



LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

Minutes of April 22, 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 Glenn Ryback	Mayor	Wadsworth
Mayor Bill Jacob	Mayor	Long Grove
Marc Huber	Village Administrator	Beach Park
Michael Talbett	Village Administrator	Kildeer
Steve Shields	Village Administrator	Round Lake
Clay Johnson	Village Administrator	Lindenhurst
Scott Hilts	Director of Public Works	Round Lake Beach
Darren Monico	Village Engineer	Buffalo Grove
Fred Chung	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Heather Galan	Village Engineer	Gurnee
Erika Frable	Director of Public Works	Hawthorn Woods
Kealan Noonan	Director of Public Works	Fox Lake
Mike Brown	Director of Public Works	Lake Zurich
Thomas Maillard	Village Engineer	Waukegan
Wally Dietrich	Assist Public Works Director	Lincolnshire
Kevin Carrier	Director of Planning & Programming	Lake County
Shane Schneider	Director of Transportation	Lake County
Alex Househ	Field Engineer	IDOT BLRS
Lauren Platt	Community Affairs	Tollway
Kelsey Passi	Community Affairs	Tollway
Rick Mack	Community Affairs	Metra
Mary Donner	Community Affairs	Pace
Anthony Rubino	Community Affairs	Pace
Linda Soto	Exec. Director/ Board Member	LCTA/ Pace
Russell Pietrowiak	Associate	CMAP
Mike Klemens	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Joe Surdam	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Jon Vana		Consultant
Dan Brinkman		Consultant
Lee Fell		Consultant
John Ambrose		Consultant
Chris Bouchard		Consultant
Mark Buwen		Consultant
Joel Christell		Consultant
Ben Vander Wal		Consultant
Dan Schug		Consultant
Jason Fluhr		Consultant
Matt Smith		Consultant



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Mark Kozlowski
Becca Wagner
Brian Plum

Consultant
Consultant
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 Marc Huber and a second from Michael Talbett, the minutes of the January 21, 2021 meeting were approved unanimously via voice vote.

3. Agency Reports

a. **IDOT Bureau of Programming-** Katie Herdus provided an update on the multi-year program. The multi-year program has been completed and sent down to Springfield for publishing. There is no timetable on when the program will be published as the review process is in the beginning stages. IDOT has begun construction which will involve signs being displayed. Katie requested for anyone who has a question about the signs being displayed to reach out to her via phone or email. New projects that have been awarded recently include Illinois 60 Ravenwood Boulevard to US 41 (Crack and Joint Sealing), Illinois 137 from Russel Road to Greenwood Road (Standard Overlay), IL 173 from McHenry County line to Lake Street and from Orchard Street to Madison Avenue (Micro surfacing), IL 176 from Midlothian Road to 4th Street (Signal Timing Progression). It is anticipated that the recently awarded projects will start up within the next few months. Katie concluded that the sheets on the program have not undergone much change since the last update given.

b. **IDOT Bureau of Local Roads and Streets-** Alex Househ provided an update on the status sheet and noted that there were changes to two projects (Item #4 – Green Oaks and Item #16 – Libertyville).

Bob Phillips asked whether Alex is finding most communities are using Rebuild Illinois Bond funds for local projects. Alex noted that there were a couple of communities in the County that have used these funds for local projects who received allotments of \$45,000 or less that are allowed for maintenance projects and added that as of now everyone should have received three allotments.

Bob Phillips followed up asking if a community has received three payments on the Rebuild Illinois Bond fund and if a community has another payment they are set to receive later in the year, can a community claim those funds on a project being let now. Alex answered that a community is not able to claim the future payment on a project being let now and that the community can only use the three payments that have been received.

c. **Illinois Tollway-** Kelsey Passi provided an update on the attachment to the meeting packet. Governor Pritzker has announced a new appointee filling an open seat on the Board of Directors. Illinois Tollway is switching to cashless tolling. Moving forward drivers will have the option to pay tolls with I-Pass, Easy-Pass, or online by the Pay-by-Plate service. Move-Over Law is being enforced. This law requires drivers to slow down and change lanes if possible when workers on the road. Regarding construction, Illinois Tollway has kicked off the 10th year of Move-Illinois Capital Program. Project from the program within Lake County include Eden Spurs Tollway and the Stearns School Road Bridge.



