



Kane County

KC Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

TEPE, Daugherty, Iqbal, Kious, Lenert, Roth, ex-officios Williams (County Development Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Tepe called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Vern Tepe Board Member Mo Iqbal Board Member Chris Kious Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Bill Roth Ex-Officio (County Development Chair) Rick Williams
ABSENT	Board Member Gary Daugherty Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. Members Allan*, Gripe, Juby*, Linder, Molina*, Penesis*; KDOT Dir. Zakosek & staff Rickert, Young, Way, Files, Hohertz, Nika, O'Connell, Coffinbargar, Lichtenberger; ASA Weldon; Special ASAs Jaeger, Shepro; Environ. Mgmt. Senior Engineer Wetland Spec. Linke; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public including Metra Board Chairman Joe McMahon and Demetri Skoufis.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

5. Public Comment

Kane County Board Member and resident, Rick Williams, voiced his concerns on the dangerous road conditions at the intersection of Hughes Road and Fabyan Parkway. He explained that every day he has to make a left-hand turn to head eastbound onto Fabyan Parkway from Hughes Road. He stated that this intersection has become so dangerous that he often times drives through the Mill Creek subdivision to avoid it. He explained that in September 2025, when there was a major car accident that left Mill Creek without power. Williams stated that this is a public safety issue and would like this intersection to be addressed. He noted that with the addition of the roundabout at

Fabyan Parkway and Main Street, traffic has increased, which has only intensified the danger of Hughes Road and Fabyan Parkway. Additionally, he stated that this intersection is poorly aligned, making it difficult to see oncoming traffic. Williams shared photographs of the intersection. He spoke on the road conditions and the abundance of cars traveling down Fabyan Parkway. He understands that the County is on a tight budget, but he would appreciate the County addressing this intersection.

Jill Vandermeij, Geneva, stated that she has lived right across from the intersection of Hughes Road and Fabyan Parkway for 18 years. In those 18 years, she has never witnessed the amount of increased traffic that has been brought on by the roundabout at Fabyan Parkway and Main Street. She noted that with the development of new homes, this intersection will be impacted more. She explained that there have been several accidents and multiple near misses. Vandermeij stated that every Saturday while gardening, she witnesses honking and several near misses. She explained that this intersection has very poor visibility. She proposed that this intersection become perpendicular or moved entirely. She stated that she tells her children to never go straight at this intersection and to always take a right-hand turn, due to witnessing many drivers blowing the stop sign and speeding.

Kane County resident, Steve Leffler, explained that he has taken a pledge in October 2025 to not drive his car and to ride his bike. He spoke on the proposed increase in the Motor Fuel Tax by five cents to fund the County's subway system. Leffler suggested that a bike rack be placed outside of the Government Center. Lastly, he noted that the increase to the Motor Fuel Tax would help fund the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT).

6. Metra Draft Budget Presentation

Metra Board Chairman Joe McMahon presented the Metra Draft FY2026 Budget. He stated that the largest issue with public transportation is the funding Transit Bill that was passed by the Senate, but not the House of Representatives. He explained that this Bill will have a large impact on Metra, PACE, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA), and regional public transit. McMahon spoke on Metra's FY2026 Budget and investments. He stated that Metra has proposed a \$1.1B budget for FY2026, which includes a Regional Transit Authority (RTA) mandated increase in fares of at least 10% to help cover the \$68M shortfall. He noted that the budget does not include any service cuts. However, it does include a \$575M Capital Plan that continues the investments in bridges, stations, and new and rehabilitated rolling stock. McMahon explained that like the CTA and PACE, Metra initially expected to be facing a much larger budget shortfall in FY2027 that was brought on by the exhaustion of the COVID Relief funds. He stated that like the other public transit agencies, Metra used these funds to cover drops in fare revenue following lower ridership levels post pandemic. He explained that Metra expects to get through FY2026 without hitting the fiscal cliff. However, in FY2027, the expected budget shortfall is \$276M, which will grow to greater than \$304M in FY2028. McMahon stated that without a solution from Springfield, there will be severe service cuts and other actions will be needed. As he has mentioned, the RTA required the service boards increase fares by a minimum of 10% for FY2026. He explained that Metra has included a proposed fare restructuring across all zones. McMahon spoke on the decrease in ridership and the ways Metra could attract more riders. He noted that

