

Southwestern IL Connector Task Force Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2019
World Shooting and Recreational Complex, Sparta, IL

Good Morning and welcome to our May 10th meeting of the Southwestern IL Connector Task Force. The following members were in attendance:

Dr. Marc Kiehna, Randolph County Commissioner
Ed Weilbacher, KRPD
Karen Stallman, Director of Community Relations SIU- Carbondale
Michael McConachie, Randolph County Farm Bureau
Bob Davenport, Realty Central, Inc.
Paul Schimpf, IL Senator 58th District
Carrie Nelsen, IDOT Program Development Engineer District 9
Patsie Hopkins, Office of Representative Nathan Reitz
Bob Elmore, Monroe County Board Chairman
Karri Nichols, Office of Representative Terri Bryant

Also, in Attendance:

Josh Roscoe, IDOT Intern
Chris Martin, Randolph County Economic Development Director
Stephanie Martin, Purple Martin Media
Eddie Koch, Monroe County Economic Development Director
Robert Spencer, Mayor of Pinckneyville
John Miller, Interested Citizen
Dave Holder, Randolph County Commissioner
James Moss, Waterloo Republic Times
Pete Spittler, Reporter, Pinckneyville Press/DuQuoin Weekly
Linda Tragesser Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission

Seeing that a quorum of the Task Force was in attendance, Chairman Kiehna started the meeting.

Chairman Kiehna asked for the members to approve the minutes of our previous meeting held on May 10, 2019. Ed Weilbacher made a motion and Bob Davenport seconded. All in Favor.

Senator Schimpf gave a report on the legislative session in Springfield and the passing of a budget and capital budget.

Two major capital bills have passed, A horizontal bill and a vertical bill. The horizontal bill (roads and bridges) is being funded by the motor fuel tax and the vertical bill (buildings) is being funded by gambling expansion and other taxes. IDOT is still evaluating horizontal capital projects in accordance with a six-year plan.

I believe this taskforce needs to focus on creating a good report that will state the case for IDOT including this project in their plans.

At the end of the legislative session I was able to meet with IDOT Director Omer Osman to discuss projects in my Senate District. I told him I would like to see the section of road between Murphysboro and Pinckneyville move forward. He did not give me a commitment one way or another.

The other thing I should say about the Capital Program is that it is over 47 billion dollars, but it is being spent over 6 years.

Senator Schimpf stated that he felt that our work with the Connector Task Force will put us in the time frame to get parts of the road built during the six-year period.

Carrie said they have not published all their plans for the 6-year capital program. Carrie gave us handouts for the current plans in areas 8 and 9. Dr. Kiehna noted that he will add this information to the minutes of the Task Force. There will be more information available in the future.

Funding Breakdown for Rebuild Illinois Capital Bill

Rebuild Illinois Repairs Our Crumbling Roads, Bridges, and Transit.

\$44.8 billion invested over six years, with \$33.2 billion of that on transportation across all modes. 540,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs, including almost 431,600 in transportation over six years. Provides necessary funding to secure federal dollars for transportation.

Metro East Projects

I-270 over Mississippi River: \$211.6 million for new bridge. Shared project with Missouri replaces structure built in 1966 that handles 51,000 vehicles a day. 17% of which are trucks.

I-255/U.S. 50 from Illinois 3 to Collinsville Road: \$146 million for extensive bridge, ramp and shoulder repairs as well as road resurfacing.

Metrolink: \$96 million for extending transit service from Scott Air Force Base to MidAmerica Airport.

Illinois 3 Connector: \$81 million to improve traffic flow, connectivity and access between East St. Louis, Fairmont City and Madison. Includes reconstruction of portions of Exchange Ave, as well as new construction of the Illinois 3 Connector, portion of relocated Illinois 3 and intersection improvements at Illinois 203.

I-255 at Imbs Station Road: \$33 million for new interchange at Dupo with connection to Davis Street Ferry Road to facilitate industrial and commercial growth.

I-55/I-64 at Poplar Street: \$35 million to preserve eastbound East St Louis access via Illinois 3, Tudor and Piggott avenues.

