



LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

Minutes of January 21, 2021 Transportation Committee Meeting
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting

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

Meeting Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Bob Phillips	Director of Public Works	Deerfield
Mayor Leon Rockingham Jr.	Mayor	North Chicago
Mayor Glenn Ryback	Mayor	Wadsworth
Mayor Bill Jacob	Mayor	Long Grove
Ed Macek	Village Trustee	Antioch
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
Mike May	Village Administrator	Volo
Adrian Marquez	Director of Public Works	Beach Park
Darren Monico	Village Engineer	Buffalo Grove
Erika Frable	Director of Public Works	Hawthorn Woods
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
Kevin Carrier	Director of Planning & Programming	Lake County
Bob Ells	City Engineer	Lake Forest
Alex Househ	Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Kelsey Passi	Community Affairs	Tollway
Katelyn Renteria	Community Affairs	Metra
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
Lee Fell		Consultant
Duane O'Laughlin		Consultant
Chris Bouchard		Consultant
Mark Buwen		Consultant



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Joel Christell	Consultant
Ben Vander Wal	Consultant
Dan Schug	Consultant
Gregory Ellwanger	Consultant
Matt Smith	Consultant
Mark Kozlowski	Consultant
Peter Stoehr	Consultant
Scott Drabicki	Consultant
Thomas Gil	Consultant
Brian Plum	Consultant

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 Bob Ells, the minutes of the October 22, 2020 meeting were approved unanimously via voice vote.

3. Agency Reports

- a. **IDOT Bureau of Programming-** Katie Herdus was unable to attend the meeting but sent a status sheet. The items in bold font on the status sheet are the changes made since the previous update to the sheet. Katie provided comment that email is the best way to reach her, the Bureau of Programming is still working remote, and that they are currently working on IDOT's multi-year program. Mike Klemens will forward the status sheet shortly following the meeting.
- b. **IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets-** Alex Househ provided an update on the status sheet and noted that there were five changes (Item #3- Grant Township, Item #15 – Lake Forest, Item #16 – Libertyville, Item #17 – Libertyville Township, Item #21 – Round Lake Beach) needing an update on Phase I and/or design approval. Email is the best way to reach Alex as IDOT staff is still working remotely.

A Question was asked about the Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund asking if the money requires a resolution similar used for a MFT resolution. Mr. Househ responded that the amount received is going to be the MFT account but a different account. Any funds taken from the bond will lead to the local agency going to their board to approve a resolution to take whatever is available from the Rebuild Illinois Bond similar in what is done with the MFT. To keep track of the bond local agencies can use the same forms that are used from the MFT.

A question was asked about where one can learn about the qualifying expenses for a project that uses Rebuild Illinois Bond Funds and what items participating items are. Mr. Househ explained that one can find this information on the Circular Letter 2020-16 that was sent out by IDOT on October 20th, 2020 that states any project used for MFT can also be used for Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund. Mr. Klemens added that another Circular Letter sent on January 12th asks for local agencies to submit an online form for each project that a local agency anticipates using the Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund for.

A question was asked about who to contact to get more information pertaining to the Rebuild Illinois Bond Fund. Mr. Househ answered that anyone can contact him directly and asked that the local agency or the



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County to provide an explanation of the location, description of the project, and to reference Circular Letter 2020-16 in the letter head via email and pdf.

A question was asked if the bond funds have to be expended and spent by 2025 or committed to a project by 2025. Mr. Househ answered that they have to be expended.

A question was asked if Phase II/III qualifies for RBI funds. Mr. Househ confirmed this is the case.

A question was asked if the bond funds can be used for the local match. Mr. Househ confirmed that was the case for federal projects.

- c. **Illinois Tollway**- Kelsey Passi provided a report on the budget. The Tollway Board of Directors approved a balanced 2020 Budget in December 2020 with \$1.4 billion in revenue that was allocated to maintenance and operations, debt service, transfers, and capital investments for the I-294 mile system. The 2020 budget will allow the Tollway to commit 1.5 billion in capital spending. Operations from COVID-19 has Tollway staff currently working remote still. Toll collection is handled via I-Pass, Easy-Pass, and through the Tollway's website. Perform and Relief in June 2020 a tolling initiative was launched that reduced the costs of missed tolls from \$20 to \$3 per missed toll that lasted through the end of 2020. The initiative saw a lot of success which led to the Tollway Board granting a 6-month extension on the initiative to June 2021. For construction, the Tollway moved forward with all scheduled construction projects.
- d. **CMAP**- Mary Weber gave the CMAP report. CMAP is accepting funding applications for regional transportation projects through Friday, March 5th. CMAP is gathering information to inform a collaborative capacity building program focused on helping make permanent pandemic-inspired improvements that communities piloted in 2020. CMAP would like to hear what communities did in 2020 and explore how to help other communities in 2021. CCDOTH has announced a 5th round of Invest in Cook funding and the 2020 application period is open through March 12th. Program information on Invest in Cook can be found on the Cook County website.
- e. **RTA**- There was no RTA report.
- f. **Metra** – Rick Mack from Metra gave the report for Metra. Rick began with local Lake County Metra projects. For the Waukegan Station, Union Pacific is going to begin rehabbing the bathrooms next week and it is expected to take two to three months. For the North Chicago Station, it is scheduled for an overall rehab and construction is expected to begin in the first week of April and be completed in four to six months. Rick moved onto other news noting that the Metra Board approved purchases of up to 500 new modern rail cars offering increased reliability and reducing operating costs. When the pandemic began ridership dropped to 5% of pre-pandemic levels. During the Summer of 2020 ridership increased to 10-15% of pre-pandemic levels but decreased to 8-10% in the Fall and these levels have remained roughly the same to this date. Congress passed the Cares Act back in the Spring to get Metra through roughly \$480 million and Congress passed a stimulus bill in December that had roughly \$14 billion in transit nationwide. Metra currently doesn't know how much will be allocated to the Chicago land region at the moment. Latest developments in Congress include the current administration's proposal of \$20 billion in transit nationwide.



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Bob Phillips asked for Metra's position on municipalities that have an agreement with Metra who are not plowing or maintaining their parking lots at the stations due to parking lots being underutilized due to the pandemic. Rick responded that Metra is allowing and supportive of municipalities to have the option to not plow and maintain up to 50% of parking spaces during the winter.

- g. Pace** –Tim Dilsaver presented Pace's Report. Pace North Shore Garage was presented with a prestigious award by Waukegan Township that recognized outstanding service provided during the COVID-19 pandemic. A video-presentation on the award was shown.

A question was asked what the ridership is looking like. Linda Soto responded that in the Fall ridership dropped to 40% but paratransit has been holding steady at roughly 50 to 55%.

4. Lake Council STP Program

Mr. Klemens gave the committee a report on the current Lake County STP Program. The council has a little over \$440,000 available to be reprogrammed in FY 2021. LCDOT staff has gone through the Active Management Policy and recommended the available funds be reprogrammed to the Village of Libertyville's Rockland Road project. Mike added that some favorable bids came in on projects during the November letting which potentially may lead to some additional funds becoming available later this year. The low bid funds will come back to Council and the Council will have the rest of FY2021 and FY2022 to spend those funds providing some flexibility on projects.

Bob Phillips asked for a motion on the recommendation. A first motion was made by Kildeer and a second by North Chicago. The recommendation was approved unanimously via voice vote

Mr. Klemens transitioned onto the Quarterly Status Updates. Mike noted several communities did get their status updates submitted after the deadline. However, with the first time going through the new deadline changes, CMAP is making an exception this time. The next quarterly status updates are due in March.

5. CMAP TIP and the NEPA Process

Mr. Klemens gave the committee an update on an enforcement of an existing rule. A federal regulation for projects that are going through the NEPA process and are being processed as a categorical exclusion or above, in order for the Phase I to be approved a subsequent phase of the project needs to be in the active years of CMAP's TIP. CMAP has a Q&A on their website for more information on this change.

6. 2021 Call for Projects STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, TAP

Mr. Klemens informed the committee that CMAP has an open call for STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, and TAP open until March 5th. For a project to be approved for STP-Shared Funds, a project needs to be in an approved plan, cost at least \$5 million in all phases, or have three participating sponsors, and be one of the eight approved project types. For CMAQ, typical projects involve reducing congestion. For TAP, typical projects involve bike-facilities. To apply to any of the programs, projects must have phase I substantially complete, a design approval, and draft-PDR with solid scoping cost estimates into IDOT. CMAP has done two webinars on the programs which are available for viewing on CMAP's website. Mr. Klemens transitioned to the Council Priority Points and noted that Council's received 25 bonus points two years ago that could be awarded to projects in the STP-Shared Fund. The 15 bonus points has been changed so that now those



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points are made part of the 100-point scale. Mike added that there is a scoring system in place for awarding those points and asked if the Council would like to continue with the system being used.

Bob Phillips responded that keeping the scoring system is consistent with the Council's past and present practices.

7. Other Business

Mr. Klemens mentioned in October there was a STP Sub-Committee created to review the council rules and the first meeting was held the previous week and added that some proposals will be brought back for review related to the scoring methodologies.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was received prior to the meeting or raised during the meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for April 22nd, 2021 at 9am.

10. Adjournment

Bob Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 9:53am.