

Infrastructure Committee Meeting Notes

November 13, 2009

Attendees

Commissioners: Alex Rorke (Commission Co-Chair), Scott Bernstein, Marvin Bemby, Chris Melvin and Robert Blackwell, Jr.

State of Illinois Staff: Greg Wass, Jennifer Weisensee

ESC Consultants: John Donaker, Jr., Joseph Ross

Northwestern Graduate Students: Joan Hollick

Agenda:

- What is economic development? Government undertaking to meet broad economic objectives--employment, sustainable growth. Government can provide funds/financing, information, policies/rules.
- What is infrastructure? Transportation, energy, water, communications, waste management.
- What should be the time frame considered? 45 day time frame for first deliverables to have impact on legislation, 90 day time frame for final report.
- What information is required? Successful programs initiated by other states, Illinois initiatives and plans, Illinois strengths that can be exploited.
- Who should brief the committee? State agencies, think tanks, etc.

Basic Issue For The Infrastructure Committee-Identify the actions that can be taken to get the economy moving in the short term and sustainably in the long term without legislation and with legislation for action in 2010? What can we do in partnership with the Federal Government and with other states.

Some of the outcomes that would fit our objectives Include:

- Jobs
- Value creation
- Wealth creation
- Productivity
- Market development
- Trade
- Quality of life
- Increase in Illinois GDP
- Increase in average income

Issues and approaches that were mentioned:

- Marvin Bemby suggested that we consider the technique used by Lake County in establishing consensus for a transportation issue. As a parallel to the Lake County transportation policy, what would be the consensus agenda for infrastructure in

Illinois as a path for recovery? Would this lead to an over-arching economic development policy?

- What is the current state of infrastructure elements in Illinois?
- Can we adopt the approach taken by Ohio to provide low-cost loans?
- What factors are hindering the Illinois economic recovery? Are State Reg's an issue?
- What policies can be recommended?
- What is the "low hanging fruit" for economic recovery?
- What are the assets, needs, gaps and requirements that can be converted into a set of initiatives to accelerate recovery?
- What three initiatives will do the most for enhancing the Illinois economy?

Actions

We need a chart to show what will lead to economic recovery. It should include what we have, what we don't have and what we need to do. John Donaker agreed to craft a spread sheet to accomplish this.

Per Greg Wass, we need to invite representatives to brief the committee on plans and programs that are underway and being considered.

Scott Bernstein will list what can be done by Executive (Administrative) Order to influence economic recovery and what legislative initiatives could be undertaken in 45 days.

Robert Blackwell suggested that we identify the states that have been most successful in establishing lower than average unemployment rates and other positive economic metrics.

Joan Hollick committed to posting the Pew Score Card Report.

Ross/Hollick 11-16-09