

Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure Funding and Policy

February 15, 2023

3:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Members present:

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| Chair - Secretary Omer M. Osman | Romayne Brown | Laura Calderon | Senator Don Dewitte | Representative Marcus Evans | Jacky Grimshaw |
| Representative Mike Kelly | Tom Kotarac | Duana Love | Senator Laura Murphy | Marc Poulos | Senator Ram Villivalam |

Members absent:

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| Representative C.D. Davidsmeyer | Senator Dale Fowler | Representative Mike Marron |
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Staff present:

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| Holly Bieneman | Barb Clauser | Brad Franke | Becky Locker | Michael Vanderhoof | Janel Veile |
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Welcome and Introductions

Chair Osman called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. Roll call was conducted. IDOT staff was introduced.

Overview of legislation creating Commission

Chair Osman discussed the overview of the commission. Detailed history of the enabling legislation, number and types of appointments, chair appointment. Dates for the commission to appoint members, first meeting and report due date.

Representative Murphy mentioned report should include details regarding the funding sources

Senator Dewitte indicated the report should also include details regarding outside sources of funding – such as funds that are not state related, for example, federal funds

Commissioner Poulos suggested someone should put thought into each of the duties. He continued by asking what the timeline is to meet each of the duties and suggested we look at the time allocation for

each. Some may take a considerable amount of time. He suggested the commission should break out into individual committees to discuss each issue.

Leader Evans highlighted the workforce's racial equity considerations and indicated that in his opinion it is important to consider minority business and minority workforce

Commissioner Kotarac indicated this is a large effort and suggested obtaining third part help is key. Suggested team looks at what other states have used to complete a similar effort. He continued that seven months is a short period of time and suggested revisiting halfway through to make sure we can meet the timeline

Chair Osman clarified that the language regarding the duties was pulled directly from legislation. He continued that there are many efforts occurring that align with the duties identified such as the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) requiring a revenue study related to Electric Vehicle adoption and its impact on motor fuel tax revenues and the Rebuild Illinois Program related to workforce and Illinois Works.

Chair Osman indicates that the legislation requires the Department to hire a third party to assist with the duties of the commission. He introduced Director of the Office of Planning and Programming, Holly Bieneman.

Director Bieneman provided details on three options for a third party. She indicated the long range transportation plan (LRTP) covers many but not all duties required by the commission. LRTP had already been advertised through IDOT's Professional Transportation Bulletin (PTB) and IDOT has developed a scope of work with the chosen consultant that would carry out the work. Holly provided background on the purpose and goals of the LRTP.

In response to a question from Commissioner Kotarac, Director Bieneman indicated HDR, CDM Smith, Quigg Engineering, and Kaskaskia Engineering Group are the LRTP consultants; however, the work of the commission would be mainly handled by CDM Smith. They have experience completing similar work. Commissioner Love asked if this commission was identified as a component of the solicitation. Director Bieneman indicated it was not however there is flexibility in negotiating the scope and we have asked the consultant to provide scope and cost to us in anticipation that the commission may be interested in this option.

Commissioner Kotarac indicated that although the firm is qualified it is primarily an engineering firm and asked who the commission wants to use? He continued by asking if the consultant would be open with commission and not be concerned with upsetting the Department?

Leader Evans asked if this one consultant will cover all categories?

Bureau Chief Vanderhoof spoke to the duties of the commission aligning well with development of LRTP and that it augments the scope of current revenue study. We have developed a scope of work for each of the commission duties.

Leader Evans indicated that is a lot for one entity. One consultant may limit their capabilities, could they add subcontractors?

Chair Osman responded that IDOT is the owner of the procurement and are providing this as one of three options.

Senator Murphy discussed the desire to be innovative, and raised concerns that this procurement may not achieve that goal.

Commissioner Polous indicated if we move away from this procurement it will increase the time to complete the duties of the commission and that we will have to consider an extended time frame.

Commissioner Love believes there is an opportunity to look at this scope as a resource for future work. Director Bieneman shared that if we use the scope our consultant prepared to procure another third party, that consultant would not be able to compete for it.

Director Bieneman continued to identify the other two procurement options. The second option is to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with a state university to assist IDOT in the duties of the commission. She indicated that would likely take at least six months to accomplish. The third option is to enter into an agreement with a not-for profit entity; in which case, the Department would likely need to follow a procurement process and that would add time as well. An optimistic time frame would be six months.

Commissioner Kotarac indicated that it would be beneficial for the group to review the fact-based information that will come out of the LRTP work while developing a scope for a procurement.

Commissioner Calderon echoed some of the comments made but suggested the commission should look at the scope of LRTP and see what is applicable to what we are doing and make use of the data being collected.

Commissioner Polous asked if a university could help the commission develop the scope. There were several concerns raised by commission members.

Commissioner Kotarac suggested that the Department could identify the work being completed related to the duties and that would help the commission develop the scope.

Chair Osman asked how frequent the commission should be meeting. Members indicated that given the short turn around identified in the legislation that the commission should meet frequently, every two weeks, while the scope is being drafted. Members requested the follow up information describing work the Department is conducting related to the duties of the commission one week prior to the next meeting.

Training Requirements

IDOT Ethic's Officer Ellen Bruce reviewed the trainings that are to be completed by members of the Commission.

Public Input

There was no public comment.

Commission member comments

There were no member comments.

Next Steps

Chair Osman summarized that a request for availability will be sent out for two weeks from now and the Department will begin identifying the work completed pertaining to the duties outlined in the legislation.

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn, and seconded. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.