

MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, November 19, 2020

9:00 AM

Webex Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.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
2. Village of Bull Valley – Emily Berendt
3. Village of Cary – Erik Morimoto
4. City of Crystal Lake – Abby Wilgreen
5. City of Harvard - Dave Nelson
6. Village of Huntley – Tim Farrell
7. Village of Johnsburg - Claudett Sofiakis
8. Village of Lake in the Hills – Tom Migatz
9. City of McHenry – Troy Strange
10. Village of Ringwood - Rick Mack, Chair
11. Village of Spring Grove – Mark Eisenberg
12. City of Woodstock – Jeff Van Landuyt
13. McHenry County – Jeremy Stull

Staff Present:

1. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Emily Daucher, Planning Liaison
2. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Scott Hennings, Executive Director

Others Present:

1. McHenry County Board Chair – Mike Buehler
2. Village of Lake in the Hills – Peter D’Agostino
3. Village of Spring Grove – Mike Lee
4. McHenry County DOT – Ryan Peterson
5. CMAP – Kama Dobbs
6. Pace - Mary L. Donner
7. Metra – Katie Renteria
8. McHenry County Conservation District - John Kremer
9. McHenry County Department of Planning & Development – Dennis Sandquist
10. McHenry County Department of Health - Bridget Hoffmann
11. IDOT – Katie Herdus
12. Tollway – Lauren Platt

13. Tollway – Kelsey Passi
14. McHenry County Department of Health - Bridget Hoffmann
15. City of McHenry – Cody Sheriff

2. AGENDA APPROVAL

Approval of the agenda for the November 19, 2020 McHenry County Council of Mayors meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Farrell seconded by Mr. Morimoto to approve the agenda as presented. A list of the votes can be found on the last page.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the minutes for the July 23, 2020 McHenry County Council of Mayors meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson seconded by Mr. Farrell to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously. A list of the votes can be found on the last page.

4. PROGRAM & AGENCY UPDATES

- A. IDOT Highway Report – Katie Herdus
Ms. Herdus informed the Council that the annual program was published on October 6. Some Standard overlay projects previously in the 2020-2025 MYP are not in the 2021-2026 MYP due to TAMP criteria. On the capital side, IL 31 add lanes were advertised for Phase II. IL 47 Phase II plans are underway, IL 47 at 176 plans are underway, waiting on permits for alignment of pleasant valley rd. Con – finishing culvert at US 20 and Kane Co line, roundabout on US 20 and harmony open, planting is only thing left – spring 2021. IL 47 at Kish has been let – early next year. Same with Marengo/beck roundabout – utility delay. High mast arm lighting towers at 14 and 31 should be complete soon.
- B. Pace Report – Mary Donner
Ms. Donner announced that Pace has a balanced budget and are not raising fares this year. Some service was temporarily suspended or discontinued, particularly routes that took riders into the City of Chicago. A total of 73 routes were suspended and another 25 were modified. Pace and MCDOT are working to provide shelters along Randall Road. MCRide is going to expand in 2021 and Pace is working with MCDOT on that as well. MCDOT and Pace are working to bring transit as outlined in the 2018 Transit Plan. Ms. Donner also offered support to Chair Mack regarding the impact that COVID-19 has had on transit.
- C. Metra Update – Katie Renteria
Ms. Renteria gave an update on the board-approved budget for Metra. The operating budget is around 700 million with no fare increases and no reductions in service beyond current levels. Without federal funding, the operating expenses will need to decrease by \$70 million by the end of 2021. The capital budget is \$386 million, with investment in cars, locomotives, bridges, and stations. Almost \$70 million on locomotive and car rehab, \$60 million on rolling stock, \$12 million on bridges, \$47 million on stations, and \$34 million on new equipment and vehicles.
- D. RTA Update – Andy Plummer

Not present, no report.

- E. McHenry County Division of Transportation Update – Jeremy Stull and Ryan Peterson

Mr. Stull gave an update on active and recently completed construction projects. Randall Road is about 70% complete. The lane closure will remain through winter. Algonquin Road will have all lanes open by the end of this season, with exception of the left turn lane onto Randall, with two of three open. Construction will resume next spring. County paving program is completed, with 16 miles of resurfacing total. Harmony Road Bridge was closed for replacement and work has been completed and the bridge reopened. The West Solon Road Bridge was closed last May and has been reopened. The left turn lane on the Johnsbury Road Bridge in Johnsbury is partially closed.