fares will increase in FY2026 between 13% and 15%, depending on the fare product and the number of zones traveled. He stated that Metra's budget for FY2026 is approximately \$1.1B, which is 1.7% lower than FY2025. This decrease was driven by operating efficiencies, hedges on fuel cost, and other reductions offset by inflation, contractual obligations, health insurance costs, and market increases on supplies and equipment. McMahon stated that Metra's budget is funded by a series of sources of revenue: the system generated revenue of approximately \$325M, of which, \$207M is fare collection. Additionally, Metra is funded by over \$635M in regional sales tax receipts. The balance of the budget is funded by the Federal COVID Relief funds of \$206M. McMahon spoke on the public outreach provided for members of the community to voice their opinions on the FY2026 Budget. He explained that the \$575M Capital Program will be funded by federal formula funding and discretionary grants that are pursued, such as the \$88M in Illinois PayGo funding, \$100K in RTA Transit grant, \$59M in signal and electric communications, over \$27M in facilities and equipment, \$59M in stations and parking, and \$92M to support operations. McMahon spoke on the aging infrastructure that Metra operates. He explained that Metra operates on lines that are owned by the several class one railroads, such as the Union Pacific Railroad. The Union Pacific allows Metra to use their railway to move from Elburn to Chicago. McMahon explained that Metra trains cross more than 700 bridges on a daily basis. Of which, 236 of those bridges are over 100 years old. McMahon stated that Metra invests heavily on these bridges on an annual basis. Metra continues to look for federal loan programs to accelerate the Bridge Rehabilitation Program. McMahon explained that the federal administration that inspects the bridges has announced the hiring of an additional 100 inspectors. These additional inspectors will increase the rate, frequency, and the number of bridges that will be inspected annually. McMahon highlighted the importance of the need to continue to invest and reinvest in County's bridges and infrastructure, which will lead to on-time performance, safe and reliable trains, and consistent schedules. He explained that Metra will hold their budget public hearings across the region on November 5, 2025 and November 6, 2025. He stated that the budget hearing for Kane County is scheduled for November 6, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Kane County Government Center, Building A, in the auditorium. McMahon stated that Metra's investment into the Capital Program covers new car procurement and remanufactured locomotives. (Committee Member Roth arrived in-person 9:17 a.m.) He explained that Metra has ordered zero emission train sets. The first train set is expected to arrive in January 2027. The hope is to have all zero emission train sets operating by 2028. McMahon explained that Metra has a proposed contract for battery powered equipment. He noted that a Request for Proposal (RFP) will go out for those battery powered locomotives in the next year. Last year, McMahon spoke about the UP West Third Mainline. He noted that the work in Geneva has been completed. He explained that the third line track went into service in August 2025. This line has increased on-time performance and reduces the interference with freight trains coming through the area. McMahon stated that the Geneva station has been completed with improvements that include increased public announcements. He explained that the updated announcements identify when trains are arriving on track three and platform two. Additionally, electric signage was installed. McMahon explained that a pilot program was developed to increase staffing at the Geneva station during off hours to improve communication with passengers. He stated that another program

affecting Kane County is the extension of the Milwaukee District West line to Rockford. He explained that this project is funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), but it will be operated by Metra. McMahon stated another improvement that has been implemented are ticket vending machines. He noted there are approximately 300 ticket machines that are installed across the County. He spoke on ridership trends. He noted that it is not uncommon to see ridership levels increase by 105% to 110% on weekends. McMahon addressed questions and comments from the Committee and staff. Much discussion ensued.

7. Finance

A. Monthly Finance Reports & Draft FY2026 Transportation Budget

KDOT CFO Young stated the monthly financial reports were on file. She explained that there were fewer transactions due to paying Amazon by invoice, rather than by the procurement card. She stated that the Kane County Division of Transportation's (KDOD) FY2026 draft budget was included in today's meeting agenda packet for review. She noted that since the last draft budget was presented in August 2025, there has been an increase of \$2M, due to anticipated carryover from the Randall Road at Hopps Road project.

