



# McHenry County Council of Governments

## Executive Committee

President Rick Mack  
Village of Ringwood  
MCCG President

Mayor Sue Low  
City of McHenry  
MCCG Vice-President

Mayor Charles Sass  
Village of Huntley  
MCCG Treasurer

Mayor Jay Nolan  
City of Harvard  
MCCG Secretary

Supervisor Donna Schaefer  
McHenry Township  
Chairwoman of the Finance  
and Management Committee

President Erin Smith  
Village of Lakewood  
Chairwoman of the  
Legislative Committee

President John Schmitt  
Village of Algonquin  
Chairman of the  
Transportation Committee

President Terry Counley  
Village of McCullom Lake  
Chairman of the Water Policy  
Task Force

Mayor Brian Sager  
City of Woodstock  
Chairman of the  
Mayors Caucus

Chairwoman Tina Hill  
McHenry County Board

Ex-Officio Member

Anna Bicanic Moeller  
Executive Director  
44 N. Virginia  
Suite 2-A  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014  
815-477-2090 (p)  
815-459-9057(f)  
amoeller@mchenrycountycog.org  
www.mchenrycountycog.org

## McHenry County Council of Governments

January 15, 2014

Business Meeting

### Ballot for the Question

“Shall the MCCG Support the Proposed 2014 Legislative Agenda and  
Transportation Priority Project List as  
Presented on January 15, 2014?”

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Municipality / Township \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Elected Official Voting \_\_\_\_\_



McHenry County Council of Governments  
2014 Legislative and Transportation Agendas

The McHenry County Council of Governments  
2014 Legislative and Transportation Agendas

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44 N. Virginia Street Suite 2-A  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone 815-477-2090 Fax 815-459-9057  
[www.mchenrycountycog.org](http://www.mchenrycountycog.org)

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Chairwoman Tina Hill, McHenry County Board

### 2014 Legislative Committee

President Erin Smith, Village of Lakewood (Committee Chair)  
Ron Kopke, Trustee, Village of Spring Grove  
Mary Lou Hutchinson, Trustee, Village of Johnsburg  
Catherine Peterson, Village Administrator, Village of Lakewood  
Peter Austin, McHenry County Administrator  
Maureen Larsen, Councilmember, City of Woodstock  
Ruth Schlossberg, Attorney with the law firm of Zukowski, Rogers, Flood and McArdle  
James Kelly, Attorney with the law firm of Matuszewich, Kelly & McKeever, LLP

### 2014 Transportation Committee

President John Schmitt, Village of Algonquin (Committee Chairman)  
President Rick Mack, Village of Ringwood  
John Ambrose, Baxter and Woodman  
Steve Cieslica, Trotter and Associates  
Erik Morimoto, City of Crystal Lake  
Ellen Brady Mueller, Councilmember, City of Crystal Lake  
Lewis Matuszewich, Matuszewich, Kelly & McKeever, LLP  
John Piwko, Trustee, Village of Huntley

## MCCG 2014 Legislative Agenda

The McHenry County Council of Governments was established in 1976 to provide a venue for a small group of local elected officials to share information and talk about the issues facing their communities. Today, the MCCG still provides a venue for sharing information but now includes 24 municipalities, McHenry County, several townships and other local governments that collectively represent the 308,000 residents of McHenry County. The MCCG is also supported by 25 corporate members, which include municipal law firms, engineering companies and other private entities that provide services to local governments and their communities.

Our mission is to provide a forum and structure for intergovernmental cooperation, uphold and advocate for principles of effective local government, facilitate solutions to regional issues and otherwise lessen the burdens of government. We carry out our mission through the work of our standing committees: Water Policy Task Force, Mayors Caucus, Legislative, Transportation, Finance and Executive Committees, through joint purchasing programs, regular forums, administration of mutual aid networks, involvement with other regional Councils of Government and our state and federal advocacy efforts.

From both a legislative and philosophical standpoint, the MCCG believes that local elected officials, as those closest and most accountable to the residents and communities they serve, must be empowered to make local budgetary, land use, staffing and operational decisions as independently as possible. Therefore, we seek to preserve local government authority and oppose mandates from state or federal government that add costs to local governments and their residents.

