



## 2016 Legislative and Transportation Agendas

### 2016 Legislative Priorities

**Monitor and Support the Local Government Distributive Funds to Local Government** – Local Governments fought very hard in 2015 to keep the Local Government Distributive Fund at the current levels. The MCCG worked closely with other Councils of Governments to educate local and regional legislators and State officials of the importance of LGDF funds to municipal budgets. In 2016, the MCCG will continue to monitor any discussions that may decrease the amount returned to local governments and continue to advocate for the full 10%.

**Lessen the Legislative Burdens to Local Governments** – Several laws make it difficult for local governments to function efficiently. FOIA requests and Prevailing Wage requirements often burden staff resources. The MCCG supports thresholds for Prevailing Wage that would allow local governments to complete certain projects and tasks without the implications of Prevailing Wage.

In addition, Laws and State ordinances often require local governments to respond or function in a way that isn't efficient and takes several hours or days of staff time. Further, ordinances dealing with developers are not always in the best interest of the local governments. The MCCG plans to work with legislators to help them understand how specific pieces of legislation and/or amendments to legislation are sometimes not in the best interest of the local governments. Furthermore, the MCCG supports the expansion of some home rule benefits to non-home rule communities. If all local governments (big and small) face the same State requirements, expanding some home rule capabilities to non-home rule communities is needed.

**Oppose Unfunded Mandates that Make it Difficult for Local Governments to Function Including any Regulations that would Limit Fees** – Unfunded mandates to any local government or agency can cripple their budget. The MCCG will oppose any legislation that requires local governments to “do more with less”. County, township and municipal budgets are already strained and unfunded mandates place additional burdens on communities.

**Invest in Transportation Infrastructure** – Through the budget crisis of 2015 and the delay of MFT payments (among other State payments), several communities were forced to delay crucial transportation projects. Road resurfacing projects were delayed and often engineering projects were put on hold. The General Assembly will need to pass a State Capital Bill in 2016 to further prevent roads from deteriorating and to provide a dedicated funding source for transportation projects. Road projects that needed to be done years ago cannot languish any longer. A Capital Bill is desperately needed to improve the State's infrastructure.

# 2016 MCCG Transportation Priority List

## Key Corridor Projects

- *IL 47 from US 14 to Charles Road in Woodstock*
- *IL 47 from Reed Road in Huntley to US 14 in Woodstock*
- *IL 47 and IL 176 Intersection Improvements*
- *IL 31 from IL 176 in Crystal Lake to IL 120 in McHenry*
- *Randall Road Improvements from County Line Road to Ackman Road*

## Regional Projects for which the MCCG Supports

- *Union Pacific Northwest Line New Start Projects*
- *Longmeadow Parkway*
- *IL 53 Extension into Lake County and connection to IL 120 and US 12 with the addition of an IL 31 Connector project that would help ease possible congestion in Lakemoor, McHenry, Ringwood, Johnsburg and Richmond.*
- *IL 23 at I-90 Interchange*
- *IL 62 Widening Through Barrington Hills*
- *Amtrak Service to Huntley and Rockford*

