



TFIC Pleased With
Capital Funding Discussion

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The Transportation for Illinois Coalition is pleased that all four legislative caucuses are discussing ideas for committing new revenue to help fund a capital bill this spring. House Republican Leader Tom Cross and Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno offered ideas today for expanded gaming to fund capital. This follows the introduction of House Bill 1 (raising the motor fuel tax) by Representative John Bradley and Senate Bill 2036 (raising the income tax) by Senator John Sullivan, both of which would fund capital programs.

“Illinois has been without a capital spending plan for far too long, and it is clear today that all four legislative caucuses are getting serious about passage of such a plan this year,” said Michael Kleinik, Director of Chicago Laborers’ District Council-LMCC and TFIC co-chair. “We are looking forward to working with all members of the General Assembly and with the Governor to help put Illinoisans to work improving the state’s infrastructure.”

TFIC co-chair and chair of the Regional Transportation Authority, Jim Reilly, also applauded the legislative leadership in support of capital.

“The growing interest in funding for capital is an encouraging sign for us,” Reilly said. “The transit community has been without state capital funding since the Illinois First funds were spent in 2003. And our highway program has declined over the past few years, leaving the roads in deteriorating condition. We can give the Illinois economy a boost by investing in the infrastructure and putting people to work. Now is the time to do it, and I am encouraged by the serious debate about adequate revenue sources to fund it.”

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