When evaluating specific legislation, the MCCG adheres to a set of broad legislative tenets. We encourage our state elected officials to partner with us in supporting legislation that:

- Grants additional permissive authority for counties, townships, and municipalities;
- Empowers local governments to share resources, implement intergovernmental service arrangements and joint purchasing authority in order to preserve and maximize public resources;
- Allows counties, townships and both home rule and non-home rule municipalities to expand non-property tax revenue sources;
- Upholds local and regional land planning and zoning authority.

And generally opposing legislation that:

- Imposes unfunded mandates on local governments by the state or federal government;
- Reduces the existing authority of county, township, or municipal government;
- Erodes or diverts existing county, township, or municipal revenues.

## **Support Local Government Distributive Fund Monies Going Directly to LGDF Fund**

The MCCG supports proposals that require the Comptroller to transfer funds from the General Revenue Fund to the Local Government Distributive Fund and distribute those funds to municipalities and counties within seven days after receiving the certification from the IDOR and the Treasurer's Office. A penalty would occur if the funds were not transferred and distributed within 21 days. Currently, all income tax funds received by the State are deposited into the General Revenue Fund minus the amount that is set aside for refunds. The Illinois Department of Revenue determines the amount of funds to be deposited into the Local Government Distributive Fund. When the transfer is complete, the Comptroller's Office distributes those funds in LGDF to municipalities. The state incurs significant delays (often several months) in distributing these funds to municipalities and counties. This delay places a burden on municipalities in meeting their own daily, weekly and monthly expenses.

## **Keep Local Government Revenues For Local Government Uses**

Local governments pay for police, fire, public works, parks and recreation and all other local services with their share of the income tax, sales tax, corporate property replacement tax and other taxes collected by the state on behalf of local governments. If it were not for these sources of revenue, property taxes would be the sole source of income for many of our municipalities and because most McHenry County municipalities are non-home rule, they are limited in the amount of property tax they can collect to pay for such essential services. Nevertheless, and in spite of the fact that municipalities rely on these sources of income, there have been several proposals over the years to divert these revenues to the State. These proposals threaten the ability of our municipalities and the county to balance their budgets and provide public safety and other essential services to their residents.

For the past several years the MCCG along with the other regional COGs, IML and Metropolitan Mayors Caucus have worked successfully with the General Assembly in preserving the 1/10th share of the income tax in the Local Government Distributive Fund, which had been targeted for diversion to the state either in part or in its entirety on several occasions. However, in January 2013 a proposal to borrow \$9.6 million in sales tax proceeds for cities and counties and transferred to the Illinois Medical Disciplinary Fund was introduced in the General Assembly. Like the 2012 transfer of a portion of the local share of the Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax that was used to fund Regional Superintendents' salaries, these proposals set a precedent of diverting local revenues to unrelated state programs and threaten the financial viability of local governments. We strongly oppose any diversion of local government revenues to the state.

## **Maintain Local Control Over Local Budget and Revenue Decisions**

Over the past two years there have been legislative proposals that would prohibit municipalities and other non-home rule local governments from raising their property tax levy if property values within their jurisdiction declined or saw no increase over the past year. We believe that this is a fiscally irresponsible proposal that, if approved, would jeopardize the long-term financial health of local governments and make it increasingly difficult for these entities to provide essential services to their residents. Costs to provide services are not linked to local property values and local governments continue to see their health insurance premiums, pension costs, fuel, commodities and other expenses increase. If they are not able to capture such increases in their property tax levy they will be forced to cut services, deplete reserves or borrow.

Finally, the MCCG opposes any changes to Tax Increment Finance law that would inhibit municipal authority or ability to utilize TIFs for redevelopment and economic development efforts. TIF districts are important funding mechanisms that can help to revitalize, create jobs and enhance areas that have experienced blight or disinvestment.

## **Oppose Unfunded Mandates and State Rules that Create Operational Inefficiencies**

The MCCG opposes proposals that would add unfunded costs to local government or create operational inefficiencies that create a burden for local government staff. Recent proposals such as Responsible Bidder legislation, which would restrict competition for local government contracts, enhanced Freedom of Information Act requirements, broad definitions of catastrophic injury for public safety employees and proposed increased storm water regulations all create additional costs for local governments that must be paid for through local government revenues that are already diminished due to the downturn in the economy. The MCCG urges the General Assembly to consider the burden that these additional costs place on local government and their residents before approving such legislation.

