

# MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2015

2:00 PM

McHenry County Division of Transportation office – Main Conference Room  
16111 Nelson Road, Woodstock, IL

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m.

### A. Roll Call/Introductions (Sign-In Sheet)

The meeting had a quorum (minimum of 7 members).

#### Council Members Present:

1. Village of Algonquin - Bob Mitchard, Public Works Director
2. Village of Barrington Hills - Robert Kosin, Director of Administration
3. Village of Bull Valley - Richard Vance, Village Administrator
4. Village of Fox River Grove - Robert Nunamaker (Vice Chairman of McCOM)
5. City of Harvard - Dave Nelson, City Administrator
6. Village of Huntley - Tim Farrell, Village Engineer
7. Village of Johnsburg - Claudett Peters, Village Administrator
8. Village of Lake in the Hills - Gerald Sagona, Village Administrator
9. City of McHenry - Derik Morefield, City Administrator
10. Village of Prairie Grove, Jeannine Smith, Village Administrator
11. Village of Ringwood - Rick Mack, President (Chairman of McCOM)
12. Village of Spring Grove - Jim Anhalt, Trustee
13. City of Woodstock - Paul Ruscko, Public Works Director
14. McHenry County - Jeff Young, Assistant County Engineer

#### Staff Present:

1. McHenry County Council of Mayors - Janell Jensen, Planning Liaison

#### Others Present:

1. Baxter & Woodman - Jonathan Miller
2. Baxter & Woodman - Michael Plant
3. Ciorba Group - Mark Johnson
4. Ciorba Group - Joe Attanaseo
5. CivilTech - Gary Blazer
6. CMAP - Erin Aleman
7. Gewalt Hamilton Associates, Inc. - Dan Strahan
8. HLR, Inc. - Candi Thomas
9. HR Green - Jeff Strzalka
10. IDOT -Gerardo Fierro, Assistant Field Engineer
11. IDOT - Sue Palmer

12. Illinois Tollway - Bunny Anderson
13. McHenry County - Peter Austin, County Administrator
14. McHenry County - Tina Hill, County Board member
15. McHenry County DOT - Scott Hennings
16. McHenry County DOT - Wally Dittrich
17. McHenry County DOT - Kirsten Mellem
18. Pace - Mary L. Donner
19. RTA - Andy Plummer
20. TranSystems - Todd Bright
21. Village of Barrington Hills – Patty Meroni, Trustee
22. Village of Bull Valley - Ron Parrish, President
23. Andrew Celentano
24. Mary Naumann

**2. AGENDA APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of the agenda for the January 15, 2015, McHenry County Council of Mayors meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunamaker, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. MINUTES APPROVAL**

- A. Approval of the minutes for the November 20, 2014, McHenry County Council of Mayors meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunamaker, seconded by Mr. Young, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**4. PROGRAM & AGENCY UPDATES**

- A. IDOT Highway Report – Sue Palmer

Ms. Palmer provided the updated IDOT Transportation Improvement Program status sheets, which she mentioned does not have many changes from the last one. Ms. Palmer said they are putting together their next Multi-Year Program.

Ms. Palmer indicated there will be some upcoming project public meetings, which she will let the Council know once the dates firm up.

- B. Pace Report – Mary Donner

Ms. Donner went over the RTA Ice Fund (Innovation, Coordination and Enhancement Fund) and passed out an Ice Fund Project handout. Ms. Donner mentioned the Route 550 extension from the Elgin’s Metra station/Big Timber up to Crystal Lake. It hasn’t been completely defined, but they are getting closer.

Ms. Donner said there was a little bit of money left and McHenry County looked right for it. Ms. Donner indicated that out of McHenry County 2040 Transportation Plan, on page 33, there is a section about the Richmond-Fox Lake shuttle. Ms. Donner said it’s a shuttle service between the Village of Richmond and the Fox Lake Metra. Ms.

Donner said it has a possibility of running because of commuter service. Ms. Donner said it's kinda in conjunction with interplans with Metra where they plan on expanding in that particular area at sometime. Ms. Donner said this is more or less a precursor. Ms. Donner said she put a page from the plan in your handout.

Ms. Donner said if all goes well, the McHenry County Economic Development Corporation's Transportation Committee has seen this. Ms. Donner said yesterday the Implementation Task Force for McHenry County saw it and the census was to move it ahead. Ms. Donner said we hope this works out well for you, since we'd like to get it started sooner rather than later. Ms. Donner said could get started as early as February 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Donner said means that there will be a lot more outreach.

Ms. Donner said the South Suburban Mayors and Managers had their meeting yesterday and they were talking about McHenry County and how smart you all were in advance funding.