Mr. Peterson informed the Council of the expansion of MCRide countywide with no fees from the municipalities. Also, the DOT is holding a public meeting on December 3rd for Lakewood Road.

- F. Illinois Tollway Update – Lauren Platt

Ms. Platt updated the Council regarding the 2021 budget, which is available on the Tollway website, and will be approved in December. She also provided a traffic update on the Tollway, passenger and truck traffic are rebounding. The Tollway also has payment relief for tolls. Ms. Platt introduced Kelsey Passi, the new Community Relations Corridor Manager.

Ms. Passi introduced herself and expressed looking forward to working with the Councils.

- G. IDOT STP Local Program Update – IDOT Staff

Not present, handout provided.

- H. CMAP Report and Council of Mayors Executive Committee Report – Kama Dobbs

Ms. Dobbs told the Council that CMAP was primarily working from home. The agency is tracking transportation impacts of the pandemic with resources on their website. CMAP has launched a Regional Economic Recovery Task Force, with more information on the website as well. The next call for projects for Shared Fund, CMAQ and TAP opens January 8 and closes March 5. New for the cycle includes bike/pedestrian barrier elimination projects, and eligibility for bike/ped connections as part of transit station improvement projects. More information will be available in early December. IDOT released the Call for Projects for FY 2022 for the Truck Access Route Program.

5. PRESENTATION – MCHENRY COUNTY SUBREGIONAL BIKE PLAN – JENNIFER PANGBORN, WSP

Ms. Pangborn gave an introductory presentation on the McHenry County Subregional Bike Plan, now known as McHenry County Connection. She went over the current engagement for the plan, the vision and goals, and the timeline for the plan’s creation.

6. PLANNING LIAISON CONTRACT APPROVAL

Ms. Daucher asked for a vote approving the State Fiscal Year 2021 Planning Liaison Contract. Chair Mack asked for clarification if the federal/local split was 80/20. Ms. Daucher confirmed that it is, 80% federal, 20% local.

A motion was made by Mr. Morimoto seconded by Mr. Strange to approve the contract as presented. The motion carried unanimously. A list of the votes can be found on the last page.

7. ACTIVE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICIES APPROVAL

Ms. Daucher gave an overview of the Active Management Policies for the McHenry County Council of Mayors 2021-2025 Surface Transportation Program for discussion and approval. A list of votes can be found on the last page.

Ms. Daucher asked the Council if they have preferences regarding the reprogramming of funding. Ms. Wilgreen asked how it was done previously. Mr. Hennings explained that it was a different system previously, but historically priority was placed on high bids and moving projects into the active program. In the past it was easier to do those, now it needs to be a prioritization.

Chair Mack asked if we were discussing the difference between an active project with cost changes versus a contingency project waiting for funding. Ms. Daucher explained that she is asking what the council would choose to fund first. Chair Mack said he would prefer to prioritize high bids that are no more than 10% of the initial cost, and higher than that should be re-bid, otherwise look to the contingency list. Mr. Hennings agreed, and said we could work with CMAP to draft that language.

Mr. Morimoto agreed with Chair Mack that high bids come first. It is harder to prioritize the rest of the options. Are there other options to look at it at a case-by-case basis? Ms. Daucher said we first and foremost have to have enough funding to fund anything. This is more in the event of having two projects that could fit in the available amount, where we'd have to choose between them. Her logic was that active and let projects should be prioritize before contingency projects, but there's arguments to be made for any prioritization. Chair Mack said that his personal approach is prioritizing active project first with the 10% stipulation, if it does, then the council can consider another project.

Mr. Mitchard agreed, and asked if the cost increase could not go above cap (10%/1.5 million). Mr. Hennings answered affirmatively and also added that because of the meeting schedule, it is difficult to address situations that happen in between Council meetings.

Ms. Dobbs chimed in that readiness is another consideration. A project can be in an out year but ready to obligate, so who is ready to meet the deadline is important to consider. Chair Mack said he would be okay with giving the PL the power to keep the projects moving forward under the 10% stipulation and ready to go.

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson seconded by Mr. Lee to approve the policies with the 10% cost increase stipulation. The motion carried unanimously. A list of the votes can be found on the last page.

8. PRESENTATION – STP-LOCAL – NEXT STEPS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Ms. Daucher gave an overview of the 2020 STP-L Call for Projects and asked for input on the methodology review and upcoming 2022 Call for Projects.

Mr. Eisenberg made a comment regarding smaller communities. He said that engineering is a cost and would like to see that continued in the next Call for Projects.

