Transportation for Illinois Coalition 2014 Annual Report

Changing the Conversation
Mission Statement

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is the recognized authority on and unifying voice for transportation needs in Illinois. TFIC exists to achieve the best transportation systems in order to guarantee economic success.

Vision

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition identifies issues and aggressively advocates policy to secure maximum and sustainable federal and state funding for the transportation needs of Illinois.

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December 2014

We faced looming fiscal cliffs for transportation funding in Illinois and at the Federal level this past year. In Springfield, Illinois Jobs Now! expired. In DC, the Highway Trust Fund faced bankruptcy over the summer. Throughout the year, TFIC staff and members ensured that lawmakers and the public were aware of the serious impact of allowing infrastructure funding to fall precipitously.

The Coalition kept compelling, undeniable data about the alarming drop in funding and its impact on the condition of our infrastructure and our economy in front of legislators and the media throughout the spring session in Springfield. TFIC suggested a solution, in the form of ongoing maintenance funding for transportation, and a way to pay for it. Legislators and the media took notice, but the election and operating budget challenges made new funding in 2014 an ominous task.

Legislators departed Springfield without addressing a long-term solution for either transportation funding or the General Revenue Fund, but they ensured some transportation funding would be available through FY15 with a small capital bill that relies on debt service from retiring bonds. TFIC’s actions were certainly vital to ensuring funding did not collapse in 2014 and to position transportation funding as a major challenge that needs to be tackled in 2015. Transportation funding remained on the public agenda through the election season and as 2014 came to a close.

As in Springfield, TFIC repeatedly highlighted in DC the impact of Highway Trust Fund bankruptcy on the national economy. TFIC maintained close contact with key Illinois Congressional offices until legislation funding the Highway Trust Fund and extending the surface transportation authorization through May 2015 was passed.

Since then, the Coalition has continued to press Congressional lawmakers for a real funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund. As in Illinois, transportation funding has remained a critical concern through the election and post-election seasons. Members of Congress have increasingly gone on the record to say they want to find a long-term funding solution in the new Congress. TFIC and groups like it were key in making transportation funding a bipartisan issue that cannot be ignored.

We want to thank all of you for your participation and support. Infrastructure funding faces significant challenges and we are all most effective when we work together.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Kleinik
Director, Chicago Laborers-LMCC
TFIC Co-Chair

Todd C. Maisch
President, Illinois Chamber of Commerce
TFIC Co-Chair
State House Committee

The State House Committee focused its efforts on building support for a new capital program to take the place of the expiring Illinois Jobs Now! program. Despite general public sentiment against any revenue increase, the committee’s actions have helped to make transportation funding a priority for policymakers. A series of TFIC outreach meetings with local officials, local business and labor leaders, and local community leaders promoted public understanding of the import and need for transportation funding.

2014 Goals of the State House Committee

- Sponsor and schedule committee dinners with the Senate Transportation Committee and House Appropriations and Public Safety Committee
- Continue to build public and legislative support for a funding increase
  - Encourage Chambers, cities to adopt funding resolutions
  - Communication/PR campaign (adequate transportation infrastructure is a necessity of life; adequate transportation infrastructure saves lives, etc.)
- Win approval of a state capital funding program for transportation
- Brief gubernatorial candidates after the primary election

State Funding Proposal

- April 1st, TFIC held a press conference announcing the Coalition’s new capital funding proposal.
- The proposal
  - Raises $1.8 billion annually
  - Brings state roads to 90% acceptable condition
  - Brings state bridges to 93% acceptable condition
  - Provides the first ongoing increase in local roads funding since 1998
  - Provides the first ongoing source of capital funding for transit
- The coalition agreed the $1.8 billion should be split 80% roads and bridges and 20% transit
  - Road funding to be split 60% IDOT system and 40% local roads
  - Transit split 90% Chicagoland 10% downstate
- Nearly every major news outlet in the State carried a story about the proposal and the need to invest
- TFIC followed up with editorial board visits to discuss the need to invest in more detail
- Policymakers and news outlets began citing the need for $1.8 billion more annually for transportation
HB 404

- Allocated the value of the sales tax on motor fuel, $800 million at the time, to the Road Fund from the General Revenue Fund
- 13 co-sponsors
- Overwhelming support on the Coalition's roll call
- Was not called for a floor vote when an income tax extension failed to be approved and the General Revenue Fund could not afford the expenditure
- Made the case that action on transportation funding needs to happen as soon as the operating budget challenges are addressed

