

MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

9:00 AM

Webex Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

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

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

Council Members Present:

1. Village of Bull Valley – Emily Berendt
2. City of Crystal Lake – Abby Wilgreen
3. City of Harvard - Dave Nelson
4. Village of Johnsburg - Claudett Sofiakis
5. Village of Ringwood - Rick Mack, Chair
6. Village of Spring Grove – Mike Lee
7. 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. McHenry County DOT – Ryan Peterson
2. McHenry County DOT – Ernest Varga
3. Metra – Katie Renteria
4. IDOT – Katie Herdus
5. Tollway – Kelsey Passi
6. Baxter & Woodman – Dan Schug
7. TranSystems – Jesse Vuorenmaa
8. HLR – Amy McSwane
9. EEI – Joseph Cwynar
10. BLA – Jacob Thede
11. City of Elgin – Mike Pubentz
12. Chastain Engineers – Steve Frerichs

2. MINUTES APPROVAL

Approval of the minutes for the January 14, 2021 McHenry County Council of Mayors meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Hennings and seconded by Mr. Lee 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

Ms. Herdus gave an update on IDOT Projects in McHenry County. For IL 47 at IL 176, plans are close to pre-final. IL 47 from US 14 to IL 120, preliminary plans will be submitted in next few months. US 12 resurfacing from IL 173 to Wisconsin state line, project is let with a construction starting in early May. US 20 at Marengo/Beck: utilities are finishing relocation work. Construction contract started in March or April IL 47 at Kishwaukee River: early warning signs went up at the beginning of March and tree removal has started. The estimated completion date is November 2022. IDOT is still working remotely.

B. Pace Report – Mary Donner

Not present, no report.

C. Metra Update – Rick Mack

Chair Mack reported that on April 9, Metra is going to be having a station dedication at the recently-renovated Woodstock station. Metra is also designing a new warming shelter for the inbound platform at that station. They are working with the City of Woodstock on the project. It is currently at 60% design, with construction expected late this year or next spring. Metra is also working with the City of Crystal Lake on improvements to the Pingree Road station. They are currently working on a draft IGA now, with construction expected to start this summer. Improvements include landscaping, parking improvements, and repairs to detention ponds. Regionally, Metra is holding a Safe Return to Work Summit with tenants in the City of Chicago to inform people that folks can safely take transit and to give people confidence to return to work. Funding: the Trump admin signed a relief package around Christmas, and the RTA presented to the Metra Board how funds will be distributed. There is a total of \$486 million, with Metra getting \$83 million, or 17.9%, Pace receiving \$22 million 4.6%, and CTA getting \$361 million, or 77.5%. Metra was disappointed and expressed this to the RTA. The Board supports the formula which distributes funds to transit agencies, and is hoping the Biden Administration funding will be distributed based on the formula. The formula is 33% to Metra, 58% to CTA, and 8% to Pace. The region is getting \$1.5 billion from the Biden Administration to support essential workers through the pandemic and get the transit agencies through 2022 and into 2023. Chair Mack expects that's how long it will take for a full recovery from the pandemic.

D. RTA Update – Andy Plummer

Not present, no report.

E. McHenry County Division of Transportation Update – Scott Hennings

Mr. Hennings started with the Randall Road project, which is 71% complete. Contractors will be starting work soon and concrete crew will start paving in March. The new completion date is Aug 31. The date was pushed back due to utility delays earlier on in the project. Three roadways are on the paving contract this summer: Ackman Road, Kishwaukee Valley Road, and Vermont Road. There is also a second contract for a Thin Lift Overlay on Oak Grove Road this summer. Kishwaukee Valley bridge replacement is on the April letting. There will be a full closure west of IL 23 starting early summer and lasting a couple months, with working expected to finished in the late fall. For maintenance – the DOT is trying to increase the number of liquid routes in winter. They are now up to three on the system and hoping to increase that next year. They have had success using liquids solely instead of salt, and have installed new tank farm last year.

F. Illinois Tollway Update – Kelsey Passi

Ms. Passi announced that Jacqueline Gomez Fuentes was appointed by Governor Pritzker to fill a vacant seat on the Illinois Tollway Board. She is the Director of Supplier and Workforce Diversity at the Obama Foundation. The Tollway is going to complete cashless tolling. In March 2020, the Tollway started cashless tolling to protect drivers from Covid-19. They also provided relief during pandemic that is going through June 2021, including \$3 fees on past due tolls instead of \$20 or \$50 fees. Drivers can still use IPass, EZpass, or pay tolls online. There is a 14 day grace period for tolls, which is one of the longest in the nation. The Tollway is also asking for support to draw attention to state Move Over laws. They lost two workers due to accidents. The Move Over law requires drivers to slow down, move over, and change lanes for any vehicle with flashing lights. The Tollway is in the 10th year of the Move Illinois capital plan. The capital plan provides \$302 million systemwide for road and bridge repairs and calls for investing \$1.53 billion in the region's infrastructure, which includes \$451 million for planning and advance construction for new I-490 tollway and new interchanges on the Jane Addams (I-90), I-294, and I-390. It also includes funding for direct access to O'Hare as part of Elgin-O'Hare Western Access project.