KDOT Deputy Dir. Rickert shared the proposed FY2026 Budget highlights. He stated that KDOT's proposed FY2026 Budget is approximately \$119M. He explained that the majority of the budget are projects, such as bridge repair and resurfacing. He noted that about 52% of the budget is fund utilization. He explained that the funding for these projects have to be set aside in order to properly plan and prepare for them. However, there is a significant budget shortfall. Rickert shared that the fund utilization, or cash-on-hand is the only way KDOT can complete projects. Regarding personnel, Rickert explained that the Teamsters Union proposal is included in the FY2026 Budget. As far as non-union positions, there is no consideration for wage increases. Rickert explained that KDOT changed three engineer positions to maintainer positions in order to find significant savings to purchase a paint truck. This paint truck has the potential to save the County \$500K annually. Rickert explained that KDOT will continue to look for alternatives in order to complete those types of services. He added that Maintenance Superintendent Way is evaluating crack-sealing and the possibility of doing it internally to save. Rickert spoke on the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) Sales Tax reduction. He stated that this reduction does create shortfalls within KDOT's reoccurring annual operations and maintenance. Because of this, KDOT has scaled back or stopped approximately 19 projects. He noted that in FY2026, KDOT did not add any new projects. He stated that KDOT will continue to look at public safety concerns on a case-by-case basis. He stated that if considerations come ahead that require certain improvements to be made, KDOT will look at how to balance the requests and utilize alternative ways to improve public safety. Lastly, Rickert stated that KDOT will be searching for grants regarding maintenance and safety funding.

B. Authorizing Execution of Collective Bargaining Agreement for Kane County Division of Transportation

KDOT CFO Young introduced this resolution. She explained that this resolution authorizes the execution of Kane County's Division of Transportation's (KDOD) collective bargaining agreement (CBA) with Teamsters. She stated that this CBA is for a three-year period beginning November 1, 2025 through October 31, 2028. She explained that the agreement includes a three percent increase each year with a "Me Too" provision that would capture any difference that KDOT non-union staff receives in cost-of-living, if over the three percent. Additionally there are possible incentive opportunities for those that hold a Class A CDL license and/or tanker endorsement, which will help KDOT meet their operational needs. Young stated that the external promotional testing has been removed and training will be done in-house. Lastly, the Sick and Extended Sick Policy now mirrors the non-union County policy.

KC Finance and Budget Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Finance and Budget Committee
MOVED:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

8. Maintenance

A. Maintenance Report

KDOT Maintenance Supt. Way stated the monthly report was on file. He shared photographs of the painting done at the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOD) Complex, Buildings A, B, and E. The painting was done due to fading and cracking of the pavement. Way explained that KDOT received quotes from external companies to complete this project for \$95K. He stated that KDOT staff was able to complete this project for \$13,336. Way addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

B. Approving Adopt-A-Highway Applicants

KDOT Maintenance Supt. Way introduced this resolution. He stated that there were three renewal applications and two new applications.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Chris Kious
SECONDER:	Bill Roth
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

C. Authorizing the Purchase of Gasoline and Diesel Fuel for the Division of Transportation, Sheriff's Office, Building Management, and Other Intergovernmental Agencies (BID# 25-026)

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

D. Approving the Purchase of One (1) Maxi-500, 500 Gallon Tote Pumper Style Application Striping Truck for the Kane County Division of Transportation

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Rick Williams
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

E. Approving Purchase of Four (4) Body and Equipment Packages Including Installation Thereof on Four (4) Tandem Axle Truck Cab & Chassis for the Kane County Division of Transportation

KDOT Maintenance Supt. Way introduced this resolution. He added that these packages include a contingency of \$50K due to the affects of tariffs. He stated that he does not anticipate utilizing the contingency.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Chris Kious
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

F. Approving the Purchase of Five (5) 2026 Tandem Axle Truck Cab and Chassis for the Kane County Division of Transportation

KC Administration Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Administration Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

9. Planning & Programming

A. Planning & Programming Report

KDOT Chief of Planning and Programming Files stated the monthly report was on file. She announced that the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDODT) will be having a public hearing regarding the proposed land use assumptions that will be used in the Travel Demand Model in the development of the Impact Fee Program update. The public hearing will be held on November 18, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kane County Government Center, Building A, auditorium. Files stated that the public hearing information has been shared through Kane County Connects and the Council of Mayors meeting. Files

addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

10. Permitting

A. Permitting Report

KDOT Chief of Permitting Hohertz stated the monthly report was on file. No additional report was made.

11. Traffic Operations

A. Traffic Operations Report

KDOT Asst. Dir. Nika stated the monthly report was on file. He noted that Traffic Operations staff are working to finalize all projects before the winter season. Additionally, he explained that KDOT is approaching the turnover of the electrical maintenance contract at the end of the fiscal year. He stated that this contract will be awarded to a new contractor, Meade Electric. Staff is preparing for this change.