C. Metra Update – Rick Mack

Chairman Mack said sometime late this spring and early summer we're going to be implementing mobile ticketing. Chairman Mack said this is the universal fare issue, that's Metra version of the universal fare. Chairman Mack said I don't have a lot of details on it yet, but hopes to by our March meeting I'll be able to bring those to you.

Chairman Mack said regarding the Metra fare increase, we had public hearings throughout six county areas in late November. Chairman Mack said the Metra Board approved the fare increase of on average of 10.8 percent and will go into effect on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Chairman Mack said in the 2015 budget for McHenry County, we have 2 million dollars budgeted for two new larger enclosed warming shelters at the Cary station. Chairman Mack said right now we have small three-sided bus shelters that really doesn't handle the ridership at that station. Chairman Mack said those shelters are at the in-bound side and the station is on the out-bound side, so we need more capacity over there. Chairman Mack said we will be working with the Village of Cary throughout this year and probably won't go into construction until 2016

D. RTA Update – Andy Plummer

Mr. Plummer said we had a major change in leadership at the RTA with Kirk Dillard being the chairman and Leanne Redden is the new executive director. Mr. Plummer said Leanne Redden was acting director for awhile.

Mr. Plummer said you can anticipate a major change in outreach technique of the RTA and leadership. Mr. Plummer said the chairman will come out to McHenry COG's March meeting. Mr. Plummer said you can now watch the RTA Board meetings live.

Mr. Plummer said we passed the 2015 budget without any major controversy and went onto explain the reasoning for this.

Mr. Plummer said we are anticipating a somewhat robust bonding coming up in the next few years as Rick talked about. Mr. Plummer said the reality is we are not out of the woods and do not have a robust state bonding for transit like we've had in the past and there is a real hole in the money that we get from the federal government for capital expenditures. Mr. Plummer said about half of what we spend in transit capital comes from the federal government.

Mr. Plummer said there has been some increase in ridership in the last couple of years, a fairly consistent ridership, that's gone up and down somewhat in response to fare increases, but overall there's been an increase. Mr. Plummer said there's also been substantial increase in the efficiency of both Pace and Metra in terms of what they get per rider and that's important to us since we need to keep our 50 percent fare box recovery.

Mr. Plummer said in conjunction with the service boards, we're putting a marketing program together to focus on especially the reverse commute and what we call "visitors" (leisure travel, not work commute). Mr. Plummer said we are putting together a program for "visitors" to make sure they know all of the options.

Mr. Plummer said we're very concerned with sales tax "seeking" from northeastern Illinois with sham tax shelters outside of the area. Mr. Plummer said we think it's partly under control, but not totally, and we're going to continue to pursue it.

Mr. Plummer said regarding regional transit planning, there was nothing in the current program that was approved for 2015 that affects McHenry, but we have funded projects here before – Fox River Grove, Prairie Grove, Marengo and McHenry County Transit Study. Mr. Plummer said so keep that in mind. Mr. Plummer said the next Call for Projects for that program will be this spring.

E. McHenry County Division of Transportation Update – Jeff Young

Mr. Young said things are kinda slow as we get ready for next season. Mr. Young said the Miller Road project in McHenry is on the January letting, so that will be starting construction in earnest March-April timeframe. Mr. Young said utility relocation is still ongoing out there, trying to get ahead of the game.

Mr. Young said we will be working on five-year transportation program this spring, so that's an annual update.

Mr. Young said towards the end of last year, MCRide agreements were approved by the County Board, bringing some more agencies into the fold. Mr. Young said our MCRide program continues to expand.

F. Illinois Tollway Update – Bunny Anderson

Ms. Anderson handed out the 2015 Capital Program Construction document. Ms. Anderson said their Board gave approval of 1.63 billion dollar for capital construction.

Ms. Anderson said of that 1.63 billion, 839 million is geared towards the I-90 eastern segment. Ms. Anderson said I-90 western segment has been reconstructed and widened. Ms. Anderson said so now after 2 years we're bringing our attention to the eastern segment of the Elgin toll plaza to I-294, that's a 22 mile segment. Ms. Anderson said as we did with the western segment, we will be doing east-bound construction first (reconstruction and widening) and then we'll go to west-bound. Ms. Anderson said the work on this 22 mile segment will be done by the end of 2016.

Ms. Anderson said included in this 22 mile eastern segment of construction is our partnership with Pace in building 3 park-n-rides, were we'll be allowing bus transit on the Illinois Tollway for the first time ever in our agency's history.

Ms. Anderson said also included in the 1.63 billion dollars is 319 million for the Elgin-O'Hare construction and also system-wide work of 107 million.