Chair Mack said that limiting communities to two projects made a big difference in allowing many communities to benefit. Mr. Hennings also mentioned the idea of awarding points to communities who did not receive funding in the previous call for projects. Mr. Eisenberg expressed support for that idea. Many small communities do not have the funds and resources for these projects. He also mentioned they are learning as well and any help is appreciated. Chair Mack also approved of the idea. He noted that under the old program, the Council did a good job spreading the funding around but sometimes it comes up short. He would like to see as many people benefit while still seeing worthwhile projects funded.

Mr. Strange had a comment on pavement condition scoring. He explained that the optimum score for pavement condition in the methodology is difficult to bring to the Board, as other roads may be worse off but lower scoring. He wondered if any other municipalities had this issue. Chair Mack stated that he liked that communities that kept up with maintenance were rewarded, instead of letting a road deteriorate and receiving points for it. Mr. Strange replied that, for roads in the heart of the optimum scoring range, pavement condition may still be within 10-15 years into the life cycle of the pavement, which is early for resurfacing. Mr. Morimoto asked how the process is set for obtaining condition ratings. He noted that for them, some of the ratings were considerably different than those obtained by consultants. Ms. Daucher replied that CMAP data were used to determine ratings; however, communities were allowed to supplement data. She indicated that a more formal process for submitting supplemental data is desired.

Chair Mack indicated that he is looking forward to tweaking the methodology rather than totally redoing it, as the methodology for the previous call worked well. Ms. Daucher and Ms. Dobbs agreed. CMAP would not recommend a full overhaul.

Mr. Mitchard commented that PCI became subjective and that it needs to be more consistent. He suggested having all applicants call one contractor for all assessments within a certain time period for consistency. Ms. Daucher said that is something the review committee will have to figure out.

Mr. Hennings suggested that Council members who want to be part of the methodology committee reach out to Chair Mack.

9. MPI UPDATE – ERIK MORIMOTO

Mr. Morimoto gave an update to the Council about the McHenry County Municipal Partnering Initiative. He shared the joint bid list table MPI has and encouraged other agencies and municipalities to join the group. If any agencies are interested in joining a joint bid or want more information about MPI, contact Erik Morimoto or Beth Skowronski. He also informed the Council about a biweekly call regarding staffing challenges with COVID-19. The next MPI meeting is 12/8/2020.

10. PLANNING LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Daucher did not have anything to report.

11. 2021 MEETING DATES

Ms. Daucher noted the first few meetings will be virtual. Chair Mack agreed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

No other business or announcements.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting is January 14, 2021 and will be held on Webex.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Farrell motioned to adjourn, Mr. Mitchard seconded. The vote passed unanimously. There was no roll call vote.

Chairman Mack adjourned the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Name	Community	Vote
Bob Mitchard	Algonquin	Not present
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Not present
Erik Morimoto	Cary	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Tim Farrell	Huntley	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Tom Migatz	Lake in the Hills	Approve
Troy Strange	McHenry	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mark Eisenberg	Spring Grove	Approve
Jeff Van Landuyt	Woodstock	Approve
Jeremy Stull	McHenry County	Approve

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Name	Community	Vote
Bob Mitchard	Algonquin	Not present
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Not present
Erik Morimoto	Cary	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Tim Farrell	Huntley	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Tom Migatz	Lake in the Hills	Abstain
Troy Strange	McHenry	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mark Eisenberg	Spring Grove	Approve
Jeff Van Landuyt	Woodstock	Abstain
Jeremy Stull	McHenry County	Approve

APPROVAL OF THE PLANNING LIAISON CONTRACT

Name	Community	Vote
Bob Mitchard	Algonquin	Approve
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Not present
Erik Morimoto	Cary	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Tim Farrell	Huntley	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Tom Migatz	Lake in the Hills	Approve
Troy Strange	McHenry	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mark Eisenberg	Spring Grove	Approve
Jeff Van Landuyt	Woodstock	Abstain
Jeremy Stull	McHenry County	Approve

APPROVAL OF THE ACTIVE PROGRAM MANAGEMENT POLICIES

Name	Community	Vote
Bob Mitchard	Algonquin	Approve
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Approve
Erik Morimoto	Cary	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve

Tim Farrell	Huntley	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Tom Migatz	Lake in the Hills	Approve
Troy Strange	McHenry	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mark Eisenberg	Spring Grove	Approve
Jeff Van Landuyt	Woodstock	Abstain
Jeremy Stull	McHenry County	Approve