

**THE ILLINOIS STATE TOLL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
September 21, 2011**

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority held a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Wednesday, September 21, 2011 at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Central Administration Building in Downers Grove, Illinois.

Directors on the Committee in attendance were as follows:

Committee Chair Tom Weisner

Director Maria Saldaña

Director Tom Canham

Committee Chair Weisner called the meeting to order. Director Weisner requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday July 20, 2011. Director Saldaña made a motion to approval; seconded by Director Canham. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Chair Weisner introduced Rocco Zuccherro, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning, to give a presentation on the potential areas of focus for the Strategic Planning Committee for the next 12 months. Mr. Zuccherro began by highlighting the areas of focus for the next 6 months as shown in the [attached presentation](#) including the review of policies related to environmental and sustainability issues, traffic noise and abatement, and cost sharing projects. He also recommended that the committee examine the impact of non-tolled ramps on the Tollway system.

Over the next 6-12 months, Mr. Zuccherro suggested that the committee focus on updates to the Interchange Policy including: investment prioritization and cost-sharing for future interchange projects; equity considerations for rural and underserved regions; existing interchanges vs. new access; and operational improvements.

Regarding congestion pricing, Mr. Zuccherro indicated that ongoing studies related to congestion pricing are being conducted reviewed by the I-90 Corridor Planning Council, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (MAP), and the Metropolitan Planning Council (MPC). He suggested that congestion pricing studies should be reviewed by this committee to guide future investments and policies within the next 6 to 12 months.

Director Saldana indicated that environmental and sustainability issues should be addressed at all stages of the Move Illinois project development. Ms. Lafleur and Mr. Zuccherro agreed and indicated that management's goal is to develop an environmental policy that guides all aspects of the Tollway's operations.

Mr. Zuccherro indicated that land use and right of way evaluation should also be considered by the committee within the next 6-12 months – specifically evaluating current use of land and options for maximizing and leveraging used of land.

Director Canham asked whether the Tollway considered purchasing land adjacent to the Tollway right-of-way for the purpose of maintaining development rights. He indicated that profits generated from private-public partnerships developed on adjacent parcels of land could help finance the Tollway projects. Executive Director Lafleur indicated that

these types of partnerships are becoming more common nationally and should be considered by the Tollway also.

Mr. Zuccherro indicated that multimodal and freight planning are also important issues to consider. Regarding multimodal planning, he highlighted the use of roadway, ROW, and access ramps as opportunities for multimodal transit along the Tollway. Regarding freight planning, he indicated the need to evaluate and enact policies to enhance the movement of freight on the Tollway. He added that logistic and communication enhancements as well as intermodal planning should also be considered to improved freight movement along the Tollway.

Mr. Zuccherro indicated that the Tollway should start discussions on the signage policy and innovative financing strategies within the next 12 months.

Director Saldana asked how the staff prioritized the potential areas of focus presented in the [attached work plan](#). Mr. Zuccherro indicated that the Tollway will be entering the project design phase of the Move Illinois Capital Plan in the near future. Decisions regarding traffic noise policy and environmental/sustainability initiatives should be incorporated in those project designs in particular the upcoming Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass project. He also indicated that clarity on the Tollway's cost sharing policy is needed because the Tollway will conduct community outreach within the next six months to determine which communities are interested and eligible for cost sharing projects.

Regarding the potential areas of focus scheduled for decision-making in the 6-12 month timeframe, Mr. Zuccherro indicated the following: additional time is needed to collect and review data about congestion

pricing, as well as multimodal and freight accommodation planning. He also indicated land use and ROW needs will be identified during the project design. After the need has been clearly defined, decisions related to land use and right of way evaluation can be discussed by the Committee.

Director Canham indicated that the discussions on innovative financing options will span across multiple projects and various stages of the projects therefore should be moved forward on the work plan timeline. Director Canham also suggested that an Oasis category should be added to the work plan. Ms. Lafleur agreed with Director Canham's suggested adjustments to the work plan. Committee Chair Weisner emphasized that the work plan is a working document that may need to be adjusted several times over the coming year.

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Zucchero then gave updates on the activity of key advisory councils. He indicated that the kick-off meeting for the Route 53 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on September 12th. The first meeting consisted of discussion of base level information on the potential project. He indicated that a schedule of meetings will be distributed shortly.