Ms. Anderson said in regards to the tri-state tollway, on the northern section of I-94, we'll be finishing up our interchange work at Grand Avenue, right near Gurnee Mills, reconstructing the ramps there. Ms. Anderson said work will be done by the end of 2015.

Ms. Anderson said in regard to the tri-state, our board has authorized a Tri-State Corridor Study for a 22 mile segment from Elgin-O'Hare to 95<sup>th</sup> Street of Hickory Hills. Ms. Anderson said we've reconstructed it twice, done a resurfacing and last time was 20 years ago. Ms. Anderson said the 22 mile segment really needs to be improved. Ms. Anderson said we have a number of choke points. Ms. Anderson said so our board has authorized a study over the next 2 years to determine what infrastructure improvements need to be made. Ms. Anderson said that work will begin later this spring.

Ms. Anderson said the I-90 western segment is all new pavement and we've increased the speed limit from 45 (construction) to 65 miles per hour. Ms. Anderson said we have been getting requests from our customers to consider raising the speed limit to 70 miles per hour. Ms. Anderson said so we are doing an engineering study to determine the increase in speed limit and will be done by the end of this year. Ms. Anderson said the recommendations from that study will be given to our board and then we'll corporate with IDOT for their approval and then we'll submit it to Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR).

Ms. Anderson responded to Mr. Austin's question regarding bridge work over Fox on I-90 being temporarily halted. Ms. Anderson mentioned their engineering staff are working with the Governor's office on that and we do not anticipate a delay.

G. IDOT STP Local Program Update - Gerardo Fierro

Gerardo Fierro handed out the Local Roads & Streets Status Sheet for Federal Aid Projects located in McHenry Regional Council.

H. CMAP Report – CMAP staff

Ms. Aleman said our executive director got nominated to be the new Secretary of IDOT and will be leaving CMAP at the end of the month. Ms. Aleman mentioned in the interim, current Chief of Staff Jill Leary will be the acting executive director until a new executive director is selected.

Ms. Aleman mentioned the active CMAQ and TAP Call for Projects and to speak to your planning liaison if you have any questions.

I. Executive Council of Mayors Committee Report – CMAP staff

Ms. Aleman mentioned that Advance Funding was discussed at the last Council of Mayors Executive Committee meeting.

**5. PRESENTATIONS**

A. Regional Infrastructure Fund (aka Fund 2040) - Erin Aleman with CMAP.

In April, the CMAP Board gave staff direction to develop a strategy to address agency and regional infrastructure funding issues. Staff will provide an update regarding this strategy and proposal.

Ms. Aleman gave a presentation overviewing the proposed Fund 2040.

## 6. FUNCTIONAL CLASSIFICATION REVISIONS

*If approved, the next action on the below items would be IDOT review.*

Mrs. Jensen said that these three items were continued from the November meeting. Mr. Strahan provided a recap on the village's request indicating that the Village is looking to reclassify the streets to be consistent with village's Comprehensive Plan; streets have 25 mile per hour speed limit and narrow width; roads not constructed for high volume of traffic.

Mr. Strahan said they received a couple of responses from the Village of Fox River Grove and Village of Algonquin and an email from Algonquin Township pertaining to Plum Tree Road and Algonquin Road/River Road and were not in support of the village's request.

Mr. Strahan said we also reached out to the Village of Carpentersville regarding Helm Road and we received a response requesting a meeting, but we have not been able to meet with the Village of Carpentersville.

Mr. Strahan said we want to reiterate that it's not the village's intent to effect or negatively impact neighboring municipalities, really this was just to ensure that the federal classification was consistent with what the village would like to see.

Ms. Meroni passed out a handout and went over it. Ms. Meroni indicated the requests are resident driven and is not intended to jeopardize any funding request by neighboring communities. Ms. Meroni said we are rural, we have fairly narrow roads with a tree canopy and vegetation up the edge. Ms. Meroni said we don't have any: sidewalks, comprehensive curb and gutter, street lights. Ms. Meroni said we are an anomaly in a metropolitan area.

Ms. Meroni said this past year we were applying for the STP funding for Haegers Bend Road and based on the criteria that you had in 2012, we didn't make the cut by 5 points. Ms. Meroni said Haegers Bend Road has not been done in almost 15 years, but it is in serious condition and the sub-base has to be completely redone. Ms. Meroni said that was our basis for starting to do these request for STP funding in 2014.

Ms. Meroni said as the residents became aware if we were to actually do these that it was going to require eminent domain because we don't have right-of-way and this is a beautiful wooded road with many oak trees. Ms. Meroni said the result would be loss of character of our roads. Ms. Meroni said as I know of today, the number of petitions that the residents have signed are 171. Ms. Meroni indicated the request are intended to not change the character of the roads and village and to keep a rustic, natural environment.

