



MEETING MINUTES

Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure
Funding and Policy
Commission Meeting | November 30, 2023 | 1:00pm – 2:00pm

Commission Members Present	Commission Members Absent
Chair – Secretary Omer Osman	Commissioner Romaine Brown
Commissioner Eileen Chin	Commissioner Laura Calderon
Senator Don DeWitte	Representative Marcus Evans Jr.
Representative Dave Fowler	Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer
Commissioner Jacquelyn Grimshaw	Representative Michael Kelly
Commissioner Thomas Kotarac	Representative Mike Marron
Commissioner Duana Love	Senator Ram Villivalam
Senator Laura Murphy	
Commissioner Marc Paulos	

Staff Attendees Present	Representing
Holly Bieneman	Illinois Department of Transportation
Aaron Gold-Stein	Illinois Department of Transportation
John Donovan	Illinois Department of Transportation
Kristin Fulscher	Illinois Department of Transportation
Matt McAnarney	Illinois Department of Transportation
Michael Vanderhoof	Illinois Department of Transportation

Other Attendees Present	Representing
Wendy Abrams	Morreale Communications
Berenice Alvarez	Morreale Communications
Diane Bustamante	Morreale Communications
Mary McIlvain	Morreale Communications

Overview of Meeting

I. **Introductions**

Commission Chair Omer Osman called the meeting to order and began by reviewing the meeting agenda.

Following Chair Osman's introduction, Deputy Secretary Jeremy LaMarche took roll call. With 10 Commissioners present, the quorum was met.

Chair Osman welcomed Commissioner Eileen Chin to her first Commission meeting.

II. **Approval of Minutes (August 11, 2023)**

Chair Osman introduced the August meeting minutes for approval. Chair Osman motioned to approve the minutes, and the motion was seconded. All voted in favor, and the motion was passed.

III. **Discussion of By-Laws**

Chair Osman recognized that the Commission members may need to have the By-Laws at hand in order to have a meaningful discussion. Deputy Secretary LaMarche stated that a final version would be circulated, tabled for now, and voted on in the next meeting.

IV. **Subgroup Discussion on Scope of Work**

This agenda item was discussed in a closed meeting session. When the discussion concluded the meeting returned to the open meeting session.

V. **Technical Memo Prioritization**

Bureau Chief Michael Vanderhoof led the discussion on the technical memo list and planned priorities.

The memos will help bring the Commission up to speed on the current state with the several duties of the Commission in mind. This includes future trends, multi-modal system needs, data needs, governance, workforce, project delivery, and improvement to the PBPS. At this point, the transportation and innovative funding option memos have been received and are being reviewed. The memos can be supplied to the Commission moving forward. The remaining memos are prioritized by when they may be needed or how much time they will take to complete. Future trends and multi-modal system needs are needed for the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). These, along with the funding information, is considered tier one. Data needs and governance fall under tier two. A third tier in the priority list is examining the workforce (it will require work across multiple IDOT bureaus and interviewing external partners), project delivery, and improving performance-based project selection (will rely on key learnings from the LRTP).

Senator Don DeWitte asked Bureau Chief Vanderhoof to expand on the multi-modal system needs.

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof stated that the LRTP will be benefiting from several other plans that have been done recently and are underway. Examples of transportation modes include a marine transportation system plan, aviation plan, and rail plan.

Senator DeWitte asked if regional transportation components would be included in that discussion. Senator DeWitte clarified he was referring to Metro East Regional Transit, Springfield Metro Transit, and Bloomington-Normal.

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof stated that a statewide transportation plan is underway and will be the main document from which to pull information. Transit ridership could be summarized for this particular memo and other documents can be provided and referenced if more detailed information is needed.

Senator DeWitte stated that some of those will intertwine. Senator DeWitte referenced his work with extending service from Elgin into Rockford and the areas in between. The RTA/Metra piece of the puzzle integrates IDOT into the process because of the rail and relationship issues with UP. Senator DeWitte would like these situations described in the multi-modal information.

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof acknowledges the complexity of running passenger rail into freight lines. The level of detail in the memos is still in question. There will be an internal process to QA/QC for all the memos. Bureau Chief Vanderhoof noted that memos may lead to more questions as they are reviewed.

Commissioner Grimshaw asked if future trends include the new greenhouse gas rule released by the Feds last week.

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof stated that the process includes outreach for the LRTP. Greenhouse gases, carbon reduction, electric vehicles, and equity are the types of trends coming in right now. Greenhouse gases are a prominent future trend that will be covered.

Commissioner Kotarac emphasized the importance of beginning the briefing work and obtaining the baseline knowledge to incorporate into the LRTP. He stated the importance of the independent consultant building upon the work previously completed. He recommended that as the memos are produced, accompanying them with prompting questions or discussion points that would be solicited from the Commission from an advisory standpoint would be helpful. He also recommends an executive summary for each to help the

Commission digest and distill the information. His final recommendation is to insert anything that is consciously avoided and that may be helpful for the Commission to consider in regard to whether an independent consultant can help fill the gap.

VI. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VII. Public Comment

The meeting was open to public comment. No public comments were made.

VIII. Next Meeting

Chair Osman stated that the Commission should expect an email survey to request availability for the next Commission meeting.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn and seconded. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.