Director Saldana asked about the level of public participation in the meeting. Ms. Lafleur indicated that there was a lot of public interest but that the co-Chairs for this Council decided to make the meetings formal similar to a Board meeting. Therefore the public's input was solicited during a public comment period only. She anticipates that as the Council establishes smaller committees, interaction with the public will be less formal.

CORRIDOR COUNCIL STATUS - EOWB

Mr. Zuccherro also indicated that the Finance Committee of the Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass Council is scheduled to meet in the coming week to continue discussions on how to finance the \$300 million gap in funding that currently exists for the proposed project. Also, as required by the Toll Highway Act, the Tollway must establish a local advisory council that is representative of all the communities along the proposed project site. The affected governmental bodies must select representatives for the council – no more than 50% of the council can be comprised of elected officials.

RESEARCH AND STUDIES

Mr. Zuccherro indicated that the Tollway conducted a University Research Symposium earlier in the summer to solicit proposals from collegiate research programs related to areas of interest for the Tollway. Mr. Zuccherro indicated that the Tollway received 30 research proposals from 5 universities.

Director Weisner asked about specific areas of research that were requested and received as a result of the research symposium. Mr. Zuccherro indicated that some of the proposals were related to: the Tollway's impact on economic development; identifying vehicle occupancy for congestion pricing; bridge and structural monitoring, etc. Ms. Lafleur added that one of the research proposals was related to measuring the impact of toll fines at various levels on the toll user's behavior.

LOCAL INTERCHANGE PROJECT REVIEW AND HUNTLEY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA)

Mr. Zuccherro reviewed the status of proposed local interchange projects as shown in the attached [presentation](#). He highlighted the I-90/IL 47

interchange project on the agenda for approval by the Board. He noted that this project would entail: (1) adding ramps to and from the west to make a full interchange; (2) designating all-electronic tolling at all ramps; (3) reconstructing bridges, and (4) installing lighting and traffic signals on Route 47. He also indicated that green initiatives will be incorporated in this project including: vegetative trellises, reflective roofs and vertical geothermal heating and cooling system at control buildings to reduce energy costs; pervious pavement on one ramp shoulder as an experiment to reduce stormwater runoff; and infiltration ponds to reduce stormwater runoff and sedimentation.

Mr. Zucchero indicated that the regional transportation benefits related to the project include: providing access to and from the west; positive economic development in Huntley and surrounding areas; full access to IL 47 Strategic Regional Arterial and full access to designated truck route (IL-47).

Director Canham asked whether management had considered adding towers on nearby land and whether the Tollway has a right to do so. He indicated that increased traffic is associated with increased demand for antennas for phone coverage and social networking. Acting General Counsel indicated that she will look into the Tollway options. Committee Chair Weisner asked about the status the land acquisitions for upcoming capital projects. Mr. Zucchero indicated that negotiations for the land acquisitions would begin after appraisals are completed by the end of the month. He estimated that the entire process would take 12-18 months. He added that the Tollway started this process approximately 9 months ago.

Mr. Zucchero indicated that the cost share arrangement for this local interchange will allocate the project costs as follows: the Tollway will contribute 50 percent; IDOT will contribute approximately 25 percent of the project cost or up to \$17 million (90 percent payable prior upon execution of the contract); the Village of Huntley will contribute 10 percent; Kane County will contribute 8.5 percent; and McHenry County will contribute 6.5 percent.

Mr. Zucchero indicated that the next steps for this project include: finalizing the IGA, completing contract plans in December 2011; start the bid search during the winter of 2011/2012; start construction in Spring 2012 and completing the project by December 2013. Finalize Intergovernmental Agreement

Committee Chair Weisner called on Acting General Counsel Elizabeth Looby to present the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Huntley Interchange:

An Intergovernmental Agreement with the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Village of Huntley, Kane County and McHenry County. Cost to the Tollway: Tollway obligated to pay 50.000% of the construction costs.

Director Saldana made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement; seconded by Director Canham. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Chair opened the floor for public comment. Dave Johnson, Village Administrator for the Village of Huntley, indicated that he enjoyed working with Tollway staff to coordinate the intergovernmental

agreement. He attributed the success of this project to date to the Tollway's leadership and professionalism.

There being no further business Committee Chair Weisner requested a motion to adjourn. Director Canham moved to adjourn; seconded by Director Saldana. The motion was approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Minutes taken by: _____

Tranece Artis
Board Secretary
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority