



Infrastructure Supports Illinois: Telling the Story

**Transportation for Illinois Coalition
2015 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 2015

Dear Members:

Last year was one of change and new challenges for transportation infrastructure advocates. Technology continues to develop, raising questions and options for infrastructure funding methods. Illinois elected a new Governor and Congressional Republicans elected a new Speaker of the House.

Change brings both challenges and benefits. Thanks to the dedication of our members, TFIC met the challenges presented in 2015 and remained on the forefront of transportation advocacy for Illinois and the nation.

The Coalition continued to advocate for reasonable increased funding for infrastructure, both in Illinois and Congress. In Illinois, the question of funding was overshadowed by the failure of the General Assembly and the Governor to come to agreement on an operating budget, but TFIC successfully advocated for the release of capital funding for IDOT and MFT funds for local roads.

In Congress, the election of a new Speaker of the House as the national election cycle began to kick off caused some concern among industry advocates that yet another short-term extension of the highway authorization would be the best Congress could do. However, the House and Senate each passed a surface transportation authorization bill and Illinois members of Congress played a key roll on the conference committee that hammered out the differences. The final bill passed Congress with overwhelming support and was signed by the President.

Over the past several years advocating for increased revenues, TFIC has heard many times that elected officials are both worried and hopeful about the impact of new technologies on infrastructure funding. As a result, TFIC hosted a meeting this fall to highlight some of the innovative funding and financing techniques used in other parts of the country. It was a good opportunity to learn more about the details of funding and financing techniques, which were incorporated into the Coalition's outreach with elected officials and industry experts.

This year has highlighted the impact our coalition can have on the national and state dialogue around infrastructure funding. When groups with different agendas come together and focus on policy that will work for everyone, real progress is made. Thank you all for your commitment to this coalition. TFIC's success depends on all of you.

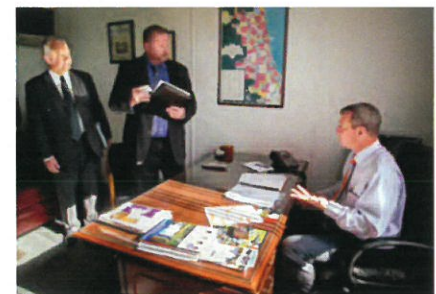
Sincerely,

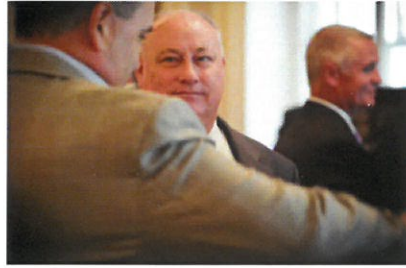
Michael Kleinik
TFIC Co-Chair
Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC

Todd Maisch
TFIC Co-Chair
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

State House Committee Goals for 2015

- Increase active participation in decision-making and outreach activities by State House Committee members by expanding leadership to two co-chairs and two vice-chairs who meet regularly to develop and review agendas and action plans
 - ⇒ The State House Committee appointed two co-chairs and two vice-chairs and State House officers met regularly.
- Expand outreach to TFIC member groups and related organizations through exhibiting and speaking at annual meetings and conferences
 - ⇒ TFIC staff or members exhibited or spoke at conferences for the Illinois Soybean Association, Illinois Chamber, Illinois Association of County Engineers, Township Officials of Illinois, Midwest High Speed Rail Association, and American Society of Civil Engineers-Illinois Section.
- Build and maintain email list of interested grassroots contacts to use for updates and calls to action
 - ⇒ A database of grassroots contacts was built and used throughout the 2015 regular session to provide updates on issues related to transportation infrastructure funding and to encourage the network to reach out in support of key issues.
- Win approval of a state transportation capital program
 - ⇒ TFIC advocated determinedly and successfully for support for a state transportation capital program and the revenues that would support it. However, that support did not translate into legislation being considered because of larger budget issues.
- Provide timely analysis of state funding program details and impact to TFIC members
 - ⇒ TFIC regularly communicated with members about updates on transportation funding, through meetings and emails.
- Encourage Illinois leaders (legislative and executive) to open dialogues with leaders from Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Missouri, and Wisconsin about the need for transportation revenue increases
 - ⇒ The Committee organized a panel and brainstorming session with key advocates in other states and the IDOT Secretary in September to foster dialogue between states. However, TFIC chose to focus on limiting the impact of the budget impasse on transportation funding issues.





Federal Affairs Committee Goals for 2015

- Continued push for long-term funding solution on Surface Transportation Authorization
 - ⇒ The Federal Affairs Committee continued to push for a long-term funding solution for the Surface Transportation Authorization in DC, during the TCC fly-in in April, by sending a letter to the Illinois delegation in June, and during in-district meetings in August and September. A long-term surface transportation authorization was approved in December.
- Continue to push for appropriations for waterways improvements
 - ⇒ While in DC, the Federal Affairs Committee also urged Congress to continue support for waterways improvements and to appropriate the funding for WRRDA. The Committee pressed for appropriations for WRRDA in in-district meetings in August and September.
- Track and support federal airport funding
 - ⇒ The Committee observed updates on airport funding and reminded Congress of the importance of airports to the infrastructure system and American economy in DC and again in in-district meetings in August and September.
- Initiate partnerships with industry groups from California, Pennsylvania, Texas, New York, and Florida by hosting an introductory dinner to discuss shared goals and needs during the TCC fly-in
 - ⇒ Committee members Mike Sturino, Bill Frey, Dave Bender, Ben Brockschmidt, Dan Eichholz, and Kevin Burke reached out to their colleagues in other states to invite them to breakfast during the TCC fly-in. The Committee heard from several groups in other states that they could not attend due to scheduling conflicts that kept them from DC that week.
- Support and defend federal funding of the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds
 - ⇒ The Committee noted in some meetings the importance of keeping water infrastructure funded, as those projects often happen at the same time as transportation infrastructure construction projects.

