

January 20, 2011

Governor Pat Quinn
James R. Thompson Center
100 W. Randolph, 16-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Dear Governor Quinn:

As the 97th General Assembly begins to shape up, the ILMPO would like to discuss a few legislative principles that the Advisory Council believes would better provide for MPOs in the complex federal mandate of transportation planning in Illinois. Our organization fully recognizes IDOT is not a highway agency; they are a multi-modal agency. One of our main concerns is regional mobility as it relates to connectivity of metropolitan clusters. We want to ensure that our communities have the mobility that 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.

The livability principles talks about the different modes of transportation. Through the public process, residents are voicing their opinions for more bike trails and access to public transportation. Our communities are wanting more mobility choices. Livability cannot exist until we have mobility choices 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 have a common purpose. There are vast differences between all the MPOs in the State, including the varying size of populations and challenges in regard to transportation planning. MPOs must plan across their territorial boundaries which includes both rural and urban areas. This complex plan must also include handicap accessibility and walkability throughout rural, suburban, and metropolitan clusters.

While each community is different within the State of Illinois, the ILMPOAC has legislative principles they can support and rally around. Our organization would like to meet with you to discuss these principles further.

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

Please contact Cameron Moore at 217.829.7619 to set up an appointment. We look forward to meeting with you in either Springfield or Chicago.

Sincerely,

Cameron Moore