

MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF MAYORS MEETING  
MINUTES

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

9:00 AM

Crystal Lake City Hall

100 West Woodstock Street, Crystal Lake, IL 60014

---

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mack called the meeting to order at 9:00 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 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 – Greg Gruen
10. Village of Ringwood – Rick Mack, Chairman
11. City of Woodstock – Chris Tiedt
12. McHenry County – Ben Redding

Staff Present:

1. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Scott Hennings, Principal Transportation Planner
2. McHenry County Council of Mayors – Emily Daucher, Planning Liaison

Others Present:

1. Sam Wright – Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
2. Andy Plummer – RTA
3. Kama Dobbs – CMAP
4. Chalen Daigle – MCCOG
5. Tim Vedder – Thomas Engineering Group
6. Katie Renteria – Metra
7. Jacob Thede – BLA
8. Katie Herdus – IDOT
9. Lauren Platt – Illinois Tollway
10. Mary Donner – Pace

11. Joe Cwynar – Engineering Enterprises, Inc.
  12. Jason Fluhr – Baxter & Woodman
  13. Jeff Mawdsley – City of Crystal Lake
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2020
    - A. Minutes were approved by Mr. Nelson and Ms. Sofiakis.
  3. PUBLIC COMMENT
    - A. No public comment.
  4. PROGRAM & AGENCY UPDATES
    - A. IDOT Highway Report – Katie Herdus

Ms. Herdus handed out new update sheets to the Council. IDOT was in the process of working on the Multi-Year Plan to be completed in the spring.

Ms. Herdus explained that IL 31 has received design approval, phase II is advertised, and land acquisition is planned for July 2021. IL 47 is anticipating a mid-summer start for phase II, and that land acquisition has started. The IL 47/IL 176 project is waiting to complete pre-final plans, land acquisition has started. Two projects on the sheets handed out were on the January letting, one on the March letting, and one on the April letting.
    - B. Pace Report – Mary Donner

Ms. Donner did not have too much to report, as Pace was not conducting out of region business trips. She discussed the reconstruction of the Joliet transfer center and that Pace did a full month of outreach for the project. The Plainfield Park-n-Ride won an award. Ms. Donner continued by discussing the partnership between McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) and Pace that was looking at restructuring. MCRide has been updated with new brochures available.
    - C. Metra Update – Chairman Mack

Chairman Mack informed the Council that Metra was working with the city of Woodstock to rehab their station with a warming shelter on the inbound platform, with construction later this year. Metra was working with RTA and the state on capital bill funds. Metra was paying close attention to the COVID-19 situation and cleaning handrails and other areas more frequently.

D. RTA Update – Andy Plummer

Mr. Plummer noted the Access to Transit Program and the intent of the program to fund small scale improvements. The Call for Projects opened on March 13 with applications due May 8<sup>th</sup>. There are two categories: traditional projects which fund phase II and construction, requires the project to be in a plan funded by RTA or CMAP to apply. RTA funded half the match, with the project minimum being \$150,000 and maximum at \$1.5 million. Phase I is the responsibility of the local community. The other is funding for phase I for smaller projects with RTA money. Project must be part of a local plan or a RTA/CMAP plan.

E. McHenry County Division of Transportation Update – Ben Redding

Mr. Redding discussed the resurfacing of Main St in Huntley, ongoing construction on Randall Road, and opportunities for future public involvement with the Lakewood Road bike path project and Ackman Road feasibility study.

F. Illinois Tollway Update – Lauren Platt

Ms. Platt thanked the Council for the support for opening new ramps on IL 23 and noted that the peak usage for morning and evening commutes was meeting expectations.

G. IDOT STP Local Program Update – Gerardo Fierro

Not present, handout available.

H. CMAP Report – Kama Dobbs

Ms. Dobbs reminded the Council that CMAQ and TAP projects were due by April 16<sup>th</sup> for July and September lettings. The region obligated more than \$40 million in STP funds through beginning of 2020. All projects after March letting were unconstrained. March 12<sup>th</sup> was a meeting between CMAP and all Councils and Executive Directors. She mentioned that the Shared Fund lessons learned, project types, tweaks to the program and other issues would be discussed throughout the summer, with staff presenting criteria for new project types in April. Second quarterly status updates were due in March.

Ms. Dobbs mentioned a few Calls for Projects: Statewide Planning and Research (IDOT) looking for projects, in particular multi-jurisdictional projects due Friday March 13. The USDOT was seeking applications for its BUILD grant, with a minimum of \$5 million for construction and a maximum of \$25 million. In particular projects should look at state of good repair and safety improvements. IDNR was accepting applications for their bike path program.

- I. Executive Council of Mayors Committee Report – Kama Dobbs  
Executive Committee was scheduled to meet April 14<sup>th</sup>.
5. PRESENTATION – COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND HIGHWAYS  
Sam Wright gave a presentation on rail trespassing throughout the region. Cook County was the second highest in the nation for rail fatalities after Los Angeles County. The Union Pacific – Northwest line has the highest rate of fatalities of any rail line – 18 fatalities with 14 of them suicides in McHenry County. Ninety-seven percent of suicides are by pedestrians. A conference to discuss these issues was scheduled for May 5-6, where they would reach out to law enforcement, coroners and others about the issue.
6. PRESENTATION – MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Ms. Daigle gave an overview of MCCOG, an organization with 27 municipal members in McHenry County. They have a legislative focus, but also work in transportation advocacy and release an annual transportation program. Ms. Daigle handed out maps of priority transportation projects, which included the completed IL 47 project through Woodstock, US 14 from Crystal Lake to Woodstock, Longmeadow Parkway, and IL 23/I-90. MCCOG was planning to go to Springfield on April 1 to meet with elected officials and IDOT. The East McHenry bypass was not on the radar now, but hopefully will be soon. MCCOG was working with a marketing company (A-5) to put together a flyer to bring to legislators to secure funding. Ms. Daigle praised the work on the capital bill. Mr. Gruen asked if there were any preliminary plans for the E McHenry bypass. Ms. Daigle said there were not yet.
7. PRESENTATION – MUNICIPAL PARTNERING INITIATIVE  
Mr. Morimoto discussed MPI and the big push to continue partnering in projects and saving money. He plans to give regular updates at Council meetings. MPI meets every other month to discuss joint contracts and brainstorm. The next meeting was March 31 at McHenry Department of Public Works. MPI has a template for bids and RFQs available from Beth Skowronski (MCDOT) or Mr. Morimoto. MCCOM is hosting the MPI website. Ms. Daucher said it's slowly coming together and being worked on.

8. PLANNING LIAISON REPORT

Ms. Daucher discussed the number of STP applications received (8) and to contact her via cellphone or email with questions. Applications due Monday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM. Ms. Daucher reported on the bike plan. She and Mr. Hennings met with the consultant and are working on contracts, but no other updates. Advisory Committee coming together. Lakewood expressed interest in joining.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairman Mack thanked Jeff Young (MCDOT) for his service on the Council and wished him well.

Mr. Mitchard requested a new sign as Ms. Zimmerman is no longer at the Village of Algonquin.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

**Thursday May 14, 2020 – POSTPONED to Wednesday, June 19, 2020**

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Location: ~~Cary Village Hall~~ Virtual Meeting

Room: ~~City Council Chambers~~

Address: ~~655 Village Hall Drive, Cary, IL~~

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting concluded at 9:59 a.m.