providing and supporting ADA paratransit services in the suburbs of Chicago and taxi access programs. Operating expenses in 2021 are projected at \$175 million and paratransit ridership is expected to increase 19% over 2020. In order to balance Pace’s budget and avoiding fare increases, difficult choices were made for 2021. Some of the decisions made for 2021 include undergoing service suspension on 73 routes and placing schedule modifications on another 23 routes, which have been in place since May. Major cuts impacting the Lake County region include shuttle bus programs and route changes in the Waukegan area.

4. Lake Council STP Program

Mr. Klemens gave the committee a report on the current Lake County STP Program. MPO Policy Committee and CMAP Board approved all the local programs. Approval resulted in LCCOM FFY2021-2025 STP Program being officially placed into the TIP Database. Mr. Klemens noted that Award Letters have been sent out to all projects in the Active Program and Contingency Letters were sent out to all projects on the Contingency List as well.

Mr. Klemens updated the committee that the Buffalo Grove Road Project has been included in FY2020 and FY2021 due to CMAP notifying himself that there was additional funding that could be applied to a project. Roughly just under \$330,000 was originally planned to be spent on the Buffalo Grove Road Project in FY2021, but this figure will come from FY2020 with the news from CMAP. This change has resulted in funds being freed up in the FY2021 program. Mr. Klemens noted that the engineers cost estimate updates received for Long Grove’s Krueger Road Project were slightly below what was originally programmed in the program, which has led to \$441,000 in funds made available in FY2021 that is currently not programmed. Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the Active Program Management Policies that were adopted to work through the process of how the newly available funds can be reprogrammed will be used and that there is a hierarchy in the methodology. The reprogramming of the newly available funds will be worked on over the next several months. Mr. Klemens asked the committee for any questions about the newly available funds and the next steps with reprogramming the funds in FY2021.

5. 2020 Call for Project-Review and Lessons Learned

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that LCDOT staff will be reviewing our methodology between every Call for Projects cycle. Mr. Klemens asked the committee for feedback on how the methodology works and if there is anything that would like to be seen changed. Mr. Klemens noted that the Committee has until the summer or September to implement changes to the methodology used. Bob Phillips mentioned that if the Committee is in the same situation year



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regarding conducting meetings via-zoom, he would be in support for forming a sub-committee of roughly 8-10 people to review the methodology used and share their findings to the entire Transportation Committee. Kevin Carrier agreed with Bob's idea and asked if there were specific types of project that scored well and not as well based on the methodology used. Mr. Klemens responded that resurfacing and intersection reconstruction type projects scored well based off the methodology and voiced a concern that new roadway extension projects as a type of project that may not score as well with the methodology used due to lack of data that is available on existing roadways. Mike Brown followed up stating he is in favor of forming a sub-committee as well.

6. Other Business

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that the Fast Act was set to expire at the end of the Federal Fiscal Year. Congress passed a resolution to avoid a government shutdown. As part of the resolution, the Fast Act was extended for a full year through FFY2021 at FFY2020 funding levels.

Mr. Klemens informed the Committee that there was some updated guidance on the Rebuild Illinois Bond fund and how the funds can be used. Details of the update were sent out in the Circular Letter email that was sent out a day prior to the Transportation Committee meeting.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment received via e-mail or during the meeting. No public comment was given by the participants at the meeting.

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for January 21st, 2021 at 9am.

9. Adjournment

Bob Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 9:51am.