

THE ILLINOIS STATE TOLL HIGHWAY AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
December 15, 2011

The Illinois State Toll Highway Authority held a Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at approximately 11:40 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 Jim Sweeney

Director Carl Towns

Committee Chair Weisner called the meeting to order and welcomed two new members to the Strategic Planning Committee – Directors Sweeney and Towns. He then requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Director Towns made a motion to approve; seconded by Director Sweeney. The motion was approved unanimously.

Committee Chair Weisner introduced Rocco Zuccherro, Deputy Chief of Engineering for Planning, to review the Work Plan for the committee, provide updates on the Corridor Advisory Councils and the Traffic Noise Policy. Regarding the Work Plan, 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. Mr. Zucchero indicated that the areas of focus for the next 6-12 months would include: interchange and roadway cost sharing policy; congestion pricing; land use and right-of-way evaluation; multimodal planning; freight accommodation planning; diversity; customer/user surveys and expanded use of the Oases. He suggested that key decisions related to financing options, sign policy and supplemental revenue generation could also be addressed over the next year.

I-90 ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATES

Mr. Zucchero then gave updates on the activity of key advisory councils. He indicated that the joint study with the RTA is complete (I-90 Corridor Planning Council). He indicated that the Council is now focusing its attention on the transition into Kennedy Expressway.

CORRIDOR COUNCIL STATUS - EOWB

Mr. Zucchero also indicated that the Finance Committee of the Elgin O'Hare Western Bypass Council was 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.

IL ROUTE 53/120 BLUE RIBBON ADVISORY COUNCIL (BRAC)

Mr. Zucchero indicated that the BRAC meeting in December was dedicated to defining the purpose of the proposed road. The January meeting will consist of an all day workshop with national planning and transportation experts to evaluate possible designs for the road. He indicated that the final council report should be available in May 2012.

TRI-STATE (I-294)/I-57 INTERCHANGE

Regarding the Tri-state Tollway (I-294)/I-57 Interchange, Mr. Zucchero indicated that staff is working with local community based housing

organizations and the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association to establish a line of communication with respect to right-of-way acquisition and relocation assistance.

Regarding Illiana, Mr. Zucchero indicated that IDOT public meetings have been scheduled in December to discuss the overall project status and to narrow down the number of potential corridor alignments.

TRAFFIC NOISE STUDY AND ABATEMENT POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Zucchero then reviewed the proposed updates to the Tollway's Traffic Noise Study and Abatement Policy. He indicated that the current Traffic Policy was originally enacted in 2000 and updated in 2005. Many of the updates were in keeping with changes in federal and state guidelines. He outlined the criteria that must be met before the Tollway will consider conducting a noise abatement study including: new road construction, major improvement on existing roadway or there must be noise-sensitive land use adjacent to the road (usually 500 feet).

The suggested policy revisions would include revisions to: the date of public knowledge; guidelines for consistency; cost-effectiveness definition; and community retrofit policy/cost sharing program. Mr. Zucchero indicated that the Traffic Noise Policy update will be based on lessons learned and guidelines from the Federal Highway Administration and the Illinois Department of Transportation. He added that the new policy will follow the same general principles as the current policy but provide more guidance to ensure consistent application. He also noted that there will be a public review and comment period for the updated policy before it is presented to the Strategic Planning Committee for review.

Committee Chair Weisner opened the floor for public comment. No public comment was offered.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45 p.m.

Minutes approved on: _____

Minutes taken by: _____

Tranece Artis
Board Secretary
Illinois State Toll Highway Authority