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- d. **CMAP**- Russell Pietrowiak gave the CMAP report. There has been discussion on potential earmarks and submitting projects for consideration for those earmarks especially for getting projects in the TIP or being TIP-ready. Recently, FHWA has inquired with the Planning Liaisons that this might filter down to the municipalities on whether they have an ADA transition plan. CMAP is currently collecting information on if municipalities have an ADA transition plan and how many have been published. CMAP is in the process of finalizing the STP-Shared fund, CMAQ, and TAP-L programs.
- e. **RTA**- There was no RTA report.
- f. **Metra** – Rick Mack gave the report for Metra. Rick began with giving an update on the capital projects within Lake County. North Chicago station rehab project started in April and is anticipated to be complete sometime around July 1st. Waukegan Station rehab project is in progress and it is estimated that construction should be completed sometime in May. Mundelein Station rehab project is currently underway. Rick added that projects indirectly related to Lake County include five major bridge projects that have been planned throughout 2021. The Metra Board approved an RFP challenging manufacturing locomotive to covert diesel locomotives to battery-operated. Conversion to battery-operated locomotives would bring emissions down to zero. It is estimated that this challenge would take three years to accomplish. Rick concluded that the Union-Pacific will begin collecting fares again on June 1st.

Bob Phillips asked how the Metra ridership levels are doing. Rick noted that Metra has seen a small uptick in ridership and is seeing more activity in downtown area and offices. Rick added that Metra is aware that they won't be returning to pre-pandemic ridership levels as the working environment has changed.

A question was raised about which lines would be the first to see locomotives converted to battery-operated. Rick answered that it is too early at this time for Metra to determine which lines would be the first to undergo the conversion.

- g. **Pace** – Mary Donner presented Pace's report. Pace is experiencing growth with ridership being at nearly 55%, which is 10% higher compared to this time of last year. Since the pandemic began Pace has had to limit their 40-foot buses to 15 passengers and paratransit buses to a single passenger.

4. STP-Shared Fund Application Bonus Points

Mr. Klemens gave the committee an update on the STP-Shared Fund. LCCOM has bonus points that need to be allocated for the STP-Shared Fund. There has been a change made to the scoring of projects process. CMAP has changed the Bonus Points Allocation Policy where it is now allowing up to five points being awarded to the highest scored project, four points awarded to the second highest scored project, and so on allowing up to a total of fifteen bonus points being allocated towards projects.

Kevin Carrier asked what if a Council has only two or three projects available for being allocated bonus points and whether bonus points can be shared between Councils is still allowed. Mr. Klemens noted that if a Council were to only have two projects the options are that the Council would leave some bonus points on the table or the Council could potentially trade points with another Council but there has to be a demonstrated transportation benefit when giving points to another project in another Council demonstrating why this would benefit Lake County and vice-versa. Mr.



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Klemens added that this year the Council had exactly five projects that submitted applications that are eligible for the STP-Shared Fund meaning all five would be allocated a specific amount of bonus points based on the scoring methodology.

Marc Huber asked if Mr. Klemens whether he is updating the Bonus Points Allocation Policy or requesting approval for the points allocated toward the projects. Mr. Klemens stated that he is requesting two approvals, one on the Bonus Points Allocation Policy and second on the project rankings and the allocation of bonus points. Mr. Klemens added that previously a Council could allocate 25 bonus points and fifteen towards a single project whereas now the Council can allocate only fifteen total points. Mr. Klemens noted that the methodology used to score and rank the projects has remained the same. Marc Huber followed up asking what determines the priority of projects. Mr. Klemens responded that the Council has a series of metrics (Regional Impact, Project Readiness, Multi-Agency Participation, Multi-Modal Components, and Community Need) that are used to score and rank the applications to determine the priority of projects.

Mayor Jacob asked for the reasoning for the policy change and how will the policy change impact the projects. The policy change is not for the Council program but instead for the STP-Shared Fund projects applied directly to CMAP which includes projects that have a minimum of \$5 million in total costs or involve a minimum of three participating agencies. CMAP as part of their scoring system wanted the Councils to be able to highlight their priority projects within their region. The policy change wouldn't impact any of the Council Program projects, the change is just awarding bonus points to the applications submitted to the STP-Shared Fund during the Call for Projects.