I-64 from Greenmount Road to West Illinois 158: \$32 million for additional lanes and bridge repairs.

Delhi Bypass: \$24.4 million for a four-lane highway rerouting U.S. 67 to the east of Delhi, replacing two-lane rural road built in the 1940's.

I-55/64/U.S. 30/Illinois 3: \$20 million for reconstruction and bridge rehabilitation from Mississippi River to I-64.

Carbondale/Marion Projects

I-57: \$193 million for additional lanes and bridge replacements along critical freight corridor From South of Illinois 149 in Franklin County to the I-64 South Tri-Level interchange in Mt. Vernon.

Passenger Rail: \$100 million to improve safety and reliability on Amtrak's Saluki service between Chicago and Carbondale.

I-24: \$77.9 million to resurface 39 miles from Interstate 57 in Williamson County to the Ohio River in Massac County. Project includes bridge replacement 4 miles South of Johnson County line.

I-64: \$42 million for reconstruction and bridge deck improvements from the Washington County Line to I-57 in Jefferson County.

Illinois 37: \$17.8 million to resurface and add shoulders along 7.8 miles to improve safety from Wildcat Drive to Illinois 148 in Marion.

Illinois 127/13: \$3.7 million to resurface 8 miles from the Perry County Line to 2 miles North of Ava Road in Murphysboro.

U.S. 51: \$3.6 million to resurface 10 miles from Hallidayboro Road South of Elkhville to Industrial Park Road in Carbondale.

Senator Schimpf stated that because the money will be spread over a six-year period that the projects are not identified yet. Our challenge is to write a good report for IDOT to add us to their plans for the Capital projects.

Chairman Kiehna talked about the federal infrastructure bill and the possibility of future funding for the Connector. He stated that at our last meeting we spoke about writing a Build Grant and we put together a group to start writing the grant

The writing group consists of Will Stephens, Ed Weilbacher, Chris Martin, and Marc Kiehna, with Carrie Nelsen of IDOT as support. Either IDOT will be the applicant for the Build Grant with the counties being partners or the opposite.

Senator Schimpf talked about getting a local entity be the principal and IDOT be a partner. He asked about timing for the next Build Grant opportunity.

Carrie talked about the start we got on writing the grant. Unfortunately, we were not able to pull everything together in time to meet the deadline for submitting the Build Grant. She stated that their will be future NOFO's (Notices of Funding Opportunities) from the Federal Transportation Department and we should continue to work on our Build grant application to be ready for the next round of grant offerings which could happen at any time.

Carrie said IDOT will work with us and evaluate or give us help to strengthen our Build Grant application. The writing group will continue to meet with a meeting in early September.

Ed Weilbacher spoke about a bill introduced by Congressman Bost to add Cahokia Mounds as a part of the Federal Park Service.

Linda Tragesser talked about the Delta Regional Authority becoming a partner with a Build Grant. She stated that they could be a player. Jackson and Perry are also in Delta Area. Build could be submitted with Delta Regional Authority as a strong partner. The Governor designates a staff member to work with the Delta Authority.

Ed Weibacher said we could talk to Congressman Bost about Federal Infrastructure dollars being put into Delta Funds.

The group talked about the creation of a website/social media site for the Connector. Dr. Kiehna spoke about a small amount of funding available in the Randolph County Progress Committee for the website creation. The Progress Committee will move forward on securing an author/facilitator to build the website and report to the Task Force.

Dr. Kiehna asked the Task Force to come up with a list of topics for the new web site. They came up with the following:

1. Route/Focused Study Area
2. Employment Centers
3. Stake Holder Groups
4. GIS Maps (Layers)
5. Documents Tab
6. Benefits
7. The 5 W's
8. Frequently Asked Questions
9. Task Force Agenda-Minutes
10. Submit Questions
11. Contact Information
12. Links-News Reports- Economic Development

Chairman Kiehna asked for any public comment from the assembly. He then asked the Task Force to set the next meeting. It was decided by the group to meet on Friday, August 23rd at 11 a.m. in the administration building at the World Shooting and Recreation Complex.

Bob Elmore motioned to adjourn the meeting and Bob Davenport seconded. All in Favor.