

MEETING MINUTES

Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure
Funding and Policy
Commission Meeting | October 21, 2025 | 10:00am – 12:00pm

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

Staff Attendees Present	Representing
Holly Bieneman	Illinois Department of Transportation
Sophie Blumenstein	Illinois Department of Transportation
John Donovan	Illinois Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Irvin	Illinois Department of Transportation
Terrence Glavin	Illinois Department of Transportation
Jeremy LaMarche	Illinois Department of Transportation
Brandy Phillips	Illinois Department of Transportation
Michael Vanderhoof	Illinois Department of Transportation
Janel Veile	Illinois Department of Transportation
Margaret Smith	Illinois Department of Transportation

Other Attendees Present	Representing
Lanyea Griffin	Acclaim Collier Engineering
Mozella Richardson Kamara	Acclaim Collier Engineering
Tracey Bailey	B Squared Consulting
Daniel Comeaux	CDM Smith
Travis Dunn	CDM Smith
Ndidi Opara	CDM Smith
Julian Selix	CDM Smith
Justine Sydello	CDM Smith
Alex Beata	CMAP
Jason Carbee	HDR
Alasdair Dawson	HNTB
Bryan Bungo	KPMG
Trevor Butler	KPMG
Ted Hamer	KPMG
Suzie Heap	KPMG
Brandon Niday	KPMG
Alex Rothman	KPMG
Michael Stacey	KPMG
Maggie Jarr	La Grange Park
Marcia Shapiro	Marine Tiger Technologies
Michael Steinle	Marine Tiger Technologies
Thomas Bamonte	Metropolitan Planning Council
Audrey Wennik	Metropolitan Planning Council
Sarah Archer	Metro Strategies Group
Katharine McSteen	Metro Strategies Group
Tammy Wierciak	Metro Strategies Group
Rocco Zuccherro	Metro Strategies Group

Other Attendees Present	Representing
Muhammed Patel	Natural Resources Defense Council
John Amdor	Nekritz Amdor Consulting
Steven Andersson	Nekritz Amdor Consulting
Elaine Nekritz	Nekritz Amdor Consulting
Eric Czarnota	Northwest Municipal Conference
Chris Staron	Northwest Municipal Conference
Charles Frangos	Orion Engineering
Tom Gill	Thomas Engineering Group
ASICK	N/A
Ksmith	N/A

Overview of Meeting

I. Introductions

Commission Chair Secretary Gia Biagi called the meeting to order. Following Chair Biagi's introduction, Katharine McSteen, with Metro Strategies Group, called the roll. Quorum was met at the start of the meeting, with 12 Commissioners present.

II. Approval of Minutes – August 19, 2025

Secretary Biagi introduced the meeting minutes for approval and there were no comments regarding the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Commissioner Poulos and seconded by Commissioner Calderon. All voted in favor, and the motion was passed with no objections.

III. Update from Secretary Biagi

Secretary Biagi welcomed and thanked the Commissioners for their time and participation in the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC). She shared that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has been getting started and processing the analysis completed by the Commission. There have been several internal IDOT staff conferences where the BRC recommendations have been presented and discussed. IDOT conducted a staff survey and has received over 1,600 responses. A two day workshop was held to learn about complex project offices from other Departments of Transportation across the

country in which senior IDOT leadership participated. Ultimately IDOT will be taking the report and making it a framework to help guide how they move forward.

IV. Update on Recent BRC Activity

Mr. Ted Hamer, with KPMG, provided a summary of the origin of the BRC, the working outline of the BRC's final report, and all BRC activities to date.

Mr. Rocco Zuccherro, with Metro Strategies Group, provided a summary of the BRC's stakeholder engagement activities. He shared that the team has met with the BRC Commissioners, over 70 IDOT staff from all districts, external agencies, county agencies, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), and other external groups totaling in over 150 individuals.

Mr. Zuccherro stated that the project team structured the BRC recommendations around the 11 duties outlined in the BRC's governing legislation. He stated that there are over 27 recommendations following five objectives and as of today over 59% of recommendations are already advancing.

V. Discussion: BRC Recommendations

Mr. Bryan Bungo, with KPMG, detailed how the BRC working groups identified 27 recommendations across five overarching objectives and how they will be presented throughout this Commission meeting.

Objective One: Accelerate Project Delivery

Mr. Charles Frangos, with Orion Engineering, provided an overview of the first BRC objective and explained that the focus of these recommendations is to reduce disruptions, avoid cost escalations, and strengthen overall transportation system reliability.

There were no comments.

Objective Two: Expand Workforce Capacity

Ms. Suzie Heap, with KPMG, and Ms. Tracey Baily, with B-Squared Consulting, provided an overview of the second BRC objective and explained that the goal of these recommendations is to invest in training, support small businesses, and enable IDOT employees with the necessary resources, time and support to manage daily demands.

There were no comments.

Objective Three: Maximizing the Value of Investments

Mr. Daniel Comeaux, with CDM Smith, gave an overview of the third BRC objective and explained that the purpose of these recommendations is to increase the speed of project delivery and improve the alignment of transportation and infrastructure investments with state and local policy goals.

There were no comments.

Objective Four: Drive Sustainable Outcomes

Mr. Michael Steinle, with Marine Tiger Technologies, gave an overview of the fourth BRC objective and explained that the intention of these recommendations is to become a national leader in sustainable transportation by reducing GHG emissions, managing weather risks, enhancing resilience, aligning agency-wide frameworks, and securing stable funding for innovation and continuity.

There were no comments.

Objective Five: Secure Adequate Funding Sources

Mr. Travis Dunn, with CDM Smith, gave an overview of the fifth BRC objective and explained that the focus of these recommendations is to develop revenue strategies aligned with state priorities, address funding challenges and cost inflation, and enhance transportation system effectiveness.

Senator Murphy asked IDOT to provide an update on how much of the current capital program has been appropriated.

Commissioner Grimshaw asked for clarification on whether these recommendations refer to a future state capital bill or federal capital bill.

Mr. Dunn replied that these recommendations are focused on the next state capital bill.

Summary of Edits to Draft Recommendations from 10/5/25

Mr. Bungo highlighted all edits made to the BRC recommendations since the last draft was shared with Commissioners and noted that all changes were made based upon comments from Commissioners.

Approval of BRC Recommendations

Commissioner Poulos made the following motion:

"I move that the Commission approve the recommendations presented and discussed during today's meeting of the Blue-Ribbon Commission and direct the consultant team to incorporate these recommendations into the final report. The report shall summarize the BRC's activities, data, and findings, and be submitted to the Illinois General Assembly in accordance with Senate Bill 849, which established the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Policy."

Commissioner Chin seconded the motion made by Commissioner Poulos.

There were no comments on the motion on the floor.

Commission Chair Secretary Biagi re-read the motion on the floor advancing the motion to a roll call vote.

Ms. McSteen called the roll to approve the motion on the floor.

With 12 votes in favor the motion passed unanimously, and the recommendations were finalized and approved.

VI. Next Steps

Mr. Bungo reviewed the next steps of the report development stating that the final draft will be completed in January of 2026 and implementation of the recommendations will continue. He also shared that updates on the status of BRC recommendations will be provided by IDOT to the ILGA.

VII. New Business

The meeting was opened to new business.

Commissioner Kotarac thanked Secretary Biagi for moving the BRC forward and for beginning to implement these recommendations. He also asked if Commissioners could receive physical copies of the BRC report when it was finalized.

Secretary Biagi stated that copies of the report would be sent to all Commissioners.

VIII. Public Comment

Chair Biagi opened the meeting to public comment.

There were no comments made.

IX. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn by Commissioner Calderon and seconded by Commissioner Chin. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:19am.