



# ILLINOIS MPO ADVISORY COUNCIL

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August 7, 2008

2:00 p.m.

Comfort Suite, 1408 E. Broadway, Mattoon, Illinois

## **Opening:**

The regular meeting of the IL MPO Advisory Council was called to order at 2:00 by Cameron Moore.

## **I. APPROVAL OF LAST MEETING 'S MINUTES**

A motion was made by Mr. Aull and seconded by Mr. Soltau to approve the minutes the past two meetings. The first meeting occurred on May 30, 2008 and the second meeting was a teleconference on June 26, 2008. Motion passed.

## **II. ILLINOIS FUNDS**

Mr. Randy Coffey from the Illinois Treasurer's Office presented the Illinois Funds program to members. The program is a State of Illinois local government investment pool. It is a money market fund account. The interest rate yesterday was 2.05% with a \$6.5 billion investment. Services include: direct deposit of state distributions on the same day it is disbursed from the State Comptroller's office, free wire outs to financial institutions and up to 1,000 free checks per year. Many municipalities are already participants and no collateral is needed to set up the fund. Mr. Nunes highly suggested the use of this program for the MPO's in order to streamline distribution of state allocations.

## **III. FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mr. Moore presented the financial statements prepared by ILARC. Although the report indicates that two members have outstanding invoices, it was clarified that all MPO's have paid their dues for the IL MPO Advisory Council.

## **IV. STAFF REPORT**

Ms. Perales discussed recent visits to three of the small MPO's throughout the state. She visited the Danville Area Transportation Study, DeKalb-Sycamore Transportation Study, and Stateline Area Transportation Study the past couple of months. She plans on visiting the Dubuque Metro Area Transportation Study the following week. Her strategy includes visiting smaller MPO's and working her way up to larger MPO's to effectively understand their strengths and weaknesses.

The ILMPOAC website is up and running. She also discussed the status of the legislative report which is still being developed. There is a need to include public acts which were passed in the first General Assembly year. The report will incorporate other issues including environmental issues, TIF extensions, and various other topics which maybe pertinent to MPO's in the state.

## **V. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed at the meeting.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL PLANNING FUND REDUCTION

Mr. Smith stated the 3% reduction in the comprehensive regional funds was across the board and put into a special reserve. Mr. Nunes indicated the cut was made through the Governor's Office of Management & Budget and maybe done on an annual basis. Mr. Kohlbus asked what the reserve funds are used to be for and whether the funds will ever be recovered. Mr. Nunes indicated that GOMB may restore the cut if a capital bill is passed. Mr. Moore stated the funds may not be restored through legislative action since GOMB used their discretionary authority to cut these funds.

Ms. Perales informed members that there was a House Democratic Caucus to review the technical details of the lease of the lottery. The lease of the lottery is one of the key components to a capital bill. Mr. Simms questioned whether the reserve funds are used for other appropriations to balance the budget and asked staff to check on the status of the reserve. Ms. Perales is to follow up on this issue.

### NARC RESPONSE TO USDOT REPORT

Mr. Moore led the discussion on the NARC analysis to the USDOT report. The discussion of transportation planning and funding in the next transportation reauthorization legislation is currently underway. Mr. Moore indicated the need to collaborate on these discussions and welcomed members in coming up with strategies in developing those conversations at the state level.

Mr. Moore also suggested developing some type of response to the NARC review to the USDOT report. There is an opportunity to educate our members on specific issues the MPO's would like to discuss in the upcoming transportation reauthorization. Due to the political calendar, there will be limited movement in Washington for transportation reform at this time. A few of the topics to be addressed include transportation financing, the role of MPO's in the future and the dwindling federal highway funds.

### MPO INPUT REQUEST

Ms. Moore requested members be polled for the upcoming fall planning conference. Members should be thinking about questions to be presented to congressional members and/or staff to consider at the panel. Ms. Perales suggested a conference report from the fall planning conference. The proposed report can potentially anchor position papers in the future.

### STATEWIDE MEMBERSHIP TO NARC

Mr. Moore also notified members that he is having discussions with Mr. Nunes to acquire statewide membership to NARC for the MPO's. A decision will be made soon on the final cost.

### RESCISSIONS

Mr. Kohlbus initiated a discussion regarding rescissions. Mr. Nunes informed members that a March rescission will be at nearly \$110 million and suggested members start discussing its impact but future rescissions may be more discretionary. Mr. Kohlbus asked for clarification on PL funds. Mr. Nunes indicated that the PL funds are not being held back by IDOT and MPO's will receive all those dollars.

### JARC & NEW FREEDOM

Mr. Kohlbus asked if other members were still waiting on the release of JARC and New Freedom Funds from the FHWA. The last news he received was that the funds were being held at the Department of Labor for 2006 monies. Mr. Nunes indicated this was a new policy this past fiscal year and the monies have to go through two different departments at the FHWA, so it can be held up due to the bureaucratic process. No other members have had this issue.

### ILARC UPDATE

Mrs. Bulat provided an update on ILARC by-laws. She thanked Mr. Simms for his efforts in cleaning up the ILARC by-laws. The updated by-laws will be up for a vote the next day at the ILARC annual conference.

## **VII. CALENDAR**

The next meeting is scheduled October 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in Moline. It will be held in conjunction with the IDOT fall planning conference.

### **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m. by Cameron Moore.

Minutes submitted by: Marta Perales

### **ATTENDEES:**

*In attendance:* Gordon Smith, Chicago Metropolitan Agency on Planning, Terry Kohlbus, Peoria Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Cameron Moore, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Denise Bulat, Moline; Jerry Blair, East West Council of Governments; Norm Sims, Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission; Bob Soltan, Stateline MPO (Beloit); and Marta Perales, IL MPOAC staff.

*Teleconference:* Adam Aull, Danville Transportation Study; Chandra Ravada, Dubuque Metro Area Transportation Study; and Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning.