



April 4, 2011

Illinois MPO Advisory Council Members:

I would like to discuss a few legislative principles that would better provide for MPOs in the complex federal mandate of transportation planning in Illinois. This organization understands IDOT is not solely a highway agency, but an agency managing the demands of a multi-modal transportation system. One main concern is regional mobility as it relates to connectivity of metropolitan clusters. Illinois residents should have the mobility they need to lead productive lives. With the signing of the Housing and Transportation Affordability Index in June 2010, Illinois is joining other states in their push for livability principles. Investing in metropolitan clusters ensures that we look at our state from a regional approach.

Implementation of the livability principles relies upon multiple modes of transportation. Through public involvement efforts throughout the state, Illinois residents are voicing their preference for more bike trails and access to public transportation. Our citizens want more mobility choices. Livability cannot be fully implemented without expanded mobility for the public. Through livability and sustainability principles, our aging communities can be revitalized and new infrastructure can be planned with these principles as the underlying foundation.

Each MPO in Illinois is unique, but through the Advisory Council they advance a common purpose. Each of the MPOs in the State has its own mix of demographics and transportation challenges. MPOs must also plan across their territorial boundaries, including both rural and urban areas. These complex plans must also include accessibility for persons with disabilities and walkability throughout rural, suburban, and metropolitan clusters. While each community is different, the proposed legislative principles are ones that I believe all MPOs can support. In no particular order, below are the ILMPOAC legislative principles for discussion.

1. Transparency in project selection.
2. New revenue to support infrastructure.
3. ILMPOAC support for legislation expanding the use of motor fuel tax in Illinois.
4. Broad legislation for public private partnerships.
5. Protecting the integrity of transportation funding in Illinois.

Please do not hesitate to call me at 217.819.419 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Cameron Moore
Chairman,
Illinois MPO Advisory Council

Chairman, Cameron Moore (CUATS), Vice Chair, Randy Blankenhorn (CMAP); Secretary/Treasurer, Terry Kohlbus (PPUATS)

Bi-State Regional Planning Commission
Champaign Urban Area Transportation Study
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Danville Area Transportation Study
Decatur Area Transportation Study

DeKalb-Sycamore Transportation Study
East-West Gateway Council of Governments
Kankakee Area Transportation Study
McLean County Regional Planning Commission

Peoria/Pekin Urbanized Area Transportation Study
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Springfield Area Transportation Study
Stateline Area Transportation Study