G. IDOT STP Local Program Update – Gerardo Fierro

Not present, no report.

H. CMAP Report and Council of Mayors Executive Committee Report – Mary Weber

Ms. Weber reported that CMAPs regional transportation call for projects has closed and staff are scoring applications. The next STP Project Selection Committee will be April 1 and the next CMAQ Project Selection Committee is also April 1. CMAP analyzed Governor Pritzker's budget proposal to see how it aligns with ON TO 2050. His proposal includes investments and programs for mobility, water management, and resources for local governments. CMAP explored what it could mean for the Northeastern Illinois region. The report is on the CMAP website.

**5. STP-SF COUNCIL BONUS POINTS AND CALL FOR PROJECTS DISCUSSION
MCHENRY COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION - RANDALL ROAD
CITY OF ELGIN - US 20 AT REINKING ROAD ROUNDABOUT
CITY OF ELGIN - DUNDEE AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION**

Mr. Hennings began by presenting information about Randall Road Reconstruction Project to the Council. The project had applied for Surface Transportation Program – Shared Fund funding from CMAP. Mr. Hennings presented on the status of the project and the amount requested for construction.

Following that, Mr. Pubentz from the City of Elgin presented two projects for the Council's consideration. The first was a roundabout project on US 20 at Reinking Road in Elgin and the second was for a reconstruction project on Dundee Avenue, also in Elgin. Mr. Pubentz gave a similar overview highlighting the details and costs of the project, as well as benefits to McHenry County residents.

Chair Mack asked Ms. Daucher if they had to choose between the Randall Road project and the Elgin projects. Ms. Daucher replied that they could assign points to both projects. Chair Mack then asked Mr. Pubentz which project was preferred to receive bonus points. Mr. Pubentz said that for the City the US 20 project would be a higher priority, as well as a higher priority regionally. Ms. Berendt asked if we could wait until the entire list of projects was released. Ms. Daucher replied that due to the timing of then the points had to be assigned and the MCOM meeting schedule, that would not be possible. Chair Mack added that Ms. Daucher had emailed the other Planning Liaisons to see if any other sponsors would like to present their projects to receive points and the City of Elgin was the only one who responded.

Ms. Sofiakis made a motion to approve giving Randall Road the 5 bonus points, US 20 and Reinking Road 4 bonus points. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nelson. The motion carried unanimously. A list of the votes can be found on the last page.

Chair Mack then opened it up for discussion to give the Dundee Ave recon 3 points. Ms. Sofiakis asked Mr. Nelson to elaborate why the project should not receive points. Mr. Nelson said he doesn't see the benefit that folks in the county would take the route, unlike the us 20 route. He does not see the regional benefit. Ms. Sofiakis asked Mr. Pubentz what kind of traffic he sees and where it goes in that area. Mr. Pubentz explained that some good points have been made on the regional utility of the project. He explained this project is a connection between 90 and Elgin, but is a primarily inter-city connection. Mr. Pubentz explained that points don't have to be assigned, but if you put value on fed dollars coming back to the region, there may be some benefit there. He did agree that it is not a main throughoutfare for McHenry County residents and would like to receive 3 points, but they do understand if not and anything would be appreciated.

Chair Mack asked if the Council would like to assign 1, 2, or 3 points to the project or if the Council would prefer to assign 0 points to the project. There was no motion, so the Dundee Avenue project received 0 points.

6. PRESENTATION – MCHENRY COUNTY ESSENTIAL WORKERS INFORMAITON

Ms. Daucher gave a presentation on CMAP data regarding essential workers in McHenry County. The presentation highlighted where different types of essential workers in the County live based on Census Tracts and Census data.

7. METHODOLOGY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Chair Mack gave a brief update on the Methodology Committee, stating that progress was being made on the methodology and that there would be more information following the next meeting on March 12.

8. PLANNING LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Daucher briefly gave an update on the progress of the McHenry County Connection.

9. OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The next meeting is July 15, 2021 and will be held on Webex.

11. ADJOURNMENT

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Name	Community	Vote
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mike Lee	Spring Grove	Approve
Jon Paul Diipla	McHenry County	Approve

APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL BONUS POINT ALLOCATION

Name	Community	Vote
Emily Berendt	Bull Valley	Approve
Abby Wilgreen	Crystal Lake	Approve
Dave Nelson	Harvard	Approve
Claudett Sofiakis	Johnsburg	Approve
Rick Mack, Chair	Ringwood	Approve
Mike Lee	Spring Grove	Approve
Jon Paul Diipla	McHenry County	Approve