Small Capital Plan

- $1.1 billion bonding program for transportation
- Passed the House 97-11-4
- Passed the Senate 51-5
- Signed by the Governor July 22nd

Local Outreach Meetings

- 13 community meetings and 3 mayors' caucus meetings
- About 700 county, city, township, and village officials; local business leaders; local organized labor leaders; economic development officials; and state policymakers attended
- Overwhelming support for the spending plan
- No serious opposition to revenue ideas, but some discussion and suggestions
- Generated significant interest in regular meetings around the state with local officials
Committee Dinner with the House Appropriations—Public Safety Committee

- On March 5th, members of TFIC’s State House Committee hosted a dinner for the House Appropriations—Public Safety Committee members
- About ¼ of the House Appropriations—Public Safety Committee attended the dinner
- Illinois’ $1.8 billion need for additional funding to bring roads and bridges to acceptable condition was emphasized

Senate Transportation Committee Dinner

- TFIC Co-Chairs, Doug Whitley and Michael Kleinik, and Senate Transportation Committee Chair, Senator Martin Sandoval, scheduled a dinner to emphasize the need for new funding

Gubernatorial Candidates Briefing

- TFIC leaders and staff briefed both Governor candidates’ staffs on the TFIC proposal
- The need for additional funding of at least $1.8 billion was emphasized, as was the need to split funding as laid out in the TFIC plan
Federal Affairs Committee

The Federal Affairs Committee was faced with a series of emergencies in 2014. The Committee worked to prevent the bankruptcy of the Highway Trust Fund, to prevent the expiration of the surface transportation authorization, and to encourage Congress to support raising new revenue for transportation.

2014 Goals of the Federal Affairs Committee

- Implementation of MAP-21 streamlining provisions
- Continued push for new funding for infrastructure
- Increase TFIC participation at the TCC fly-in in May
- Develop guidelines for 3P, Design-Build, Congestion Pricing and Tolling for federal reauthorization
- Hold in-person meetings of the Federal Affairs Committee twice a year

DC Fly-In

- Over 20 TFIC members participated in the fly-in this year, an increase over previous years
- TFIC members met with 14 members of the Illinois delegation or their transportation staff
- The Illinois delegation heard about the need for real, long-term funding solutions
- Members from both parties indicated they would support a revenue increase that had traction on the Hill, including a motor fuel tax increase
- Key staff from 4 offices joined TFIC members to discuss how advocacy groups can help build support for revenue increases for transportation
- Members of the Congressional delegation were asked to help ensure MAP-21’s streamlining measures continue to move forward in the rulemaking process

Tour of O’Hare and Tollway Construction

- Staff from 4 Chicago area offices joined members of the Illinois Road and Transportation Builders and TFIC staff to tour the O’Hare and Tollway construction sites
- The types of improvements that are possible with adequate funding and the jobs those improvements generate were the focus of the tour
MAP-21 Streamlining Provisions

- TFIC asked members of the Congressional delegation to help ensure MAP-21 streamlining measures continue to be implemented
- The rulemaking process has continued to move forward throughout 2014 and the streamlining provisions remained in place when Congress voted to extend the federal surface transportation authorization

Highway Trust Fund

- The Highway Trust Fund was scheduled to go bankrupt in August 2014
- In April, TFIC sent letters to the Illinois Congressional delegation asking that they support funding for the Highway Trust Fund that will
  - Stabilize the Highway Trust Fund,
  - Maintain the Highway Trust Fund’s contract authority, and
  - Create a sustainable funding plan for the future
- TFIC leadership and staff remained in contact with the Illinois delegation throughout the summer, encouraging them to work toward a funding solution for the Highway Trust Fund
- The delegation repeatedly reassured TFIC that the Highway Trust Fund would not be allowed to go bankrupt
- Hours before payments to states were scheduled to begin being delayed, Congress passed legislation to fund and authorize the Highway Trust Fund through May 2015 using pension smoothing
Meeting with Congressman Roskam

- The Federal Affairs Committee held an in-person meeting November 6th to host Congressman Roskam on transportation topics
- About 25 TFIC members attended the meeting
- Congressman Roskam spoke after the election, so he focused on what the new Republican controlled Congress would do on transportation
- TFIC members were reassured that transportation funding is a priority, but cautioned that a long-term funding deal may not happen by May

Financing Guidelines

- The Federal Affairs Committee approved a series of points to act as guidelines for public-private partnerships, design-build, and tolling and congestion pricing.
Co-Chair Whitley’s Retirement

At the end of June, founding Co-Chair Doug Whitley retired from his position at the Illinois Chamber and as Co-Chair of TFIC. TFIC welcomed the new President of the Illinois Chamber, Todd Maisch, as the new business Co-Chair in July. TFIC owes much of its success to Whitley’s vision and commitment to building a coalition of interests around transportation issues.