## **Support Public Safety Pension Reform Proposals Outlined by the Illinois Pension Fairness Coalition**

Municipalities have been struggling for years with the structural deficits and unfunded liabilities caused by unsustainable public pension systems, which have been consuming more and more of local budgets every year. The Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition – made up of Illinois municipalities, businesses and local government organizations – seeks to address the skyrocketing costs and bring down overall costs.

Average funding rates, which represent assets on hand to cover pension obligations, have dropped from nearly 64 percent funded in 2004 to approximately 55 percent in 2010. Meanwhile the amount municipalities have contributed has more than doubled from \$247 million in 2004 to \$511 million in 2010. Currently, employee contributions cover approximately

one-third of the cost of the benefits and nothing toward the unfunded liabilities, which have been exacerbated by years of additional benefit enhancements without a funding mechanism or regard for taxpayers' ability to pay.

These staggering structural deficits will eventually put local police and fire retirement benefit systems on the verge of financial insolvency, putting future benefits at risk. This problem will inevitably cost residents across the state in the form of higher local property taxes, cuts in essential services or layoffs of police officers and firefighters. We ask that the General Assembly include public safety pensions when considering state system pension reform this spring.

### **Support Legislation that Equals the Playing Field for Municipalities in Arbitration**

Arbitrators are rendering decisions in police and fire labor disputes that compel local government to offer wage and benefit awards that exceed available revenues. This results in budgetary difficulties and layoffs to other employees. The MCCG supports proposals that would require arbitrators, when making decisions concerning wages and other conditions of employment for police officers and firefighters, to base affordability on existing revenues and not on what a local government might be able to generate with new or increased levels of taxation.



## 2014 Priority Transportation List and Agenda

1. **US Route 14 widening from Crystal Lake Ave. in Crystal Lake to Lake Shore Drive in Woodstock**

The US Route 14 widening project had been slated for funding by the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2009 but the project has since been reprogrammed in IDOT's plan for 2015, which is currently unfunded. The design includes widening Rt. 14 from a two-lane cross-section to four lanes and construction of a bike path on the north side of the roadway. Eighty percent of land acquisition and preliminary engineering studies have been completed for this project.

2. **Illinois Route 31 from IL Rt. 176 to IL Rt. 120**

This project primarily includes road-widening improvements to five-lanes for Route 31. Additional right-of-way is needed to move forward. The project is currently in Phase I engineering. The City of McHenry is still considering several scenarios for the design of the improvements.

3. **Illinois Route 47: Reed Road in Huntley to IL Route 14 –and–**

4. **Illinois Route 47: from US Route 14 to Charles Road**

The Illinois Department of Transportation has initiated Phase II studies for two segments of US Route 47 in McHenry County – from Reed Road in Huntley to IL Route 14 in Woodstock, and from IL Route 14 to Charles Road in Woodstock. One significant component of the necessary Route 47 improvements will be the reconstruction and widening of the UP Railroad bridge over US Route 47 in Woodstock to allow the widening of Route 47 at that location. The improvement of US Route 47 in McHenry County to increase capacity, reduce congestion and promote economic development along the corridor is a priority for the region including the reconstruction and widening of the UP Railroad bridge over US Route 47 in Woodstock.

5. **Randall Road Corridor Improvements from County Line Road to Ackman Road**

Phase I Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study for Randall Road between County Line Road and Ackman Road will be completed in the near future. The project was initiated by McHenry County in the spring of 2007. The purpose of the project is to identify transportation system improvements that will enhance mobility and local access while addressing safety issues, community values and environmental impacts within the study area. The project is needed to improve

regional mobility, improve local access/bicycle mobility, enhance local access/local system deficiencies, accommodate community values/land use planning goals and address safety concerns.

**6. The Richmond Bypass**

US 12 is a part of a regional transportation route that connects suburban northeastern Illinois with travel destinations in southern Wisconsin. Over three decades ago IDOT, recognizing roadway capacity deficiencies of US 12 and regional transportation needs, purchased significant portions of the right-of-way from the Wisconsin state line south and east to Lake County. It is now designated as FAP 420. The strong preference throughout Richmond was for a Richmond Bypass that would address existing system capacity demands, local transportation needs, regional travel patterns and system linkages.

