



LAKE COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS

Minutes of May 6, 2021 Full Council Transportation Committee Meeting Via
Zoom Virtual Meeting

A recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://youtu.be/ovsi1Ny7JVk>

Meeting Attendance

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Mayor Leon Rockingham	Mayor	North Chicago
Mayor Glenn Ryback	Mayor	Wadsworth
Mayor Bill Jacob	Mayor	Long Grove
Mayor Nancy Rotering	Mayor	Highland Park
Steve Shields	Village Administrator	Round Lake
Stephanie Hannon	Village Administrator	Bannockburn
Michael Talbett	Village Administrator	Kildeer
Clay Johnson	Village Administrator	Lindenhurst
Bob Phillips	Director of Public Works	Deerfield
Darren Monico	Village Engineer	Buffalo Grove
James Lockfeer	Assistant Director of Public Works	Lake Forest
Thomas Maillard	Village Engineer	Waukegan
Erika Frable	Public Works Director/Village Engineer	Hawthorn Woods
Michael Brown	Director of Public Works	Lake Zurich
Jeff Cooper	Village Engineer	Libertyville
Kama Dobbs	Community Affairs	CMAP
Rick Mack	Community Affairs	Metra
Mary Donner	Community Affairs	LCTA/ Pace
Mike Klemens	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Joe Surdam	Council Liaison	Lake Council
Jon Vana		Consultant
Dan Brinkman		Consultant
Scott Drabicki		Consultant
Mark Kozlowski		Consultant
Joel Christell		Consultant
Steve Cieslica		Consultant
Gregory Ellwanger		Consultant

1. Call to Order

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

Mayor Ryback made a motion on the approval of January 28th Full Council Minutes with a correction on the title and a second from Bob Phillips, the minutes of the January 28th meeting were approved unanimously via roll call.

3. Lake Council STP Program

- a. **Current STP Program Status** – Mr. Klemens gave an update on the STP Program. The Council currently sits in a good position to spend all the federal funds in Federal Fiscal Year 2021, which ends at the end of



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September. The four projects the Council had targeting lettings this fiscal year have all gone to letting. Three of the four projects did receive bids that were under the estimate potentially leading to the Council realizing some bid savings soon. Mr. Klemens pointed out that a request for a six-month extension was received for the Libertyville Rockland Road project where the Council approved a cost increase. Reflecting on the quarterly status updates, all the communities have done a great job on getting the updates submitted. For the next round of quarterly status updates, Joe Surdam with LCDOT will be sending out the forms and collecting them. Mr. Klemens concluded that one sub-committee meeting has taken place which examined updating the Council's methodology and scoring system in advance of the Council's next Call for Projects in January. The sub-committee has proposed a few changes which will be presented at an upcoming Full Council meeting.

4. Section 1440 Policy and Uses

Joe Surdam gave the committee an update on the Section 1440 Policy. Referenced in Circular Letter 2021-10, the Policy allows FHWA to reimburse federal funding for preliminary engineering costs and prior project authorization if there are no issues with the agreement. A benefit of this policy includes the time that can be saved for municipalities as they can now have the option to begin engineering work earlier in the approval process than what is currently allowed. For municipalities to utilize this Policy, their projects must have been awarded federal funding for Phase II, be in the Council's active program, and have Phase I has be complete with design approval.

5. Local Government Component of COVID Relief Funds

Mr. Klemens informed the Committee on COVID Relief Funds. Illinois is receiving additional funds from one of the COVID-relief bills congress passed. It is anticipated that IDOT will receive roughly \$352 million in funds and a formula is in place on how those funds will be distributed. Through the STP-Block Grant Program and Formula funding at IDOT, urbanized and rural areas receive different apportionments. The Council falls into an urbanized area, District 1, where the apportionment goes through CMAP and Districts 2 through 9 get another set of apportionments. It has been determined that \$42.6 million will be allocated to District 1 through CMAP. These funds will be made available in the next state fiscal year which begins July 1st but due to CMAP programming funds based on the federal fiscal year, funding won't be made available until Federal Fiscal Year 2022 which begins October 1st. Mr. Klemens noted that the funds don't require a local match. Mr. Klemens concluded that every year CMAP receives updated numbers from IDOT on the number of STP-Funds that will be available for the next fiscal year and the region is going to see a small addition of STP funds for fiscal year 2022.

6. Federal Infrastructure

Mr. Klemens gave the Committee an update on the recent developments related to federal funding. A lot of activity has been occurring lately related to federal funding in Congress. Discussions on the return of earmarks in both the House and Senate are being had. In the previous week, the Senate Committee on appropriations released guidance for the return of earmarks to the Senate.

