



2017 Legislative and Transportation Agendas

2017 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Monitoring the Local Government Distributive Fund is the top priority for 2017.

Local Governments fought very hard in 2016 to keep the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) at the current levels. In 2017, the MCCG will continue to monitor any discussions that may decrease the amount returned to local governments and continue to advocate for the full 10%.

With that, the MCCG will continue to work with legislators so they better understand the significance of LGDF dollars to municipal budgets. Any decrease will directly affect each community, especially smaller communities whose primary sources of funds are LGDF and property taxes. Those smaller communities would be forced to explore property tax increases (overwhelmingly unpopular) to balance their budgets and maintain services.

Oppose Unfunded Mandates that Make it Difficult for Local Governments to Function Including any Regulations that would Limit Fees- Unfunded mandates to any local government or agency can cripple their budget. The MCCG will oppose any legislation that requires local governments to “do more with less”. County, township and municipal budgets are already strained and unfunded mandates place additional burdens on communities.

Lessen the Legislative Burdens to Local Governments – Several laws make it difficult for local governments to function efficiently. For another year, FOIA requests and Prevailing Wage requirements often burden staff. Laws and State ordinances often require local governments to respond or function in a way that isn’t efficient and takes several hours or days of staff time. Furthermore, the MCCG supports the expansion of some home rule benefits to non-home rule communities. If all local governments (big and small) face the same State requirements, expanding some home rule capabilities to non-home rule communities is needed.

Support a Transportation Capital Bill – Through the budget crisis of 2015 and 2016, several communities were forced to delay crucial transportation projects. Road resurfacing projects were delayed and often engineering projects were put on hold. The General Assembly will need to pass a State Capital Bill in 2017 to further prevent roads from deteriorating and to provide a dedicated funding source for transportation projects. Road projects that needed to be done years ago cannot languish any longer.

2017 MCCG Transportation Priority List

Key Corridor Projects

- *IL 47 from US 14 to Charles Road in Woodstock*
- *Randall Road from Harnish Drive to Acorn Lane/Polaris Drive*
- *IL Route 23 at I-90 Bridge/Interchange Improvements*
- *IL 47 and IL 176 Intersection Improvements*

Regional Projects for which the MCCG Supports

- *IL 31 from IL 176 in Crystal Lake to IL 120 in McHenry*
- *IL 47 from Reed Road in Huntley to US 14 in Woodstock*
- *Union Pacific Northwest Line New Start Projects*
- *Longmeadow Parkway*
- *IL 53 Extension into Lake County and connection to IL 120 and US 12 with the addition of an IL 31 Connector project that would help ease possible congestion in Lakemoor, McHenry, Ringwood, Johnsburg and Richmond.*
- *IL 62 Phase I Study in Barrington Hills*
- *Amtrak Service to Huntley and Rockford*

