



**Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association
Planning and Design Division
Board of Directors
August 17, 2021
Meeting Minutes**

1. Vice Chair Rashod Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. Present: Eileen Chin, Rashod Johnson, Tricia Walsh, Beth McCluskey, Regine Jeune, Dan Tiltges, Rick Rivera, Dave Crosson, Pete Stukas, Joe Catalano, and Joe Hunn. Also present: John Kapovich and Mike Sturino. Absent: Kevin Fitzpatrick.
2. Approval of Minutes. It was noted that the June 2, 2021 Board meeting minutes noted the meeting was virtual when it was hybrid. Moved by Pete Stukas, seconded by Joe Catalano to approve the Minutes of the June 2 Board meeting as amended.
3. Chairman's Report. Vice Chair Johnson advised the Board that IRTBA leadership met with IDOT Secretary Osman on August 2. Also present at the meeting were Steve Travia, Holley Biederman, and John Oeiman. Also present from IRTBA were John Kapovich, Julie Wrightsman and Mike Sturino. The meeting was candid to the extent Secretary Osman noted his concern about his perception that industry is not fully supporting him. IRTBA expressed continued concerns about the lack of work going to District 1. The Secretary advised that no legal requirement exists on how to allocate work, and stated that District 1 construction work will pick up significantly beginning in 2023. He repeated the claim that work in District 1 has been delayed by ROW acquisition and TAMP requirements. He suggested bridge bundling may push out work more quickly and advised that IDOT has planned webinars on this topic. The group also noted that design build may put work out more quickly, and IDOT expressed its support for this project delivery method. IRTBA stressed that more DBE firms are located in District 1 and the lack of work there does not match the administration's commitment for increasing opportunities for minority and women owned firms to perform state work. The Secretary also shared that hiring additional professional support at IDOT remains a challenge. The IRTBA noted delays in contract processing and awards are hamstringing some design firms and further delaying construction work. John Oeiman discussed the work coming through the

CREATE program. Secretary Osman also reiterated the administration's commitment to equity and inclusion; the IRTBA responded that a joint resolution passed by the Illinois House and Senate regarding the Eisenhower corridor would put that commitment into action if IDOT pursues it.

The P&D Board discussed the IRTBA Board has direction that Mike Sturino and John Kapovich have a meeting with Governor Pritzker and/or Deputy Governor Mitchell to address concerns about the slow pace of work going out under the Rebuild Illinois Program and how industry can assist. It was noted that Julie Wrightsman and Rashod Johnson would also attend such a meeting. Doubts were raised about the value of such a meeting, with many noting that it could have counter-productive results for the IRTBA.

Action: Pete Stukas made a motion to recommend to the Board that the IRTBA not pursue a meeting with Deputy Governor Mitchell at this time. Eileen Chin seconded the motion which passed on a vote of 8-2.

The board discussed lack of progress on naming a permanent Chief Engineer at the Tollway.

Mr. Sturino advised that Board that the IRTBA held a coop meeting with CDOT in July, and that a large number of professional services opportunities will be available. The minutes of that meeting, including potential work, is on the IRTBA website. Mr. Sturino noted that the IRTBA provided a letter of support for an ordinance extending the M/W/BE program, including lifting revenue and income caps.

4. Lockbox Litigation Update. Mr. Sturino informed the Board that organized labor and the Illinois Chamber have filed amicus briefs on behalf of industry's position in the matter pending before the Supreme Court.
5. P&D Annual Conference. It was noted that the keynote speaker, Senate President Don Harmon, contracted Covid and would not address the conference. In his place the IRTBA secured State Senate Majority Leader Linda Holmes and U.S. Congressman Chuy Garcia, member of the House T&I Committee.
6. Design Build/ATC/CMGC Update. Tricia Walsh testified on subject matter hearings on the draft bill before the Senate Transportation Committee. A major theme addressed was the need to ensure local firms are able to compete and participate in design build work.

7. P&D Board Retreat. The Board agreed that the retreat should happen, and the preferred dates are November 10-12. AECOM will research projects it has in Tampa for the event. Mr. Sturino noted that with the departure of Michelle Nyquist, Fallon Dickson will be performing event planning consulting services, including for the P&D Board Retreat.
8. For future events, board members requested that they be included in the Board agendas in the future.
9. The next P&D Board meeting is scheduled to be held on September 29 at the IRTBA. The nominating committee will be selected at that meeting. The board meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.