



## DRAFT MINUTES

August 2, 2011

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

McLean County Regional Planning Commission, Government Center - Conference Room LL1  
115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois

### I. ROLL CALL

*Board:* Steve Ernst, Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning; Cameron Moore, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; Jerry Blair, East-West Gateway Council of Government; Bob Soltau, State Line Area Transportation Study; Norm Sims, Springfield Area Transportation Study; Gordon Smith, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning; Terri Kohlbus, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission; Paul Russell, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Brian Dickson, DeKalb Area Transportation Study; Mark Smith, Decatur Area Transportation Study; Adam Aull, Danville Area Transportation Study; Mike Lammey, Kankakee Area Transportation Study *Teleconference:* Donna Moore, Bi-State Regional Planning Commission.

### II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Ernst entertained a motion to approve the minutes of June 14, 2011.

Mr. Cameron Moore motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Blair. All members voted aye.

### III. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Kohlbus presented financial reports to members. Mr. Sims motioned to accept the financial papers, seconded by Mr. Lammey. All members voted aye. Mr. Moore asked about the extension of the ILMPO contract. Treasurer Kohlbus and Chairman Ernst will follow up with IDOT to initiate another contract. Mr. Kohlbus further stated invoices for member's dues should go out shortly and dues will remain the same as last year.

### IV. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

#### REIMBURSEMENT VOUCHER STATUS:

Chairman Ernst indicated reimbursement invoices were recently held at up at IDOT. Ms. Dial indicated there was an issue with the system, and checks along with direct deposits were made on July 26. Mr. Ernst informed members they can monitor payments online through the Illinois Comptroller's Office, Bureau of Business Services. Ms. Perales will follow up with Rockford MPO for the correct link.

#### PL FUNDS:

Chairman Ernst advised members to submit a letter to Ms. Dial regarding their intention for the additional PL Funds. Member's discussed the process timeline for the additional funds, since many expressed the need to deliberate on what they can use the funds within their region. The additional funds will only be good through June 30, 2012. Mr. Sherman stated that this was the biggest increase they have seen in several years. FHWA bumped this year because there were no earmarks and more money is going to formulas. Mr. Sherman further stated PL funds are subject to federal transportation legislation, especially Congressman Mica's bill since it suggests a 35% reduction. Senator Boxer has a two-year extension. Ms. Dial further restated, if we do not get enough PL Funds, IDOT will use SPR funds to supplement the PL agreement with a confirmation from Mr. Sherman about the increased level commitment. The contract is only good through June 30, 2012 with the expectation that the UWP will be amended. PL funds do not roll over, they are only good the fiscal year they are given.

## V. STAFF REPORT

### SECOND QUARTER UWP REPORT:

Ms. Perales presented the second quarter ILMPO UWP report to members. Webinar training topics are now listed in the report for each 'Notices of the Illinois MPO Advisory Council' email sent to members. She further stated there is a deficit in Task 2.0 and will be reaching out to various planning associations over the next couple of months. Chairman Ernst asked members if the reporting format was sufficient. Most agreed on the current format and no members expressed a change in the format.

### 2011-2012 ILMPO UWP DRAFT:

Ms. Perales highlighted each new work item for tasks outlined in the draft. Chairman Ernst indicated the need to include sustainability sessions in her webinar notices as well as building a relationship with US HUD. Mr. Sims expressed the need for the ILMPO to be more proactive and not reactive to transportation policies affecting their regions. Chairman Ernst asked if members were utilizing the 'Member's Only' page. Ms. Perales expressed the intent of the webpage was to archive news, notices, and notes she prepares on behalf of ILMPO members, as well as policy analysis from member organizations.

Mr. Moore recommended the UWP include a survey for members and staff on the organization and website to ensure the ILMPO stays on track. Mr. Sims concurred, questioning what information could be used on the website, as well as suggesting members use the website as a forum to discuss issues. Next, Mr. Sherman asked if the funding levels would remain the same. Ms. Perales responded stating with the proposed UWP, it is funded at the same level. She plans to meet individually with members over the next few weeks to get their feedback on the document as well as gathering recommendations to be incorporated into the ILMPO UWP. Chairman Ernst indicated he would approval at the next meeting.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Ms. Perales informed members Governor Quinn signed two transportation related bills and a trailer bill to the public private partnership (PPP) bill is likely. Mr. Smith stated IDOT had some issues with the bill and hopeful Governor Quinn will sign the bill with a trailer bill presented during Veto Session. Treasurer Kohlbus requested that IDOT put together PPP training sessions for ILMPO and local government. There is a great deal of misunderstanding since it is not a funding source, but a financing mechanism. Mr. Sherman recommended Roger Drisco as a lead person for a public private session. Ms. Tracy stated FHWA has put out a call for service and recommended ILMPO recommend a training session on PPP. Members further discussed previous PPPs in Illinois and Indiana. Chairman Ernst further stated in the Tiger III application that the federal government is encouraging the PPP model and requested IDOT provide some expertise on what is allowed and what is not allowed. Members also discussed upcoming Tollway hearings as well the joint Revenue Committee hearings. Ms. Perales informed members they can submit comments to the Senate and House Chair directly and will send members the contact information.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Moore informed members he has identified an attorney for articles of incorporation and the attorney's engagement letter indicated a fee of approximately \$2500-\$3500. However, he further indicated it maybe slightly higher or lower. Treasurer Kohlbus made a motion to engage the lawyer for incorporation, seconded by Mr. Moore. A friendly motion was made to enter into the agreement with the attorney, contingent upon availability of funds. All members voting aye.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

