

*Illinois Chamber of Commerce*

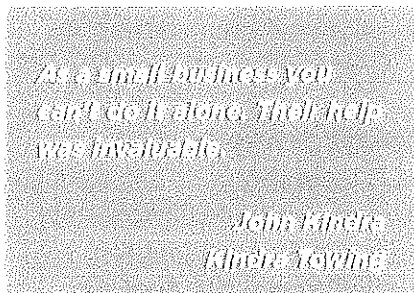
# INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL

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## REVITALIZING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IN ILLINOIS

Illinois is the heart of North America's infrastructure where all transportation, communications, and underground infrastructure meet. Illinois businesses need an organization that understands why these complex systems need investment to work well so they can focus on their business first. Our members come from a wide range of industries who know that we invest in infrastructure today to successfully compete tomorrow.

All politics are local but policy is not. That's why we advocate for policies and regulations that encourage investment in infrastructure while aiding all businesses without leaving some behind.



Our first and last question is: How can we help our members? Your voice is important and the council makes the extra effort to make sure it's heard. That's why we host small roundtables with leaders in infrastructure, arrange tours of facilities, and hold quarterly meetings featuring speakers, panels, and general discussion on the issues that matter to you.

We also communicate with members through regular phone calls, visits to their facilities, and a weekly newsletter. The Council also publishes reports and case studies highlighting what improvements in Illinois' infrastructure can do for the economic environment while focusing on our members.

## IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS ILLINOIS NEEDS:

**\$75 BILLION**

OF INVESTMENT IN OUR  
TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

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**\$32 BILLION**

OF INVESTMENT IN WASTEWATER AND  
DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

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**500 MILLION**

MORE TONS OF FRIEGHT MOVING  
THROUGH ILLINOIS BY 2040

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## COMMUNICATION

We do more than write letters. We develop relationships with groups across the state so you can focus on your business first. We meet face to face with state and local leaders, community groups, the press, and other stakeholders to discuss projects in person and provide background information.

Past quarterly meeting speakers include U.S. DOT administrators, members of Congress, IDOT secretaries, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers district commanders.

Our work with the Illinois Chamber Foundation has produced educational reports such as "Tending to Transit" and "Waterways: A Crisis Continued" that highlight the economic benefits of investing in Illinois' infrastructure.

We are also here as a resource for federal issues, working with allies across the country on big issues. The Infrastructure Council has led letters to Congress asking for a multi-year and robust federal surface authorization and supported pushback efforts on regulatory issues including the Waters of the United States (WOTUS), which would greatly expand the oversight of all pools of water.

## ADVOCACY

The Infrastructure Council educates elected officials and agencies in Illinois and Washington, DC, on how laws and regulations impact our members. It also works with members on specific issues as another voice of support.

Last session we supported legislation that would have expanded the consideration of public-private partnership (P3s) to help Illinois invest more money in infrastructure. We also supported a proposed "lockbox" constitutional amendment that would prevent state transportation funds.

## ADVISORY GROUPS

We speak broadly for business while using our members as a resource when more details are necessary.

Our voice is recognized as a leader on infrastructure issues by government and business leaders alike. We are active on the Illinois State Freight Advisory Council and the Freight Subcommittee of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning where we help identify and drive freight policy. We have also served on the Cook County Long Range Transportation plan and various waterways groups, providing input on the importance of transit and commercial navigation to Illinois.



### **BENJAMIN J. BROCKSCHMIDT**

Benjamin J. Brockschmidt focuses on increasing infrastructure investments to boost the overall business climate in Illinois. He previously worked in Washington, DC, on issues including the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. His background makes him a valuable resource for infrastructure in Illinois, Washington, DC and throughout the U.S.



## ILLINOIS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Infrastructure Council Legislative Priorities:

- More cosponsors for lockbox constitutional amendments
- Legislation expanding the consideration of public-private partnerships for infrastructure investment
- Development of key business principles and details for the next capital bill

Last year the Illinois Chamber of Commerce supported the introduction of HJRCA 36, a proposed constitutional amendment that would end Road Fund diversions by preventing any money from being removed from the Road Fund for any purpose other than transportation. Illinois' road funds come primarily from user fees, meaning if you don't use it you don't pay. However this user fee is often raided to shore up the general fund, breaking public trust in the user fee system. We need to be responsible with taxpayer money before we ask for the necessary new revenue to address this need. This proposed amendment also dictates that all future modes of transportation proposed for state funding shall need to have a dedicated source of funding.

Illinois' infrastructure needs today are more than existing amounts of federal, state, and local funding can address. That's why we are working on legislation to expand the consideration of public-private partnerships for investing in infrastructure. While local units of government have the authority to look at these types of partnerships for investment, they often lack the technical expertise necessary to assess these agreements. While no legislation has been introduced we continue to work with a variety of stakeholders on refining the language and hope to have this legislation introduced later this session.

While leaders in Springfield continue to work toward a budget, Illinois continues to wait for a new state capital bill to address our myriad of infrastructure needs. The Infrastructure Council is working with its members to develop a list of priorities and ideal properties of the next state capital bill. This will likely include suggested process changes and other streamlining that can improve our ability to build projects in a quick and timely manner.