Bob Phillips asked what happens to the funds if they don't get used towards these projects. Mr. Klemens noted that like the local Council there is Active Management in the Shared Fund as well as a Contingency list to make sure the region is spending the funds each year.

Bob Phillips asked for a motion of approval on the two requests from Mr. Klemens. A first motion was made and a second from Marc Huber, the Bonus Points Allocation Policy change and project rankings and allocation of those points were approved unanimously via voice vote.

Mr. Klemens gave the committee an update on the 2021 Bonus Points Allocation. The applications received were scored using the scoring metrics previously discussed. Mr. Klemens noted that the Council has until next Friday to allocate the bonus points. Three of the five projects scored 49 points, but the ADT calculation was used as a tiebreaker between those projects to rank the projects. Mr. Klemens added that the top ranked project was a LCDOT project (Cedar Lake Road realignment). Mr. Klemens raised a question on the LCDOT project regarding the community need scoring metric. The geographic scope of the project includes the Village of Round Lake, which is a high-need community, and Lake County who's leading the project is not considered a high-need community. Mr. Klemens asked the Committee whether to award the Community Need points to this project based on the project's location or not award the points based on the lead agency of the project. If decided not to award the points for community need, the project would drop from the highest ranked project to the fourth highest ranked project. Marc Huber suggested that the project be scored based on community need as Lake County is well diverse. Bob Phillips agreed with Marc and added that the community may not be able to complete the project on their own. Kevin Carrier added that doing so has an added benefit locally. Bob Phillips asked for motion on approval to score the project based on a community need. A first motion was made Marc Huber and a second from Michael Talbett, the motion was approved unanimously via voice vote.



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5. Lake Council STP Program

Mr. Klemens gave the committee an update on a change to the regional active management program rules. The Council has until the of the federal fiscal year (September 30th) to spend the annual allotment of funds. If those funds are not allotted there are a couple options available to the Council for funding that will not be obligated by the end of the year. The option includes granting a six-month extension, leading to the project risking going on its own and if the funds aren't then spent without an extension the Council would then lose the funds. Mr. Klemens noted all the projects have been let that are on the Fiscal Year 2021 project list. Mr. Klemens added that some favorable bids were received as well potentially leading to some bid-saving funds to use additional funds later in the year.

6. Section 1440 Procedures

Mr. Klemens gave the committee an update on the Section 1440 Procedures Circular Letter 2021-10. The procedure potentially could provide a big shift on how federal funding is used. The FAST Act includes Section 1440 which would allow municipalities to request this process and issue notice to proceed for engineering before FHWA authorizes federal funds. This allows for projects to get started and not have to wait months for engineering agreements. Items to make note of from the Circular Letter include municipalities must have federal funds awarded, council funds be in the active program and the TIP and have the design approval granted. Ultimately this process would allow for much timesaving for municipalities. Mr. Klemens concluded that if a municipality would like to use this procedure to submit a letter to him as the Planning Liaison which he will then submit it to IDOT for approval.

Alex Househ asked whether it is correct if a municipality starts Phase II, they cannot invoice anything for Phase II until granted design approval. Mr. Klemens noted that is correct.

7. Other Business

Mr. Klemens informed the committee on the RAISE Grant funding opportunity. Applications for this grant are due July 12th to USDOT. Minimum award size for the grant is \$5 million and the maximum award size is \$25 million. The funding split is 80% federal and 20% local for infrastructure projects. A new component of the grant is a focus on equity in high need communities as well as innovation technologies.

8. Public Comment

No public comment was received prior to the meeting. Kevin Carrier asked for an amendment approval moving the LCDOT project (Deerfield Road) from the STP-Shared Fund project ranking down to the fifth highest ranked project. Bob Phillips asked for a motion. With a first motion from Mike Brown and a second from Thomas Maillard, the amendment approval was approved unanimously via voice vote

9. Next Meeting

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

10. Adjournment

Bob Phillips declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05am.