

MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 2021

9:00 AM

Webex Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 9:07 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 Cary – Erik Morimoto
3. City of Crystal Lake – Abby Wilgreen
4. City of Harvard - Dave Nelson
5. Village of Huntley – Tim Farrell
6. Village of Johnsburg - Claudett Sofiakis
7. Village of Lakewood – Jeannine Smith
8. City of Marengo – Josh Blakemore
9. City of McHenry – Troy Strange
10. Village of Ringwood - Rick Mack, Chair
11. Village of Spring Grove – Mark Eisenberg
12. City of Woodstock – Christina Betz
13. McHenry County – Scott Hennings

Staff Present:

1. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Emily Daucher, Planning Liaison
2. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Jon Paul Diipla, Executive Director

Others Present:

1. Village of Lake in the Hills – Peter D’Agostino
2. Village of Spring Grove – Mike Lee
3. Village of Cary – Courtney Sage
4. City of McHenry – Greg Gruen
5. McHenry County DOT – Ryan Peterson
6. Pace - Mary L. Donner
7. Metra – Katie Renteria
8. McHenry County Department of Planning & Development – Scott Kuykendall
9. IDOT – Gerardo Fierro
10. IDOT – Katie Herdus
11. Tollway – Kelsey Passi
12. Baxter & Woodman – Dan Schug

13. Baxter & Woodman – Jason Fluhr
14. TranSystems – Jesse Vuorenmaa
15. HLR – Amy McSwane
16. Civiltech – Jon Vana
17. EEI – Joseph Cwynar
18. WSP – Jennifer Pangborn
19. BLA – Jacob Thede
20. Thomas Engineering – Tim Vedder
21. Traffic Control Corp - Brian Plum

2. MINUTES APPROVAL

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

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. PROGRAM & AGENCY UPDATES

- A. IDOT Highway Report – Katie Herdus
Not present, no report.
- B. Pace Report – Mary Donner
Ms. Donner reported that Erin Smith is the new Director for Pace for McHenry County. She is the former Village President of Lakewood. The budget has seen a shortfall with fixed route, but is better than expected. It was about 1/5 of what was anticipated. ADA was also down \$8 million but there were set aside funds that helped fill the gap. Ms. Donner also announced a number of operators who achieved million, 2 million, and 3 million mile status, which reflects the miles without an avoidable accident. Cook county, RTA, and Metra joined with Pace to expand service on the South Side of Chicago along route 352. Metra has reduced fares for those going into downtown. Pace is planning on extending telecommuting until at least February 1.
- C. Metra Update – Rick Mack
Chair Mack explained that Metra Board approved purchase of 500 modern railcars, as the last purchase was about 20 years ago on the Metra Electric line. About 40% of Metra's current 840 cars are rated as marginal or poor condition, but are still safe to operate. The cars are part of a plan since 2014 and driven by 2019 customer research. They will have amenities including bike racks, cup holders, charging outlets, video screens, and others. They will have the most advanced HVAC systems available to help reduce airborne viruses. The cars are built in New York. Although this is happening during a pandemic, Metra does need to modernize and they are anticipating ridership will come back and they need to be prepared.

Woodstock station rehab will be done in the next week or 2 with a dedication in April. Pingree Road station has a structural issue, not dangerous, but Union Pacific is hiring a contractor to repair the issue. Metra is working with Crystal Lake to improve parking and other improvements. Work is expected to start in 2021.

Ridership about 8-10% of pre-pandemic levels as people are working from home and not going downtown. The office requirements of 20-25% capacity in city of Chicago and limits to the number of people in an elevator are impacting Metra ridership. Chair Mack is not sure when ridership will rebound, but that will rely on vaccine distribution increasing and increasing office capacity. He is hopeful things will continue to improve.

D. RTA Update – Andy Plummer

Not present, no report.

E. McHenry County Division of Transportation Update – Scott Hennings

Mr. Hennings said that the Randall Road project is 71% complete, and that the current configuration on Algonquin Rd and Randall Rd will remain throughout winter, Mr. Hennings is expecting the project to be complete by summer 2021. The 2021 County Paving Program to go to bid on February 3. Projects include Ackman from Haligus Rd to Westport Ridge, Kishwaukee Valley Road from County Line to IL 23 and others if funds area available. The Kishwaukee Valley Road Bridge replacement project from culvert to bridge has a bid opening tentatively scheduled for March or April. The bridge will be closed for 4 to 5 months during construction. Contact Ben Redding for more information. The DOT is working on a report on dissolution of Algonquin Township if it is voted for in April. The effective date would be January 1, 2022 if approved. He will reach out to cities in Algonquin Township to work together to minimize impact.

Chair Mack suggested that it might be a good presentation topic once the report is done. He also asked about an infrastructure bill with the new Biden admin and if the County would be sending along any information to the administration regarding projects. Mr. Hennings said he would give a presentation on dissolution and may be able to next meeting. He also explained that the County is trying to find federal funding for the Randall Road project and that they will be putting together a list for incoming administration.

F. Illinois Tollway Update – Lauren Platt

Ms. Platt did not have many construction updates. In December 2020, the Board approved the 2021 budget with \$1.4 billion in revenue allocated. The Tollway has had a cashless system since March 2020. Reach out to Lauren or Kelsey with questions about that. In June 2020, the Board approved the Tolling 2020 initiative that reduced fines and outstanding tolls. More than 17% of outstanding notices have been cleared. The Tollway is extending the program by 6 months. More information on that is available on the website or people can reach out to Lauren or Kelsey to get violations paid. In 2020, all scheduled constructions projects and

maintenance/repair work moved forward. The Tollway awarded 31 contracts to small/diverse/veteran owned firms. \$1.5 billion in engineering/construction contracts were awarded last year.

- G. IDOT STP Local Program Update – Gerardo Fierro
Mr. Fierro provided a handout with the most recent status sheet. Any questions can be sent to Gerardo.
- H. CMAP Report and Council of Mayors Executive Committee Report – Mary Weber
Ms. Weber reported that CMAP Board met yesterday morning, with a meeting recording on their website. MPO Policy Committee meeting is today, with the recording also available shortly afterwards on the website. Also, tomorrow at 10am there is a webinar on how to submit an application via eTIP for the CMAQ/TAP/Shared Fund Call for Projects.

5. INTRODUCTION – JON PAUL DIIPLA

Chair Mack introduced and welcomed MCCOM’s new Executive Director, Jon Paul Diipla to the Council. Mr. Diipla was hired to replace Mr. Hennings in his old position after his promotion. Mr. Diipla said he was previously employed with the Rockford MPO and has background in multi-juris. Coordination and transportation planning and said he was excited to work with the Council.

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

Ms. Pangborn gave an update to the Council regarding the bike plan and public outreach. She told the Council that there was a public meeting on January 27 and a public survey to be put up on the website after the meeting. The website is live at mchenrycountyconnection.com with links to more information, contact information, and project goals. Mr. Eisenberg asked for the link to be sent to him so he could put it in his Village’s newsletter. Ms. Daucher put it in the chat and said she would send it out to everyone after the meeting.

7. PRESENTATION – MCRIDE UPDATES – RYAN PETERSON, MCDOT

Mr. Peterson introduced himself to the Council and showed a new MCRide video promoting the program. He gave an overview of the program and the new county-wide coverage area. MCRide is one of the most flexible in the County and region. He explained that MCRide is a great example of a community partnership between the County and Pace and that the new countywide system was effective January 1. Some lines in southeastern McHenry County were discontinued, but he is hoping they’ll be able to transition to MCRide. He explained how someone would book a ride, and how much the service costs for those with disabilities and the general public. The hours of operation are 6am to 7pm every day, which is new. [MCRide has a Facebook page as well](#). Reach out to Mr. Peterson if you need service cards. Other updates include: 2 kids under 7 from the same family can ride for free with a fare paying adult and that there’s one person per bus limit due to COVID. He is hoping to have electronic payment in the next couple years. There is also a MCRide interactive map available.

Mr. Hennings chimed in that new cities are part of the program now, so Mr. Peterson will give virtual presentations as needed to officials or non-profits in the cities. He also highlighted the original MCRide cities of Crystal Lake, Woodstock, and McHenry. Without their willingness to join this, the service wouldn't be here today.

Mr. Peterson also told the Council that the county has removed the requirement of cities paying into the service with just the County and Pace paying.

Mr. Eisenberg thanked Ryan for removing the requirement for cities, and asked if it's feasible for people to get a trip to the grocery store/doctor and back. Mr. Peterson explained that it's better to schedule as far in advance as possible and a minimum of two hours, but definitely possible. Mr. Eisenberg also requested a link to the MCRide program, which Ms. Daucher agreed to send out.

8. REPORT – STP-L QUARTERLY STATUS UPDATE REPORT

Ms. Daucher reported that all Quarterly Updates were received and that all projects were still on track. She thanked the sponsors for getting them in on time. She also updated the Council that CMAP had told the PLs that for projects that have been in progress of a number of years, some older attachments, while helpful, may not be required.

9. PLANNING LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Daucher reminded the Council of the STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, and TAP Calls for Projects had opened. A recent webinar should be available on CMAP's YouTube page for reference. She also echoed what Ms. Pangborn had said earlier about the bike plan public meeting and survey. Chair Mack suggested discussing the projects at the March meeting. Ms. Daucher agreed and said she should know which projects would be applying before the next meeting. She also explained the allocation of Council bonus points at the March meeting. She discussed the requirements for the shared Fund applications and Mr. Hennings added that the \$5 million threshold did not need to be met if the local agency was partnering (financially) with other agencies. Chair Mack also told everyone to keep in mind that during their previous call, MCCOM gave Northwest Municipal Conference bonus points for one of their projects.

10. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Peterson told the Council that the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is also having a Call for Projects for bike related projects. More information can be found on the IDNR website. Mr. Morimoto informed the Council of the next MPI meeting, held virtually, on January 26. Reach out to Mr. Morimoto if you are interested. There is also a biweekly COVID-19 update call. Let him know if you are interested in that as well.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting is March 11, 2021 and will be held on Webex.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hennings motioned to adjourn, Mr. Eisenberg seconded. There was no roll call vote. Chairman Mack adjourned the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Name	Community	Vote
Bob Mitchard	Algonquin	Arrived late
Erik Morimoto	Cary	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Tim Farrell	Huntley	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Jeannine Smith	Lakewood	Approve
Josh Blakemore	Marengo	Approve
Troy Strange	McHenry	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mark Eisenberg	Spring Grove	Approve
Christina Betz	Woodstock	Approve
Jeremy Stull	McHenry County	Approve