



Looking forward to 2017!

A special thanks to you and your organization for your support of and participation in the work of TFIC. Without your participation and support, the accomplishments of previous years and the successes we have to look forward to would be impossible.

As we make plans for 2017 and send out our 2017 membership invoices, we also wanted to take a moment to stop and reflect on all that we have accomplished together in 2016.

Safe Roads Constitutional Amendment

TFIC worked with its member groups who organized grassroots efforts across the state in support of the proposed constitutional amendment to require transportation funds to be used for transportation purposes. After working in support of the proposed amendment in May of 2016, TFIC members actively worked to support its passage by the voters in the November election. With nearly 80% supporting, the amendment was approved. Many see this as a first and important step.

State Funding

Despite the ongoing impasse over state budget and other issues, the General Assembly and Governor approved a full year budget for the Illinois Department of Transportation, including local road and transit funding. Other than elementary and secondary education, IDOT was the only agency to receive a full year budget, due in part to TFIC's advocacy and education about its importance.

Lobby Day

TFIC organized an effective and constructive Lobby Day in Springfield in April 2016. Groups organized geographically and to represent the diverse interests within the coalition visited the vast majority of Illinois' legislators to underscore the wide-ranging impact of transportation infrastructure funding. About 100 people took part in the Lobby Day events, which included began with an organizational lunch, followed by legislative meetings and an evening reception.

Federal

Congress has in place a long-term surface transportation funding authorization, but TFIC has continued to monitor those aspects of the authorization that require annual budgeting. This year, Congress passed another short-term FAA authorization, which extends FAA funding through September 2017. The WRDA reauthorization was held up due to election-year scheduling issue and a partisan divide over whether to include aid for Flint drinking water. However, the House and Senate have each passed their own bill, so all that remains is a conference committee agreement. The House and Senate bills were not far apart, with the exception of Flint drinking water aid and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. We are hopeful an agreement will be reached soon. The Federal Affairs Committee is also beginning work on learning more about driverless cars and ways Illinois projects can be better positioned for Federal transportation grants, an important step in ensuring Illinois continues to receive adequate federal funding.