Mr. Klemens added that Members of the House have submitted a list of projects to the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for potential member initiative funding and that there is also community project funding beyond the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Several projects in the County that have been included in the Member Initiative Program, including one project currently in the Council's program.

The Administration has recently released the American Jobs Plan, which is an infrastructure bill. There is currently ongoing discussion on what specifically will be included in the bill. It's known that the bill is to be viewed as above and beyond a long-term transportation bill and doesn't include transportation reauthorization for the FAST Act. The



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FAST Act is the Council's current long-term transportation bill, which was set to expire last September, but was extended a year, is now set to expire at the end of this federal fiscal year on September 30th.

Mr. Klemens noted that there has been frequent discussion on transportation reauthorization. Both the House and Senate are having Committee hearings on various topics related to reauthorization and those member initiatives for the House TNI Committee are likely to be a part of transportation reauthorization. Mr. Klemens emphasized it being key to get a lot of projects in the Council's pipeline and to keep the projects in the pipeline as there has been a lot of momentum with discussion on member initiatives, the American Jobs Plan, and transportation reauthorization. Mr. Klemens concluded that the sooner the projects are ready to go the better position the Council will be in.

7. Other Business

Joe Surdam gave the Committee an update on the RAISE Grant funding opportunity. Previously known as the TIGER and Build Grant, the grant is a nationwide competitive program that has been set up by the USDOT. There is a total of a \$1 billion available for projects being awarded. The program is prioritizing projects that focus on sustainability and equity. The grant award amounts are no less than \$5 Million and no greater than \$25 million. The deadline to apply for this program is July 12th at 5:00pm. More information on this program can be found in the weblinks included in the registration email for this meeting. In the weblinks, there is a series of webinars that have been recorded as well as some upcoming webinars.

Mr. Klemens informed the Committee on the latest developments of the MY Commute Lake County Study. The study is being led by LCDOT with a purpose on reducing single occupied vehicle trips within the County with a focus on commuter trips. The study began before the COVID-19 Pandemic. Mr. Klemens noted that due to the pandemic, the number of commuter trips looked very different when the study first started but as there has been some momentum towards recovery LCDOT is very focused on commuter trips. LCDOT is at a point in the study where they've identified some sub-regions throughout the County that have a variety of mix on employment and transit options and LCDOT is focused on developing some partnerships to be able to put together some marketing and business plans for potential strategies that could be used for reducing single occupancy vehicle trips. More information on the study is available on LCDOT's website. Mr. Klemens asked the Committee if anyone has any suggestions on employers and business parks that may be interested in partnering with LCDOT to develop programs to get employees to their sites out of vehicles by themselves to please share that with LCDOT.

Mr. Klemens informed the Committee on ADA Transition Plans. The Metropolitan Planning Council did a report about ADA Transition Plans and found that most communities that they contacted or looked on communities' websites did not have an ADA Transition Plan nor have one on their website. CMAP and especially the FHWA are very interested in the current status of ADA Transition Plans throughout the region. Mr. Klemens encouraged the Council that if their community does have a plan, to make sure it is included on their website and publicly available. The FHWA informed LCDOT that they are not the enforcement agency at the federal level for ADA Transition Plans, the enforcement agency is the Department of Justice, but it is a priority for FHWA that this is followed through. To help make sure this is followed through the FHWA is using incentives such as regions who have stronger compliance with municipalities having ADA Transition Plans could see additional STP Funds compared to regions who don't. Mr. Klemens added if costs is an issue for communities to develop an ADA Transition Plan, IDOT's Statewide Planning and Research grant program is available to provide funding assistance.

Mr. Klemens informed the Committee that IDOT is undergoing a certification with FHWA. One of the topics that has come up during the certification is the Federal QBS process. As part of the process, the FHWA is going to be reaching out to municipalities and counties throughout the region to request files for the QBS selection that was done for their federal



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process to verify that the federal funding was done.

Mr. Klemens concluded noting that there are a lot of new mayors and election officials and requested that municipalities send him the contact information for the new municipal representatives.

Bob Phillips raised a question on the ADA Transition Plan asking if Mr. Klemens knew of any municipalities or organizations who have ADA Transition Plans on their websites or examples that could be shared with the Council. Mr. Klemens responded that he will send out some examples to the Council.

8. Public Comment

No public comments were received prior to the meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Full Council Transportation Committee is scheduled for July 29th, 2021 at 9:00am.

10. Adjournment

With a first motion from Bob Phillips and a second from Mayor Rockingham the meeting was adjourned at 9:41am