

Transportation for Illinois Coalition 2016 Annual Report





How to Become a Member

Membership in TFIC is open to organizations, associations, unions, local governments, regional groups, and chambers of commerce from throughout Illinois. Any organization with members who realize the importance of transportation Illinois jobs and the economy is encouraged to join.

Contact TFIC staff at 217-572-1272 or rebecca@tficillinois.org or Bill Frey, TFIC Membership Chair.

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 2016

Dear TFIC Members:

As you know, TFIC has heard repeatedly from elected officials, the media, and the public that a transportation revenue increase without constitutional protection asks too much of taxpayers. Although it has been hard to find compromise in Illinois, this issue has remained one where politicians of both parties agree.

So, we are pleased that in 2017 the legislature approved a proposed Constitutional Amendment to protect transportation funds for transportation purposes and in November, with the support of all of you, the measure passed with an overwhelming majority.

The new amendment means we can tell the public that the money they spend on motor fuel taxes, registration fees, and other transportation fees can no longer be used to backfill general budget needs. Although the amendment does not address the continued lack of adequate funding, it will allow transportation advocates to make a better case to policymakers and the public about the need to invest.

In addition to the amendment, transportation advocates were able to ensure a full FY 17 budget for IDOT passed the General Assembly, averting a shutdown of construction sites across the state and the resulting economic impacts from the loss of thousands of construction jobs.

Local governments were also able to plan their budgets this year without worrying about whether their motor fuel tax distribution would be available to pay for construction, snow and ice removal, and other needs.

These accomplishments demonstrate the power of working together to find agreement, especially when areas of compromise seem hard to find.

Thank you all for your efforts this year. Without your help, TFIC's efforts would not have been successful.

Sincerely,

Michael Kleinik
TFIC Co-Chair
Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC

Todd Maisch
TFIC Co-Chair
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

TFIC State House Committee

2016 Goals

1. Expand outreach by hosting a lobby day for TFIC member and related organizations to update elected officials on Illinois' infrastructure funding.
2. Build and maintain email list of grassroots contacts to use for updates and calls to action.
3. Encourage business community, local officials to become more involved in advocating for infrastructure funding through video testimonials, local meetings, and direct outreach.
4. Provide timely analysis of state funding program details and impacts to TFIC members.
5. Develop proposals for ways Illinois can use innovative financing and/or funding techniques alongside traditional funding.
6. Win approval of a state capital program.



Capital Funding

TFIC State House Committee focused advocacy efforts on ensuring any grand bargain between the legislature and the Governor would include capital funding for transportation infrastructure.

In addition to advocacy focused on the legislative leaders and the Governor, TFIC hosted a lobby day in April for industry members to come together to advocate for transportation funding with the members of the General Assembly. Attendance at the 2016 lobby day exceeded 100 people, representing engineering, contracting organized labor, local government, and materials suppliers. Feedback was positive, but legislators acknowledged that no additional transportation funding is likely until after the broader budget issues are resolved.

Constitutional Amendment

TFIC members were pleased when the Illinois legislature voted to place on the ballot the question of whether to amend the Illinois Constitution to protect transportation funds. Once placed on the ballot, advocates had five months to organize appropriately under state law, create a campaign plan, raise funds, and implement the paid and unpaid media sides of the plan.

Much of the campaign was organized outside of TFIC, but relationships fostered by years of working within TFIC helped to ensure the tight timeframe did not create any insurmountable obstacles. Other TFIC members participated by writing letters to the editor or talking to their local media about the proposed amendment.

The proposed amendment was one of the first questions to be called on election night, after earning about 80% of votes in every geographical region of the state. The amendment's success was a strong statement that voters appreciate transportation infrastructure and want it protected from the political questions around GRF funding. The amendment ensures that monies raised from transportation related taxes and fees, such as motor fuel taxes and vehicle registration fees, are only spent for transportation purposes.

Innovative Financing

TFIC supported IDOT's efforts in 2016 to gain legislative permission to add an additional lane on I-55 in the Chicago area that would be managed through variable tolling. In addition to supporting IDOT's efforts, the State House Committee voted to create a task force to look at innovative financing. The task force will continue to meet in early 2017 before reporting to the State House and Steering Committees.





Vote **YES**

Safe Roads Amendment

Safety. Accountability. Jobs.