Chairman Mack requested that Mrs. Jensen explain the review process.

Mrs. Jensen said if the council does approve the requests, one or all three, the approved requests would go forward to IDOT with their application. Mrs. Jensen said their application would have to include support letters from the neighboring communities, which is a requirement. Mrs. Jensen said IDOT would review it and if they agreed with the downgrade they would forward it on to the Federal Highway Authority (FHWA) for final decision.

Mr. Mitchard asked whether the functional classification obligates the Village of Barrington Hills to change their roads. Mrs. Jensen said no, the functional classification is system-wide, IDOT and FHWA don't just look at it by municipal lines, they look at it regionally. Mrs. Jensen said they look at the function of the road, traffic, character, ect. Mrs. Jensen indicated that Barrington Hills does not have to apply for federal funding, functional classification (above local road/street) just allows them to apply for a federal funding, like STP.

The council further discussed the requests.

- A. A Resolution Approving the Functional Classification Revision Request for Algonquin Road/River Road in the Village of Barrington Hills, Illinois *(Item continued from the November 20, 2014, meeting)*.

Mr. Mitchard motion, seconded by Mr. Nelson, to deny the request. The motion carried unanimously.

- B. A Resolution Approving the Functional Classification Revision Request for Helm Road in the Village of Barrington Hills, Illinois *(Item continued from the November 20, 2014, meeting)*.

Mr. Nelson motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchard, to deny the request. The motion carried unanimously.

- C. A Resolution Approving the Functional Classification Revision Request for Plum Tree Road in the Village of Barrington Hills, Illinois *(Item continued from the November 20, 2014, meeting)*.

Mr. Nunamaker motion, seconded by Mr. Mitchard, to deny the request. The motion carried unanimously.

## **7. MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM**

- A. FFY 2015-2019 Surface Transportation Program (STP)
  - i. Project Status Reports for FFY 2015-2019

Mrs. Jensen thanked everyone for submitting the Project Status Report Updates on time. Mrs. Jensen said Paul Ruscho just handed out the Project Status Report Update for Woodstock's Lake Shore Drive project.

Mr. Ruscho went over the update, indicating that they reached out to the developers that are a part of this road to make sure this is still envisioned. Mr. Ruscho said there is still the intention to build this road gap and anticipating FFY 2018 on the program schedule.

Mrs. Jensen indicated that there are two projects, Lakeshore Drive (Woodstock) and Miller Road/Ackman Road (Lake in the Hills), that have been on the STP program for a while and could give a Special Status Update presentation if the council wishes to hear it.

Mrs. Jensen indicated that Miller Road/Ackman Road project has been on the STP schedule since 2010 and Lakeshore Drive was originally put on in 2000 and put back on in 2006. Mrs. Jensen said Miller Road/Ackman Road project has not started Phase I yet and Lakeshore Drive project has started Phase I.

The council discussed the Special Status Update request.

Mr. Nelson motion to hear the Special Status Update presentations for the two projects. The motion carried.

Mrs. Jensen indicated that this type of update is per the council's methodology and helps with project programming purposes and to give the council an understanding of where projects are.

ii. STP Schedule for FFY 2015-2019

Mrs. Jensen handed out an updated STP Schedule, which the change was adding additional financial information to the bottom note section.

**8. PLANNING LIAISON REPORT**

A. Call for CMAQ and TAP Projects

Mrs. Jensen indicated that there is a Call for CMAQ and TAP Projects, which applications are due to CMAP on March 3, 2015. Before submitting applications to CMAP, please submit to me by February 13, 2015.

Mrs. Jensen said there is a workshop being hosted Northwest Municipal Conference on Friday, January 23, 2015. Mrs. Jensen said this workshop is not required, it's just for information for any potential sponsor.

B. Call for UWP Projects

Mrs. Jensen said the UWP Call for Proposals is currently active and to contact her for any questions.

C. [Omnibus Appropriations Bill](#) was signed by President Obama on December 16, 2014, for Federal Fiscal Year 2015 (FFY 15), which will fund the federal government through September 30, 2015. Transportation/Housing and Urban Development (THUD)

component of the Omnibus Appropriations Bill will continue to fully fund the highway and transit program levels outlined in [MAP-21](#), with a slight increase in funding amount from FFY 14.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION**

Thursday, March 19, 2015, at 2:00 p.m. at the Crystal Lake City Hall building, Training rooms, in Crystal Lake, IL.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Ruscko and seconded by Mr. Young. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The motion carried.