Thank you, Doug, for your commitment to building a true coalition from many differing interests.
2014 Committees

Federal Affairs Committee
Mike Sturino, Chair
Marc Poulos, Vice-Chair
Ben Brockschmidt, Vice-Chair
Dave Bender
Marty Buehler
Kevin Burke
Bill Frey
Tim Garvey
Phil Gonet
John Greuling
John Henriksen
Matt Huffman
Michael Kleinik
Jeremy LaMarche
Todd Maisch
Steve Nailor
Paul Rumler
Don Schaefer
Peter Skosey
Paula Trigg
Scott VanDeWoestyne
Doug Whitley
Tim Zahrn
Matt Zick

State House Committee
John Henriksen, Chair
David Beard
Dave Bender
Ben Brockschmidt
Marty Buehler
Kevin Burke
Laura Calderon
Craig Fink
Bill Frey
Tim Garvey
Al Giertych
Phil Gonet
Bob Guy
Mike Hoffmann
Matt Huffman
David Kennedy
Michael Kleinik
Jeremy LaMarche
Mike Macellaio
Steve Nailor
Marc Poulos
Don Schaefer
Peter Skosey
Sean Stott
Mike Sturino
Paula Trigg
Scott VanDeWoestyne
Matt Wells
Doug Whitley
Matt Zick

Mass Transit Committee
LeAnn Redden, Chair
Laura Calderon, Vice Chair
Mike Hoffmann
Jeff Nelson

Policy Committee
Marc Poulos, Chair
Craig Fink, Vice-Chair
David Beard
Michael Kleinik
Doug Whitley

Regional Meetings Committee
Pat Hosty, Chair
Tim Garvey
Ellen Krohne
Mike Matejka
Jeff Nelson
Paul Rumler
Scott VanDeWoestyne
2014 Transportation for Illinois Coalition

The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is a diverse group of statewide and regional business, organized labor, industry, governmental and not-for-profit organizations that has joined together in a united and focused effort to support a strong transportation alliance for Illinois. The coalition takes a comprehensive approach and seeks to speak with one voice for all of Illinois regarding transportation funding needs at both the state and federal levels. The coalition believes that transportation is critical to the economy of Illinois. This comprehensive approach involves all modes of transportation, including rail, air, water, highways, and mass transit.

Statewide Organizations
American Council of Engineering Cos. of Illinois
American Society of Civil Engineers-IL Section
Associated General Contractors of Illinois
Illinois Asphalt Pavement Association
Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers
Illinois Association of County Engineers
Illinois Chamber of Commerce
Illinois Coal Association
Illinois Construction Industry Council
Illinois Public Transportation Association
Illinois Railroad Association
Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association
Illinois Trucking Association
Mid-West Truckers Association
Precast/Prestressed Producers of IL & WI
SMART-Transportation Division
Underground Contractors Association

Local/Regional Organizations
AAA Chicago
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
Chicago Area LECET
Chicago Laborers District Council LMCC
Egyptian Contractors Association
Elgin Area Chamber of Commerce
Great Plains Laborers District Council
Illinois Valley Contractors Association
Iron Workers District Council of St. Louis & Vicinity
IUPAT-Painters District Council 58
Kane County
Laborers’ Int’l Union of North America-Midwest Region
Lake County Division of Transportation
Lake County Transportation Alliance
Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois
Metro LINK
Metropolitan Planning Council
Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce
Operating Engineers Local 150
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
River Bend Growth Association
Rockford-Winnebago County Better Roads Assn.
Southern and Central Illinois Laborers’ District Council LECET
Southern Illinois Construction Adv. Program
St. Louis Regional Chamber
Supply Chain Innovation Network of Chicago
Teamsters 731
TMA of Lake Cook
Township Officials of Illinois
Tri-County Regional Planning Comm./Eastern Bypass Coalition
Will County Center for Economic Development