

## **Transportation For Illinois Coalition Federal Re-Authorization Policy Task Force**

At the meeting on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, the TFI Federal Affairs Committee recommended and the TFI Steering Committee approved the formation of a special Federal Re-Authorization task force that would consider various alternative approaches to funding and policy and recommend a series of appropriate policy positions to the Federal Affairs committee.

The Task Force would be composed of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the eight sub-committees and would be responsible for insuring the consistency of approach in preparing the respective positions. The Task Force would also assist the Federal Affairs committee and appropriate lobbying groups in communicating these positions and perhaps more importantly, their impact upon the transportation infrastructure systems within Illinois.

The eight sub-committees will each meet (most by phone conference) over the next four months to review various staff and national positions and formulate Illinois specific recommendations. The specific sub-committees are:

### 1) Interstate Re-construction/Expansion

The task force will deal with the issues of:

- significant funding needs of reconstructing parts of the system that are 30-50 years old
- address the issues of “new versus old”
- unique issues surrounding older outdated urban systems

### 2) Bridges

The task force will deal with issues of:

- huge backlog of obsolete and deficient bridges
- address the issues of “old versus new”

### 3) Earmark Reform

The task force will deal with the issues of:

- differentiating “needed” from “wanted”
- insuring local match
- integration into planning

### 4) Corridors of National Significance

The task force will deal with the issues of:

- development of criteria to define projects
- freight and other non-traditional highway importance

## 5) Freight

The task force will deal with the issues of:

- freight rail versus freight highways
- truck only lanes
- accessing ports and designating corridors
- intermodal activity

## 6) Public-Private Partnerships

The task force will deal with the issues of:

- alternate project delivery
- appropriate use of private sector versus public sector funding
- roles of each party within the transaction including public mandates

## 7) Public Transit

The task force will deal with issues of:

- appropriate split of public resources
- bus versus fixed and light rail
- appropriate restrictions, if any, on operating versus capital

## 8) Programmatic and Planning

The task force will deal with issues of:

- land use and local government/input linkages
- utility issues
- donor/donee
- environmental coordination
- opt-out provisions
- project evaluation criteria