Local Outreach Meetings

To educate and build support for the TFIC funding proposal specifically, and transportation investment generally, TFIC organized meetings in 13 different communities throughout fall 2014 and into early 2015.



At nearly every meeting, community leaders in attendance agreed that transportation funding needs to be increased. This was a change from meetings TFIC held in 2013 and represents a growing consensus about the need to invest. Attendees generally supported user-based fees, but there was growing support for some general taxes to include in the final mix of revenues. Again, TFIC was pleased to see support for raising revenues in communities that had previously expressed some opposition.

TFIC's work in 2013, 2014, and 2015 laid the groundwork for support for a funding increase, underscoring the importance of TFIC's continuous and dedicated attention to infrastructure. When IDOT held a series of meetings in May 2015, TFIC staff and members attended and heard strong support reflected by community leaders from throughout the state.



Active Partnership with IDOT

Late in 2015, TFIC built upon its strong relationship with the Department of Transportation and has begun an active dialogue with IDOT so that the Coalition can more effectively



advocate for state transportation funding as part of the resolution of the current operating budget impasse in Illinois. IDOT Secretary Randy Blankenhorn presented at the September State Funding Panel discussion hosted by TFIC, and, as a follow-up, had a lunch discussion with our Executive Committee to talk about his interest in aligning TFIC's work with theirs to win approval of increased investment for transportation.

State House Progress

Based on TFIC member and staff discussions with members of the General Assembly and the Governor's office, there appears to be strong support for capital funding and the increased revenues needed to fund a program. Policymakers also seem to be in agreement about the need for pay-as-you-go, annual maintenance funding, as well as the Coalition's suggested split of revenues to ensure IDOT, transit, and local roads all see an increase in funding.

Local Roads

TFIC has taken a lead position advocating for the distribution of local roads funds as the budget impasse has continued through fall 2015. After outreach from industry advocates, that funding, along with \$56 million for IDOT's operations needs, was included in an appropriations bill which passed the House and Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and was signed by the Governor.

Lobby Day

TFIC organized a Lobby Day in April 2015. Groups organized geographically and to represent the diverse interests within the coalition visited 85 legislators to underscore the wide-ranging impact of transportation infrastructure funding. About 80 people took part in the Lobby Day events, which included legislative meetings and breakfast where we heard from Deputy IDOT Secretary Rich Brauer and Governor Rauner's policy advisor on transportation Brian Oszakiewski.



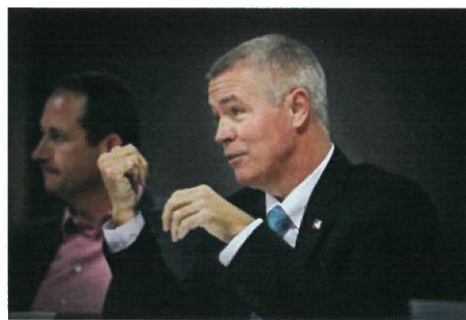
Federal Funding

TFIC staff and members traveled to Washington DC in April, ahead of the expiration of the Highway Trust Fund's spending authority. After a series of short-term extensions this year, the House and Senate both passed bills to fund surface transportation programs for six years. With the bills in conference committee, TFIC advocated for the highest spending levels possible even if that means the authorization lasts five years instead of six. We were pleased to see that higher spending levels over five years was in the final bill. Additionally, key programs for Illinois transportation are kept well funded and there is no drop in Illinois' share of formula funds for transit and highways. The collaboration between all of the different transportation interests in Illinois continues to bolster Illinois' Congressional delegation's support for transportation funding.

Media Outreach

TFIC worked with members of the media in spring 2015 through June to educate the public about transportation investment needs. A large part of this outreach has focused on the IDOT MYP, which predicts significant declines in State spending and in the condition of Illinois roads and bridges. Media coverage appeared across the state, including Chicago and the major downstate metropolitan areas. This work is an important part of keeping the public aware of the need to invest and making transportation funding a top priority for policymakers.

In the fall of 2015, TFIC turned its media focus to the impact of the continued budget impasse on local roads funding. Thanks to the work of the County Engineers, coverage of this issue has been seen statewide and continuously throughout the fall. In part due to this coverage, the local roads funding was included in legislation in the House to release some non-GRF monies for their intended purposes.



2015 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 Road and Transportation Builders Association
Illinois State Council of the Int'l Union of Operating Engineers
Illinois Society of Professional Engineers
Illinois Trucking Association
Midwest 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
Great Plains Laborers District Council
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
Metro LINK
Metropolitan Planning Council
Northwestern Illinois Contractors Association
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
Southern and Central Illinois Laborers' District Council
LECET Southern Illinois Construction Adv. Program
Supply Chain Innovation Network of Chicago
Teamsters 731
TMA of Lake Cook
Township Officials of Illinois
Will County Center for Economic Development