For years, Illinois has underinvested in its roads, bridges and other critical infrastructure. That's put public safety at risk and cost us thousands of jobs. It's all because state government refuses to invest responsibly.

The Safe Roads Amendment is the solution. The Amendment constitutionally protects money collected for transportation so it is spent on transportation.

It is critical to pass the Safe Roads Amendment:



SAFETY

Half of Illinois' roads and 4,200 of our bridges are in poor condition. It's unsafe and puts Illinois at risk for tragedies like the bridge collapses that occurred in Minnesota and Indiana. The danger is real, and it's unacceptable.



ACCOUNTABILITY

Our state of disrepair isn't because we lack money. It's because the politicians have used the Road Fund as a slush fund. Over the last decade, \$6.8 billion has been swept out of the Road Fund. Our roads and our safety shouldn't pay the price for Springfield dysfunction. It's time to hold state government accountable and ensure money collected for transportation is spent on transportation.



JOBS

Aging infrastructure isn't just unsafe. It hurts our economy, makes it more difficult to keep and grow jobs and is costing you money. Raiding transportation funding has cost Illinois nearly 5,000 jobs over the last decade and has increased the average motorist's costs by \$441 every year due to congestion and extra vehicle repairs.

Federal Affairs

2016 Goals

1. Continue to push for long-term funding solution on Surface Transportation Authorization.
2. Advocate for a long-term surface transportation authorization that gives states flexibility to pursue the funding options they prefer, if necessary.
3. Continue to push for appropriations for waterways improvements and for new authorization of waterways projects.
4. Track and support federal airport funding and emphasize importance of small, regional airports.
5. Meet with members of the Illinois delegation in DC and in district to discuss updates on infrastructure funding.
6. Build relationships with other key states by inviting leaders of coalitions in those states to speak to TFIC membership about strategies they are using and what they are hearing from their Congressional delegation ahead of the fly-in.



Funding

Late in 2015, Congress passed the first long-term surface transportation authorization in over a decade. The Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act provided inflation-adjusted level funding for six years by using a variety of offsets to make up the difference between funding levels and Highway Trust Fund revenues.

TFIC continued to advocate for federal airport and waterways funding. Over the summer, the FAA authorization was extended through September 2017. Although not a long-term authorization, it did include some policy updates. The waterways authorization was approved by Congress in November. Advocates' work remains, though, on the issue of funding for waterways.

TCC Fly-In

TFIC members met with members of Congress in DC during the annual TCC fly-in, held this year in May. While in DC, TFIC stressed the importance of continuing work on sustainable surface transportation funding and the importance of the FAA and WRDA authorizations.

Local Government

TFIC's Local Government Committee worked to put together a proposal for a design-build program that could quickly replace closed or outdated bridges on the local system. The committee arranged for discussions with IDOT to determine if the Department could see such a program working in Illinois and to get a sense for what kind of design-build program might work. The committee will continue to fine-tune that proposal in 2017 in order to ensure the Steering Committee can review it as part of a possible TFIC funding proposal.



2016 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 Committee
Illinois Public Transportation Association
Illinois Railroad Association
Illinois Ready Mix Concrete Association
Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association
Illinois Society of Professional Engineers
Illinois Trucking Association
Mid-West Truckers Association
Precast/Prestressed Producers of IL & WI
SMART-Transportation Division
Underground Contractors Association

Local/Regional Organizations

American Public Works Association-Illinois Chapter
Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
Chicago Area LECET
Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC
Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
Egyptian Contractors Association
Great Plains Laborers District Council
Illinois State Council of the Int'l Union of Operating Engineers
Illinois Valley Contractors Association
Iron Workers District Council of St. Louis & Vicinity
IUPAT Painters District Council 58
Kane County
Lake County Division of Transportation
Lake County Transportation Alliance
Leadership Council of Southwestern Illinois
Metra
Metro LINK
Metropolitan Planning Council
Northwestern Illinois Contractors Association
Operating Engineers Local 150
Pace
Pekin Area Chamber of Commerce
Peoria Area Chamber of Commerce
Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce
Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)
River Bend Growth Association
Southern and Central Illinois Laborers' District Council LECET
Southern Illinois Construction Adv. Program
Teamsters 731
TMA of Lake Cook
Township Officials of Illinois
Will County Center for Economic Development