B. Approving an Alteration of Speed Limit Within Elgin Township

KDOT Asst. Dir. Nika introduced this ordinance. He explained that the Elgin Township Commissioner has requested that six roads on the Township Highway System be considered for a speed limit reduction. He shared a map depicting the roads. He explained that the Kane County Division of Transportation's (KDOT) Speed Limit Policy allows for a further reduction to 25 miles per hour (MPH) from 30 MPH for these types of roadways. Staff recommends approval. Nika addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVED:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Bill Roth
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

12. Project Implementation

A. Project Implementation Report

KDOT Chief of Design O'Connell stated the monthly report was on file. She informed the Committee that the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) was selected for two projects for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding. One project is to continue the installation of the recessed,

reflective pavement markers. The other project is to provide safety improvements on Allen Road, between Widmayer Road and Breyer Hill. O'Connell stated that the HSIP funding is 90% federal funding that only requires a 10% match. She shared several photographs depicting the construction projects occurring around the County.

B. Approving an Agreement for Phase I Engineering Services with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. of Aurora, Illinois for the French/Harmony Extension Improvements from IL Route 72 to Allen Road, Kane County Section No. 25-00582-00-BR

KDOT Chief of Design O'Connell introduced this resolution. She explained that the Phase I study will look at extending French Road to Harmony Road, between IL Route 72 and Allen Road.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVED:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

C. Approving an Agreement with Aldi, Inc. for Kirk Road at Douglas Road Intersection Improvement, Kane County Section No. 24-00377-01-CH

KDOT Chief of Design O'Connell introduced this resolution. She stated that this resolution describes Kane County's improvement at Kirk Road and Douglas Road with Aldi Incorporated. She explained that Aldi was awarded \$2M of Economic Development Program funds to incentivize job development and the expansion of their corporate offices and improvements to the Kirk Road and Douglas Road intersection. She stated that staff has coordinated with Aldi to develop the agreement that was attached to this resolution, which requires Aldi to deposit all construction funds with Kane County in advance of the construction bid opening. Therefore, the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) will not have to expend any County funds to accomplish the project. O'Connell stated that as part of the resolution, Aldi requested a permanent full access to the east side of Kirk Road at Douglas Road. O'Connell addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Bill Roth
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

D. Approving a Relocation Commitment Agreement with Commonwealth Edison Company for Relocation of Facilities for the Randall Road at Hopps Road Intersection Improvement, Kane County Section No. 19-00511-00-CH

KDOT Chief of Design O'Connell introduced this resolution. She explained that as part of this intersection realignment and grade separation project, some existing ComEd transmission towers need to be relocated and lifted for the grade separation over the Canadian National Railroad (CNRR). She stated these facilities are located within ComEd's easements. Therefore, the relocation costs are the responsibility of Kane County. She explained that ComEd has requested an advance deposit of \$1M to initiate Phase II Engineering and the procurement of materials that have long lead times in order to maintain the expedited schedule of the project. She noted that the current estimated project cost to relocate the transmission towers is \$7M. Therefore, the additional payment of \$6M will be expected in the future. O'Connell and KDOT Deputy Dir. Rickert addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Chris Kious
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

13. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

14. Executive Session

The Transportation Committee entered into an Executive Session at 9:57 a.m. to discuss probable and/or pending litigation and land acquisition on a motion made by Williams, Lenert seconded. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE
MOVER:	Rick Williams
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog
AWAY:	Mo Iqbal, and Bill Roth

A. Land Acquisition

15. Open Session

The Committee returned to Open Session at 10:34 a.m. on a motion made by Roth, Williams seconded. Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Rick Williams

A. Resolution: Approving Preliminary Compensation Appropriations for the Acquisition of Real Property for Randall Road at Hopps Road Intersection and CNRR Grade Separation Improvement Project, Kane County Section No. 19-00511-00-CH, Parcel Nos, 0001, 0002, 0002TE, 0003, 0003TE, 0006, 0006TE & 0008 (not attached)

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

B. Resolution: Approving Acquisition of Real Property for Kirk Road Over Union Pacific Railroad Company (UPRR) Tracks, Geneva, Illinois, Kane County Section No. 12-00192-04-BR, Parcel No. 0008 (not attached)

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Chris Kious
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Vern Tepe, Mo Iqbal, Chris Kious, Bill Lenert, Bill Roth, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Gary Daugherty, and Corinne M. Pierog

16. New Business

None.

17. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Rick Williams

This meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.

Savannah Zgobica
Sr. Recording Secretary