

2019 ANNUAL REPORT

TRANSPORTATION FOR ILLINOIS COALITION



ABOUT US

THE COALITION

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

MISSION

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

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 to Illinois jobs and economy is encouraged to join. Contact TFIC Staff at 217-572-1272 or jennifer@filson-gordon.com or Don Schaefer, TFIC Membership Chair.

Dear Members:

2019 began with the inauguration of a new governor, JB Pritzker, who included his desire to pass a capital program in his first address to the state as Governor. For TFIC, this meant the chance to see a decade of ground work come to fruition with a historic and sustainable capital program. Our members and staff hit the ground running with:

1. One-on-one meetings with legislators
2. Educational dinners for new members
3. Our largest Lobby day to date
4. And continuation of our Wednesday-morning field-expert meetings.

From the beginning of January through the end of spring session, our staff and members worked to address the concerns of legislators, as well as help build an inclusive and sustainable capital program by having regular meetings with the House working group and the Governor's working group as well as meeting with legislative staffs. As session ran beyond the May 31st deadline staff and members worked throughout the weekend to collect priorities and concerns of legislators and to roll call the House and Senate. In the end, all of the hard work paid off and we saw the passage of Rebuild Illinois, which provided Illinois with historic, sustainable and multi-modal, funding for our transportation infrastructure.

Throughout spring session we were lead by our co-chairs Dave Bender and Alison Walters who worked tirelessly and collaboratively to meet the needs of our entire coalition as the capital program was being formed. In June, we began to plan our post passage plans, Kevin Burke stepped in as the business co-chair, as Dave resigned to take a new position in D.C. Kevin played an integral part in our Friend of Infrastructure Award presentations as well as continuing the collaborative work with Alison. The leadership of these individuals, and the assistance of many more, made this a successful year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Morrison

Managing director

STATE HOUSE COMMITTEE

- **New Member Dinners-** *With many new members in the General Assembly, TFIC prioritized meeting the new members to present both the history of Illinois' transportation infrastructure and the condition and needs of that infrastructure. TFIC presented a PowerPoint on the history of Illinois' transportation infrastructure, which highlighted the key role infrastructure has always played in Illinois even prior to Statehood. Illinois' central location meant our state became critical to the transport of goods and people across the country. As a result, our transportation systems are vital to our economy and to the country. With budget standstills and inflation, it became increasingly difficult to maintain our systems in Illinois. Dinners were held with varying groups of new members such as the new women in the General Assembly, or new down state members. Special thanks to our members who hosted the dinners as well as the senior legislators who joined us as co-hosts.*
- **Lobby Day-** *Our 2019 lobby day saw over 100 attendees split into several groups led by members and staff who are experienced statehouse lobbyists. The coalition aimed to get each legislator face-to-face with a constituent whose livelihood depends on sustainable funding for transportation. Armed with the message of "It's Time" and the data to back the need for funding increases, our groups set out to meet with the General Assembly. Our lobby day attendees were successful, and we were able to get face-to-face with every member of the General Assembly who was present in Springfield that day.*
- **Friend of Infrastructure Awards-** *After the passage of Rebuild Illinois, TFIC wanted to make sure that the members of the General Assembly knew that their vote made a difference. TFIC staff and members presented Friend of Infrastructure (FOI) awards to every supportive legislator. In July the coalition began planning these award presentations. By the end of the award presentations, TFIC presented nearly 70 awards to legislators in person. Award presentations took place all over the state. With several construction site tours, some transit tours, as well as district office presentations. The goal for each of these awards was to present the legislators with local projects, businesses, and governments who commended them for their vote for the capital plan in order to best illustrate just how important this investment is to the Illinois economy. These award presentations would not have been possible without the collaboration of all of our members as well as their members.*



FEDERAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- **May Fly-In-** In May members of TFIC joined their colleagues in D.C. as part of the Transportation Construction Coalition Fly-in to advocate for an infrastructure bill. The Administration and Congressional Leaders had recently had a bipartisan meeting to talk about the potential for a large highway bill. With that in mind, our members met with members of the Illinois delegation to talk about the importance of additional funds for Illinois transportation infrastructure.
- **Rescissions Repealed-** Late in the year, TFIC had conversations with Illinois delegation staff about the importance of repealing the FAST Act rescissions. In November, the rescissions were repealed keeping Illinois from losing \$132 million in federal funding.



TFIC 2019

Officers, Committee Leadership

Co-chairs: Kevin Burke, IAPA - July 12, 2019

Alison Walters, Chicago Laborers – LMCC

Dave Bender, ACEC- Jan. 6, 2019- June 2019

Vice-chairs: David Beard, Ironworkers

Dan Eichholz, Aggregate Producers

Secretary: Josh Schaufelberger, SIBA-SICAP

Treasurer: Kevin Burke, Asphalt Pavement Association

Federal Affairs: Mike Sturino (IRTBA) chair

Marc Poulos (IIIFFC) vice-chair

(Illinois Chamber) vice-chair

Mass Transit: Leanne Redden (RTA) chair

Membership: Don Schaefer (Midwest Truckers) chair

Local Gov't: Craig Fink (IACE) chair

Mike Matejka (Great Plains Laborers-Employer Coop) vice chair

Steve Zahn (Operating Engineers) vice chair

Policy and

Program: Bill Frey (AGCI) chair

Kevin Burke (Asphalt Pavement Association) vice-chair

State House: Bob Guy, chair

Mike Ciaccio (Teamsters 731) vice chair