**7. Longmeadow Parkway Bridge Corridor**

The Longmeadow Parkway Bridge Corridor is a proposed four-lane Fox River Bridge crossing and four-lane arterial roadway with a landscaped median, approximately 5.6 miles in length, to address traffic congestion and transportation needs in northern Kane County southeast McHenry County. The proposed road passes through the Villages of Algonquin, Carpentersville and Barrington Hills. The western terminus is on Huntley Road west of Randall Road. From Huntley Road to the Fox River, the corridor primarily traverses mostly undeveloped properties or new subdivisions; these subdivisions were planned and developed with a dedicated right-of-way to accommodate the new bridge corridor. Developments to the east end of the corridor, on the north side of Bolz Road were also planned to accommodate the Longmeadow Parkway Bridge Corridor. After crossing the river, the corridor parallels existing Bolz Road, the eastern project terminus at Illinois Route 62. \$5 million in federal funding was provided in 2005 and Kane County is in the process of property acquisition and Phase II engineering on the project.

**8. Union Pacific Northwest New Start Project**

Environmental assessment for the UP-NW line New Start Project is currently underway and is expected to be completed in 2014.

The UP-NW Line New Start project includes the following improvements:

Two new Yard sites - Johnsburg & Woodstock

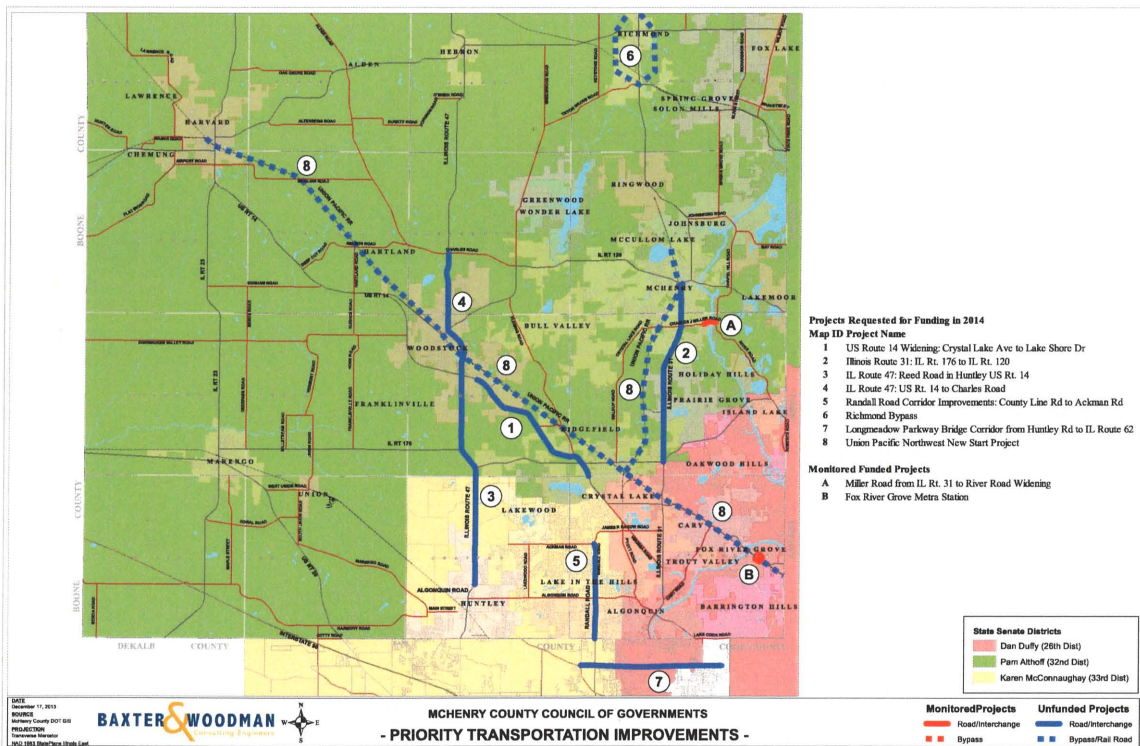
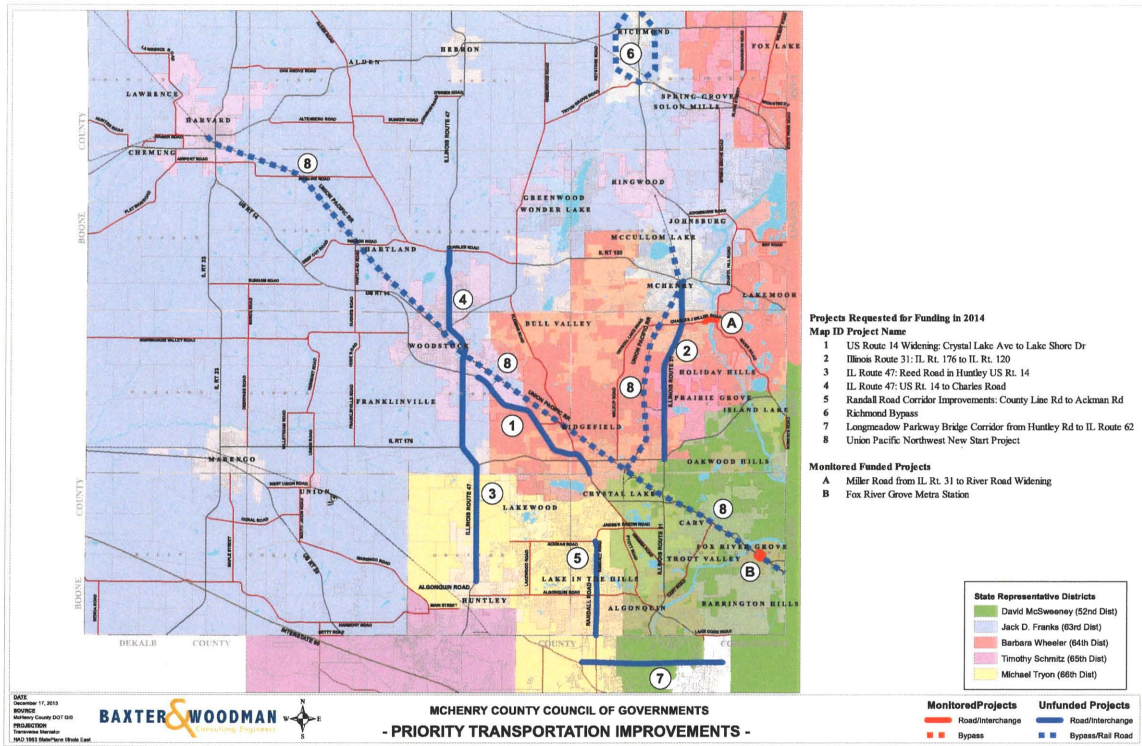
New Stations - Johnsburg, Prairie Grove & Woodstock

Signal System -Improved/Upgraded

Parking - A total of 3,390 new commuter parking spaces are proposed at existing & proposed new stations in McHenry County

Rolling Stock - Three new Locomotives and 34 new Rail Cars

# McHenry County Legislative District Maps With Transportation Projects





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## January Membership Meeting and Annual Legislative Dinner

Wednesday January 15, 2014

Hosted by Mayor Aaron Shepley and the  
City of Crystal Lake

5:00 pm Tour of the Raue Center

5:30 pm Cocktail Reception

6:30 pm Dinner

7:00 pm Presentations of the MCCG 2014 Legislative and  
Transportation Agendas by Village of Lakewood  
President Erin Smith, Chairwoman of the  
Legislative Committee and Village of Algonquin  
President John Schmitt, Chairman of the Transportation  
Committee

Membership consideration of the 2014  
Legislative and Transportation Agendas

7:30 pm Brief Remarks from our Legislators

## Announcements:

## Upcoming Meetings and Events:

Wednesday February 19, 2014 Monthly Dinner Meeting Hosted by the  
City of Woodstock -Location and Program to be Announced

Tuesday March 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Springfield  
Drive-down

## Thank you to renewing members:

WIPFLI  
Call One

HR Green Inc.  
Lamp Incorporated