### FEDERAL UPDATE – NARC:

Ms. Young, Transportation Director from the National Association of Regional Councils provided members with a federal transportation update. She briefed members on the House Rules and its impact on bills this session, including the status of both transportation reauthorizations in the House and Senate, as well as discussions about the USEPA air pollution threshold. Ms. Young further informed members Congress is considering their 21<sup>st</sup> extension of the FAA bill. There is some concern over the downgrading of credit worthiness of airports nationwide. She will be at the IDOT Fall Planning Conference and will provide further updates then. She welcomed members to join their Air Quality Committee. Chairman Ernst and Mr. Dickson asked questions about MPO mandates and FTA proposed funding levels.

### TRAVEL CONTROL BOARD TRAVEL GUIDE:

Chairman Ernst informed members the guide has been imposed to their UWP. Mr. Sherman stated the guide tells how much entities are to be reimbursed for hotels and per diem. This is part of the standard language put in all contracts. Ms. Dial indicated that travel is no longer a separate item contract. Mr. Sherman advised that the new procurement law buries all travel into the hourly rate of the employee. Treasurer Kohlbuss requested IDOT provide a briefing session on the new travel guide, since most expenses are washed through a cost allocation plan. Ms. Dial further stated the travel control board wants to control spending but reasonable expenses are okay.

### CHANGES TO MPO – UWP:

Chairman Ernst asked IDOT if the additional PL funds also require letter on what MPOs would spend the monies on or is it part of the UWP amendment. Mr. Sherman indicated there would be separate letter for both the state planning funds and the PL funds.

### LOCAL ROADS PAVEMENT SYSTEM:

Mr. Burke, local policy and technical engineer at IDOT briefed members on pavement management and asset management activities at IDOT. He further expects an implementation guide for a pavement management system to be released by October 2011. There will be regional type meetings and they would be available to attend MPO policy or technical committee meetings. There was some discussion of a new asset management training class created by FHWA for the LSAT center. They also plan a module class specifically for pavement management. FHWA has a full day class or an elected officials 30-60 minute presentation. There was also some discussion on ADA transition plans and marking the curb grants. Mr. Sherman stated they could work out a proposal with local roads to promote to few of these issues with them putting the presentation together and Office of Urban Program Planning to provide adequate funding. FHWA may have a pot of monies that may be eligible.

### TRAFFIC SAFETY DATA REPORTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL SYSTEMS:

Mr. Sherman indicated that due a scheduling conflict, Ms. Priscilla Tobias was not available. They are developing a decision process that will allow local entities to make look at safety priorities on the system. He further commended Champaign MPO for their initiative on this topic. Ms. Rita Black briefed members on Champaign Urbana Urbanized Study's activities with traffic safety data reports. Champaign MPO used the same kind of process for their Champaign highway safety plan to identify locations or corridors where they have a high fatality rates or specific crashes. The crashes were not related to geometry, they were more related to seat belts and DUI's and they started doing checks on those locations. Champaign MPO had enforcement people from the State Police, county local and university level discuss changes that needed to be done. Since than Ms. Tobias created a list of communities where she wanted to implemented the system. Champaign MPO's efforts brought together law enforcement, engineers and planners.

**IX. CALENDAR**

The date for the next meeting is Thursday, September 22 on the first day of the IDOT Fall Planning Conference.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Ernst entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sims motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Moore. Chairman Ernst adjourned the meeting at 1:16 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Marta Perales

In attendance:

*Others:* Jennifer Sicks, McLean County Regional Planning Commission; Rita Black, Champaign Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study; Lynnea Erickson, DeKalb Sycamore Area Transportation Study; Betsy Tracy, Federal Highway Administration; Keith Sherman, Tom Kelso, Nancy Dial and Kevin Burke from Illinois Department of Transportation; and Marta Perales, Illinois Metropolitan Planning Organization Advisory Council. *Teleconference:* Erika Young, National Association of Regional Councils.

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