

MEETING MINUTES

Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure
Funding and Policy
Commission Meeting | September 17, 2024 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Staff Attendees Present	Representing
John Donovan	Illinois Department of Transportation
Jeremy LaMarche	Illinois Department of Transportation
Michael Vanderhoof	Illinois Department of Transportation
Holly Bieneman	Illinois Department of Transportation
Kristin Fulscher	Illinois Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Irvin	Illinois Department of Transportation

Other Attendees Present	Representing
Berenice Alvarez	Morreale Communications
Asabea Kirkland	Morreale Communications
Diane Bustamante	Morreale Communications
Michael Lampl	Ernst & Young, LLP
Gabe Sanders	Ernst & Young, LLP
Varun Rajagopalan	Ernst & Young, LLP
Robert Rescot	Illinois Concrete Pavement Association
Daniel Comeaux	CDM Smith
Alex Beata	CDM Smith
Jacki Murdock	CDM Smith
Joseph Quille	Guidehouse
Louis Makarewicz	Guidehouse
Hanna Marie Hohener	Guidehouse
Brad Allan	Monitor Deloitte
Veton Hasku	Senator Villivalam District Office
Stephanie Curcio	KPMG

Overview of Meeting

I. Introductions

Commission Chair Secretary Omer Osman called the meeting to order. Following Chair Osman's introduction, a roll call was conducted. Although the quorum was not met at the start of the meeting, it was counted and confirmed with 9 Commissioners present shortly after the meeting began. At the conclusion of the meeting there were 12 Commissioners present.

II. Procurement Update

Director Holly Bieneman provided a brief update on the procurement process.

The IDOT team is still in the procurement process and hopes to have something to present by the next Commission meeting.

Director Bieneman asked if the Commission prefers IDOT wait to enter a contract until the Commission is aware of the selected vendor, or if it is okay for the Department to move forward with the procurement process overseen by the State Procurement Office (SPO) and the Chief Procurement Officer (CPO).

Commissioner Duana Love asked if there would be any impact on the procurement process to share the information.

Director Bieneman answered that sharing the information would delay the process because it would delay the execution of the contract.

Chair Osman suggested informing all the Commissioners of the selected firm and proceeding with the signature of the contracts.

Commissioner Tom Kotarac agreed with Chair Osman and encouraged the Department to make a selection soon. He said it's a good experience for all the Commissioners as they delve into deeper issues to do things expeditiously and find efficient ways to procure support for the Department when it's needed.

Chair Osman said this is just one of the thousands of procurements the Department does annually. The process is complicated, and that is why there are delays in the process.

Commissioner Senator Laura Murphy seconded expediting the contract and offline she would like to know why presenting the information would delay the process.

Director Bieneman clarified that sharing the information would only delay the execution of the contract, not the procurement.

Director Bieneman said the Department will continue executing the contract and inform the Commissioners of it by the next meeting.

III. Approval of Minutes – June 18, 2024

Chair Osman introduced the June meeting minutes for approval. Chair Osman motioned to approve the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes and seconded. The motion passed. All voted in favor, and the motion was passed with 9 votes.

IV. NEVI Award Update

Deputy Director Elizabeth Irvin presented the NEVI Award update.

Commissioner Duana Love said congratulations on the programming.

Chair Osman asked Deputy Director Irvin to expand on the level of coordination with other state agencies and the Governor's office.

Deputy Director Irvin answered, the Department is coordinating around the state on EV adoption issues, whether that's a federal grant program. The Department meets at least monthly and coordinates closely with the Illinois EPA, the Illinois Commerce Commission, the Illinois Finance Authority, and many other state agencies.

Chair Osman asked where IDOT is in terms of implementing the Federal NEVI program.

Deputy Director Irvin said the Department is in the middle of the pack. Every state is different. One state that achieved fully built out status is Rhode Island, and they only had to build one station. The Department was successful in the first round and is working towards a second round to achieve fully built out status.

Commissioner Jacky Grimshaw asked if there is a difference in the green and yellow routes displayed on the map showing the charging station locations.

Deputy Director Irvin answered that the difference is when the routes were nominated for the Alternative Corridor Network. This process happens annually and allows the State to designate corridors that are a part of the Alternative Corridor Network. The graphic is from the 2023 plans, and the corridors had not received the approval from the feds yet. They have since been approved.

Deputy Director Irvin noted that the full list of awardees and all the information on the NEVI program are available on the IDOT website if you search "IDOT drive electric." You can also sign up for updates by email.

Commissioner Senator Ram Villivalam asked if dynamic electric charging is discussed as part of this process, or if it is completely separate and will be discussed in the future.

Deputy Director Irvin answered that it is separate from the NEVI program, which has specific guidelines for how the money can be spent. Dynamic wireless driving is not an eligible expense under the NEVI program; however, the Department is researching it.

Commissioner Senator Villivalam asked what the dollar amounts of the grants are on the federal level.

Deputy Director Irvin said the total federal funding for Illinois is a formula program. Illinois is receiving \$148-149 million over 5 years. All the sites are required to be 20% match, and the 20% match is the private sector match, which is a minimum. In the first round, the awards ranged from \$1 million with 4 ports to \$500,000, depending on how much the entity requested to match.

V. Data Memo and Memo Update

Bureau Chief Michael Vanderhoof presented the data memo and a memo update.

Commissioner Senator Murphy asked if data is being collected on the changing needs of road structures. IDOT controls a number of truck routes that run through residential communities and there aren't updates in speed limits, signage, crosswalks and intersection changes. How does the Department accommodate those that may have been truck routes and have now morphed into a residential community?

Chair Osman said in some cases the municipality is responsible for maintaining some truck routes. A couple of years ago, there were bicycle and pedestrian issues with some of the truck routes. The department would like to adjust how it plans and designs intersections to fit the neighborhood and the new dynamic.

Commissioner Senator Murphy said it is important that this is considered by this Commission.

Commissioner Senator Villivalam also asked for the Commission to look into when changes in corridors shift over time from commercial to residential areas.

Chair Osman asked Bureau Chief Vanderhoof to what extent the Department is involved with organizations like Transportation Research Board (TRB) and whether it is valuable.

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof said the Department is present and involved. Externally, the Department is networking with peers and trying to get as much information as possible.

Director Bieneman adds the Bureau of Research works with University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), through an intergovernmental grant agreement for 5 years with the warrant to do research and learn from others.

VI. New Business

The meeting was opened to new business. No new business was discussed.

VII. Public Comment

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

VIII. Next meeting

The next Commission meeting is Wednesday, October 16th.

IX. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.