



End of Week Summary: February 8, 2019

TFIC Welcomes New Business Co-Chair

This week, Dave Bender was named co-chair of the Transportation for Illinois. Bender is President and CEO of ACEC Illinois, representing engineering companies around Illinois that perform the necessary planning and logistical work for transportation projects.

He joins Alison Howlett Walters, Executive Director of the Chicago Laborers District Council-LMCC, as co-chairs of TFIC. Bender is replacing Todd Maisch, President and CEO of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce, who recently resigned from the co-chair role at the coalition. The Chamber will continue to be involved with the group.

“We appreciate the dedication Todd showed to make infrastructure a priority for the Legislature, and we know Dave will bring energy and insight that will help us make a strong case for the investment Illinois needs to make right now to solidify and strengthen our diverse system of roads, bridges, transit, air and waterways,”

Walters said.

Bender said his top priority as co-chair is to show how Illinois benefits from investing in its transportation.

“My members are at the frontlines of our transportation system, and for too many years, we have suffered because Illinois has put off making transportation the priority it deserves,” Bender said. “TFIC will work tirelessly this year to show legislators and the Governor that we can create many jobs, encourage businesses and families to invest here and create a better tomorrow when we decide today to make our roads and bridges and our state stronger and more welcoming.”

State Update

TFIC members and staff continued this week with the briefing key legislators about the status of transportation infrastructure and funding in Illinois and about the guidelines TFIC believes to be important aspects of any proposal to address the funding need. We will continue to work with legislators to help them understand the gravity of the funding problem over the next several weeks.

We have also begun our regular Wednesday morning meetings with legislators who are interested in continuing discussions about transportation investment. if you would like to be part of these regular meetings, please let Jennifer Morrison know.

2019 Lobby Day

Don't forget to sign up for our April 3 transportation lobby day! We hope to have a record number of attendees this year as we push for a significant funding increase for transportation.

If you haven't yet registered, but are planning to attend, please use [this form](#) to register.

A number of organizations have already committed to be sponsors and we are grateful for their strong support. If your group would like to be a sponsor and you haven't yet signed up, you can use the form [here](#) to sign up as a sponsor.

Federal Update

Discussions in Washington DC continue with a focus on infrastructure investment, as President Trump raised it as a priority. However, differences between Congress and the President make quick action on infrastructure less likely. More on Trump's perspective [here](#) and reaction from Congress [here](#).

The House T and I Committee heard from several stakeholders this week that the federal government needs to fix the Highway Trust Fund. More on the presentations to the T and I Committee can be found in the Transport Topics story [here](#).

News

[Rockford MTD Shows New Transfer Center](#)

(WTVO-TV)

[Public Transit Reacts to Trump's Push for Infrastructure Funding](#)

(Metro)

[Savannah, GA port looks to expand](#)

(FreightWaves)

[Lipinski to Chair House Rail Subcommittee](#)

(Beverly Review)

[Coalition Urges Congress to Pass Infrastructure Bill](#)

(The Hill)

[Alabama Mayors Talk Taxes for Infrastructure](#)

(Tuscaloosa News)

[Iowa Road Use Tax Fund Decreases as Electric Cars Increase](#)

(CBS 2 Iowa)

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