

## Infrastructure Committee Meeting Notes December 7, 2009

### Attendees

Commissioners: Scott Bernstein, Omar Dubuque

State of Illinois: Greg Wass, Jennifer Weisensee

ESC Consultants: John Brodson (Phone), John Donaker, Jr., Joseph Ross

Northwestern Graduate Students: Cengiz Erdgan. Joan Hollick

The meeting began with a general discussion on transportation specific Federal Program possibilities. CREATE and multi-functional transportation hubs were mentioned. The range of job creation opportunities with respect to type of infrastructure investment was reviewed.

A detailed review of John Donaker's Infrastructure Element Spread Sheet was conducted. It was decided that the spread sheet should be extended by one column to include the actions that would be appropriate to take for each infrastructure element. These actions could then be translated into the recommendations that the committee can make as its contribution to the commission. Some of the comments that were made by infrastructure element are as follows:

#### Railroads-

- Intermodal yard development is an opportunity to attract business and jobs to Illinois

#### Mass Transit-

- 421 stations that require upgrades represent immediate opportunities for job-generating projects

#### Electricity Grid-

- Smart grid infrastructure requires significant labor and yields long-term efficiencies
- Nuclear power expansion could be facilitated by careful streamlining of the regulatory process

#### Water/Sewer Infrastructure-

- Short and long-term strategies are required
- Need for maintenance represents job opportunities

#### Broadband Network-

- No state policy on broadband networks exists. Such a policy could be structured to encourage broadband expansion to under-served areas
- Unused communications cable that has been laid by IDOT is an asset that could be exploited for broadband expansion

#### Public Buildings-

- Much is known about how significant savings could be attracted and jobs created to improve energy consumption in public buildings. This knowledge could be the basis for economically targeted investments

Inter-City Transport-

- A large opportunity exists for achieving operating efficiencies for bus transport and improving customer satisfaction by allowing buses greater access to airport and rail terminals. No real investment is required, only a change in administrative policy.

Administrative Departments-

- Possible savings and improved operations could be achieved by sharing resources among state agencies

Scott suggested that the infrastructure spread sheet be expanded to include a column on the possibilities that the state has to take action on and seize opportunities to address infrastructure needs. These actions would have positive economic impact and create jobs. He also indicated that we should form a small task force within the Infrastructure Committee to reconcile the spread sheet with his short-term action plan memo. He mentioned that he will draft a document identifying experts to address the commission regarding what other states are doing.

January 5, 2010 has been designated as the date when drafts of the committee's recommendations will be submitted to Alex and Greg. The recommendations will be identified and each will be described in a one-half page paragraph. Scott suggested that we categorize the potential recommendations as those that:

Require no new authority  
 Might need new authority  
 Will need new authority

Green Light  
 Yellow Light  
 Red Light

On January 12, 2010, PowerPoint presentations of the committees' recommendations will be made to the entire commission. The meeting is scheduled from 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM and will be held on the 9th floor of the JRTC. Each presentation must allow for Q&A within it's allotted time. Greg and Jen will prepare the PowerPoint for all committees for consistency.

Joan Hollick agreed to research information on actions that could be taken on conclusions drawn from the infrastructure matrix (spread sheet). A working session will be held at 2:00 PM on December 17 to structure the recommendations.

Joseph Ross 12-10-09222