

**INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL**

# Newsletter

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The Infrastructure Council is an initiative of the Illinois Chamber that brings together Chamber members with a focus on increasing infrastructure investments in a strategic and thoughtful way to boost the overall business climate in Illinois. Our focus is on the public and private systems that are essential to Illinois businesses.

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## **Future of Work Meeting #4 Update**

This month's Future of Work meeting was held virtually on December 20th. This week's topic was Education, Skills and Barriers.

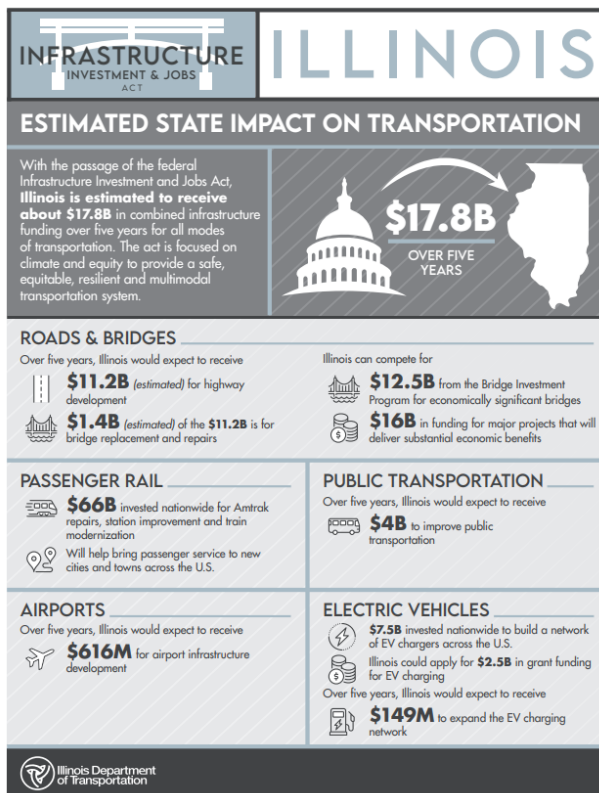
The meeting started with updates from Matthew Muench of P33 who spoke to the challenge of making sure worker's skills match employer needs- a problem that the data says is particularly acute in certain underrepresented communities. In this area, Chicago is lagging in reskilling and apprenticeship programs compared to other international cities.

Next we heard about the good being done by the private sector from Sarah Hartwick of the IMA and Bronagh Friel. Bronagh spoke about Google's revolutionary "Grow with Google" program.

Finally, we were addressed by Deputy Governor Manar who talked about the state's efforts to become greener and whether we could replicate the success found with central Illinois' Rivian.

The long term most important portion of the program might have been the update from the drafters of the reports. They have asked for short success stories for your company on how you are innovating and preparing for the future of work so that those stories can be highlighted in the report.

I know that no one likes homework over holiday break but remember that the idea behind the task force is to use its work for legislative proposals. The report will be the only real lasting memory of the task force. This is our opportunity to help set the narrative. If you want to send me anything to highlight about your company, please do not hesitate to do so. I will make sure it gets into the hands of the correct people.



**IDOT Infographics on Federal Transportation Investment in Illinois**  
IDOT recently made a series of infographics about the impact and distribution of the \$17.8 billion the state will receive from the recently passed infrastructure bill. This image is my favorite.

You can view the infographic on electric vehicles and airports [here](#).

You can view the infographic on passenger rail and public transportation [here](#).

The infographic on roads &

bridges can be found [here](#).

## **TRIP Report: “The U.S. Freight Network’s Critical Role in the Supply Chain”**

TRIP recently released a report looking at the supply chain. They found that Illinois is home to two of the top 20 U.S. truck bottlenecks. Highway bottlenecks cost more than \$75 billion each year.

Additionally, traffic has nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Yours truly was quoted with the following:

*“As businesses finalize their holiday rush, Illinoisans are reminded about the critical role freight traffic plays in not only our economy, but in our holiday traditions,” said Clark Kaericher, vice president of government affairs for the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. “While the Illinois Chamber praises both Congress and the Illinois General Assembly for their recent investments in infrastructure, this work highlights that in Illinois there is important work remaining.”*

Read the Illinois release [here](#).

Read the full report [here](#).

## **New IDOT Study Highlights Significance of Illinois Airports**

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced the results of a new study showing that Illinois airports contribute \$95.5 billion and more than 490,000 jobs to the state’s economy, reinforcing the importance of aviation on the state’s multimodal transportation system to promote mobility, supply chain movement, job creation and local quality of life. Designed to better understand and quantify the aviation system’s impact on the state, the 2020 Illinois Aviation Economic Impact Analysis is the first report of its kind released by IDOT since 2012.

“Aviation is a pillar of our state. Its importance to our economy cannot be overstated,” **said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman.** “Illinois airports serve as a gateway to the economy through passenger, cargo, and general aviation services, as well as employment opportunities. Under Gov. Pritzker, IDOT is committed to strengthening our aviation system to better connect Illinois to national and international economies far and wide.”

The 2020 Illinois Aviation Economic Impact Analysis found that of the \$95.5 billion contributed to the Illinois economy by airports in 2019, \$21.1 billion came from visitor spending, \$35.9 billion related to the shipment of

cargo and \$38.4 billion resulted from direct impacts, including \$32.5 billion in income to help support 492,768 jobs.

The report analyzed 85 public-use airport facilities – 81 public and four private airports. Data was used to measure the economic impact at each individual airport, as well as each IDOT region and at the statewide level.

Early next year, IDOT is expected to release the first Illinois Aviation System Plan in more than two decades. The plan will help identify short- and long-term needs of individual airports and the aviation system as a whole, with the goal of continuing to support economies throughout the state, improve quality of life and boost mobility.

The Illinois Chamber of Commerce serves on the advisory committee for the group creating the Aviation System Plan and I was happy to earlier meet and provide recommendations to the engineers working hard on the plan.

## **Bridge Bundling Update**

Our friends at WSP released a December Bridge Bundling Report. It contains survey results from over 25 county engineers about the usefulness of bridge bundling (spoiler: nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  would like to utilize the practice).

It also looks at legislative authority for locals to bridge bundle and finds the results to be murky.

You can view the full report [here](#).

## **Chamber Letter to CREATE**

Illinois Chamber President Todd Maisch wrote a letter of support for the Ogden Junction project on behalf of the business community and Infrastructure member Union Pacific.

Read the letter [here](#).

## **Articles of Interest**

[How the Illinois Chamber of Commerce helps small businesses](#)

[Op-ed: Clean energy will create Illinois' next jobs boom. The US is following its lead](#)

Until next time,

Clark

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