



MEETING MINUTES

Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission
Webinar | August 24, 2023

Location:

IDOT Headquarters, 2300 S Dirksen Parkway, Room 347, Springfield, IL 62764

IDOT Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, 69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2100, Chicago, IL 60602

Virtual Webex Webinar Meeting option available

Meeting Date:

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Time:

1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Commission Member Attendees:

- Erin Aleman – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Tim Butler – Illinois Railroad Association
- James Derwinski – Commuter Rail Board
- Senator Don DeWitte- Senate
- Michael Paul Dunn Jr. – Region I Planning Council
- Karl P. Gnadt – Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District
- Robert Guy, III – SMART-TD
- Richard Harnish – High Speed Rail Alliance
- Raymond Lai – McLean County Regional Planning Commission
- Jason Osborn – Illinois Department of Transportation
- Senator Steve Stadelman-Senate
- Brian Vercruysse – Illinois Commerce Commission
- James Wild – East-West Gateway Council of Governments
- Cassandra Rouse – Illinois State Highway Toll Authority
- P.S. Sriraj – University of Illinois Chicago

Non-Commission Member Attendees:

- DeAnna Smith – Illinois Department of Transportation
- Janel Veile – Illinois Department of Transportation
- Shane Cullen – Illinois Department of Transportation

- Amanda Lundeen – Illinois Department of Transportation
- Jeremy LaMarche- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Mary McIlvain – Morreale Communications
- Chloe Meek –Morreale Communications
- Christopher Ferguson-WSP
- Melanie Johnson- Quandel Consultants
- Peter Williams- Quandel Consultants
- Janet Henderson- Images
- Julia Hiatt- Quandel Consultants
- Alexander King
- Elliot Ramos- Illinois Department of Transportation

Commission Members Not in Attendance:

- Representative Martin J. Moylan-House
- Brian Shanahan – Transportation Communications Union

OVERVIEW OF MEETING

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Jim Derwinski, the Commission Chair, kicked off the meeting. The meeting proceeded with a roll call of members in which a quorum was confirmed.

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Meeting minutes from the previous meeting were supplied to the commission members on August 18, 2023. The commission members were asked if there were any requested changes to the minutes.

- **It was noted that Elliot Ramos from IDOT and Abigail Johnson from IDOT were in attendance during the July 12th Commission meeting.**

The minutes will be updated to reflect their attendance. The addition was not opposed by commission members and the minutes were accepted.

III. ELECTION, VICE-CHAIR POSITION

Tim Butler from the Illinois Railroad Association and Richard Harnish from the High Speed Rail Alliance are running for Vice Chair. Members were asked if anyone else would like to be considered for the Vice Chair. No other members asked to be considered.

Before voting, candidates were given time to make a statement to the Commission.

- **Mr. Harnish spoke on his extensive work with the High Speed Rail Alliance. He finds that the commission has an exciting opportunity to make recommendations to the legislature on how to fund and expand buses, trains, and rail lines. He expressed his interest in playing a role in that.**

- **Mr. Butler spoke about his involvement with transportation and infrastructure issues and his experience on the congressional and statewide levels. He stated that the commission is more than the high-speed rail, it's about mass transit, intercity passenger bus service, regional economic development, infrastructure, funding, and freight railroads. He hopes to bring forth a plan that is actionable but achievable.**

Following the candidate's remarks, live voting took place using Mentimeter.

Tim Butler from the Illinois Railroad Association was just shy of receiving the majority vote of the commissioners serving. The majority would be 9 votes, he received 8 votes.

There was discussion among members on voting guidelines. 2 commission members, one being House Representative Martin J. Moylan, expressed their vote through email. It will be accounted for as a proxy vote.

A revote was conducted to ensure voter anonymity. There was a quorum for Mr. Butler to serve as Vice Chair of the Commission (10 votes).

IV. INTRODUCTION OF HSR COMMISSION TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TEAM

Melanie Johnson from Quandel led an overview of the HSR Commission technical assistance and support. The scope of work includes creating a statewide plan for a high-speed rail line and feeder network connecting St. Louis and Chicago, conducting a ridership study, and developing the Annual Report to the General Assembly and Governor. Ms. Johnson also went over the HSR Commission Technical Assistance and Support org. chart. Christopher Furguson from WSP and Janet Henderson from Images introduced themselves. WSP and Images will work as sub-consultants for Quandel.

V. BY-LAWS DISCUSSION

Jason Osborn from IDOT reviewed the draft by-laws.

- The discussion began with section 8-1 (adoption and amendment of the By-laws).
- Michael Dunn from Region I Planning Council made a suggestion based on Jason's comments on amending the By-laws.
- Brian Vercruysse from the Illinois Commerce Commission noted that the way the By-laws are currently written, 5 people could amend the By-laws. Mr. Vercruysse stated that section 5-5 (how a tie is handled) and amendments to the By-laws go hand-in-hand and are unclear.
 - The commission members agreed that the Chair will be the deciding vote if a tie occurs. Otherwise, the Chair will not vote. This will be clarified in the By-laws.
- The commission members discussed designated proxies.
- Karl Gnadl from Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District referenced Robert's Rules.
- The commission members workshopped section 8-1.
- Commission members discussed section 3-1 (meetings).
 - Amanda Lundeen from the Illinois Department of Transportation stated that the Open Meetings Act requires the commission to establish a regular schedule at the beginning of each calendar year. There can be

- special meetings or adjustments as needed. Meeting dates do not have to be included in the By-laws.
- It was proposed that meetings occur on Tuesday of the second week of the month.
- Ms. Lundeen proposed language to include in the By-laws that the commission will meet monthly in accordance with the published schedule established by the commission.
- It was agreed that the By-laws will state the commission will meet at least quarterly.
- Richard Harnish from the High-Speed Rail Alliance requested the commission discuss and agree on what a high-speed line is.
- Commission members discussed section 3-3 (additional meetings).
 - Amanda Lundeen from the Illinois Department of Transportation recommended that 3 to 4 commission members be required to request an additional meeting.
 - The commission agreed to the requirement of 3.
- Commission members discussed section 3.9, the Consultant's role in maintaining and preparing written records of meetings.
- Commission members discussed section 3-12 (remote attendance)
 - Remote attendance is an option under the Open Meetings Act but only if it is established in the By-laws.
 - Commission members agreed to have this as an option. There was a discussion on remote attendees participating in the meeting.

VI. MISSION STATEMENT DISCUSSION

Commission members discussed the drafted mission statement submitted by Richard Harnish from the High-Speed Rail Alliance.

- Commission members discussed the definition of high-speed.
- Erin Aleman from the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning suggested that the mission statement should reflect servicing people.
- There was a discussion on what is meant by "reducing environmental impacts" and being charged with "revitalizing local economies."
- P.S. Sriraj from the University of Illinois Chicago provided the commission members with California's High-Speed Rail key objectives as a frame of reference.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

The meeting was open to public comment. No public comments were made.

VIII. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

IX. Action Items

The following action items were identified:

- P.S. Sriraj to send members of the Commission California HSR information.
- Rick Harnish requested all supplemental studies to the U of I studies.

- The Rail Needs Assessment was also requested to be sent to the Commission.