



**Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association
Planning and Design Division
Board of Directors
March 31, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

1. Chair Kevin Fitzpatrick called the virtual meeting to order at 8 am. Present: Eileen Chin, Tricia Walsh, Beth McCluskey, Regine Jeune, Dan Tiltges, Rick Rivera, Dave Crosson, Pete Stukas, Joe Catalano, and Joe Hunn. Absent: Rashod Johnson. Also present: John Kapovich and Mike Sturino.
2. Approval of Minutes. It was noted that the February 16 Meeting Minutes were preliminary and a revised copy would be provided to the Board members. It was also noted that Dave Crosson was present at the November 18, 2020 meeting. Moved by Eileen, seconded by Dan Tiltges to approve the Minutes of the September 30, 2020, November 18, 2020 and February 16, 2021 Board meetings as amended.
3. Chairman's Report. Chair Fitzpatrick advised the Board that he spoke with Acting Secretary Osman, who raised concerns that the IRTBA has not been supportive of him. The Chair also advised the Board that Senate President Harmon and Senate Transportation Chairman Ram Villivalam approached both the IRTBA and ACEC with a request that they issue their support of the Acting Secretary prior to a confirmation vote. Following discussion, the unanimous consensus among the P&D Board was to support the confirmation of Omer Osman as IDOT Secretary. That decision will be brought to the IRTBA Board as they will have the ultimate decision on the matter. The Board also expressed its continued concern over IDOT's delayed contract approval and consultant agreement award process. In addition, concerns were raised that IDOT has yet to fill key positions and does not appear to be able to hire engineers due to market competition. Mr. Sturino noted that MFT revenues are down approximately 15% from projected amounts due to COVID and related economic downturn. He did add that revenue is up overall from the years prior to the enactment of the Rebuild Illinois program and the attendant motor fuel tax increase.

The Chair then turned to Illinois Tollway issues. Mr. Kapovich told the Board that he and Mr. Sturino met with Executive Director Jose Alvarez, Tollway Board member Steve Davis and DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Crosson to improve industry relationships with the Tollway. It appears little design work is on the horizon at the agency. The Board also discussed City of Chicago issues and determined an additional meeting is in order. Mike Sturino will contact Chicago Coop Chair Kathy Kapovich to set up a Coop meeting.

4. Lockbox Litigation Update. Mr. Sturino informed the Board that the IRTBA intends to file a Motion for Leave to Appeal with the Illinois Supreme Court concerning the ongoing lockbox litigation with Cook County. He explained that the Appellate Court ruled that the lockbox is in effect on the State of Illinois and non-home rule units of government. That court, however, decided that it did not impact home rule units of government that received transportation revenues generated through their home rule authority. State MFT funds to home rule units are still covered under the lockbox.
5. Paycheck Protection Program Loans Impact on Direct and Indirect Rates. It was noted that this issue is being reviewed at the federal level, but no decisions have been made. In addition, legislation in Springfield has been introduced to address this matter.
6. P&D Annual Conference. Chair Fitzpatrick noted that the P&D Board intends to hold its summer conference in person at the Hyatt Lodge in Oak Brook July or August. As Vice Chair, Rashod Johnson is responsible for the planning phase of the conference. Mr. Johnson will reach out to P&D members to assist in the planning of the event.
7. Design Build/ATC/CMGC Update. Tricia Walsh informed the Board that Senator Villivalam provided proposed legislation, and that industry groups have been reviewing it. Some concerns were raised by the industry groups about the exemptions from labor issues for consultants in design build teams. Mr. Sturino advised that he has heard the bill may now not be called for action in the spring legislative session.
8. P&D Board Retreat. Chair Fitzpatrick requested that Board members share ideas with him for possible retreat locations. Note that Nov 5th is a letting.
9. Future Events. The next General Membership Meeting in May will be virtual. As noted, the P&D Conference will be held in person, as is planned for the September and October General Membership Meetings, the annual Golf Outing, and the Annual Awards and Dinner event in December.
10. The next P&D Board meeting will be held on June 2, 2021 at 8 a.m. Members will be notified in advance whether it will be in person or via WebEx. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 am. Adjournment/Next Meeting