



336 Update

The Official Newsletter of The Route 336 Coalition

Update from the Board

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2009

It's been a bit longer between issues of the 336 Update than usual. There were plans to have an edition out late in 2008 but events were unfolding so quickly that we decided to wait for a bit until the dust settled so to speak.

So here we are...Congressman LaHood is now the head of our US Transportation agency, Congressman Hare called a special meeting in December to move 336 forward with state officials, Aaron Schock has won election to Congress, Senator Durbin retains his leadership position in Washington and remains an advocate for 336, changes are occurring in Springfield that may revive hope for a state capitol bill, a very large federal stimulus plan (with a significant infrastructure plan included) is winding its way through Washington, both Congressmen Hare and Schock will sit on the House Transportation committee, and lastly, the 336 Board has reorganized.

With all of this happening in just the past 90 days, we trust you will understand why this edition is a bit later than expected.

The reorganization of the 336 board is noteworthy. It will serve to refocus and re-energize our efforts. Over the years since we began, many of our board member's individual circumstances have changed which has had an impact on their ability to be involved with 336. All continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the Highway but some just are not as able to devote as much of their time and resources. The article that follows details the changes. Our aim is to work more diligently than ever in light of all the recent changes listed above.

The reality of a four lane highway running from Peoria to Macomb, via Chicago and Kansas City as we like to think about it, is as close as ever. Now is the time to make that future for ground transportation in West Central Illinois complete.



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Ray LaHood Sworn In as Secretary of Transportation in DC

Who could have imagined that President Obama would select the 336 Coalition's most prominent friend on the Republican side of the aisle to be his Secretary of Transportation. Well, maybe Ray knew - but if you know Congressman LaHood at all, all that meant was even his own office staff were just as surprised and pleased as us.



Below is an e-mail we sent following Ray's hearing in front of the Senate Commerce committee we thought you might like reading.

Ray,

GREAT JOB!!!

It had to be a first.....the committee passing a unanimous consent in favor of your nomination before all the attending senate members had completed their questioning. Personally, it came as no surprise to me.

I was most impressed by Chairman Rockefeller's closing remarks. He was certainly sincere and his comments were very apropos....Richly deserved.

Just prior to the hearing's adjournment, Congressman Jay Rockefeller went on the record by saying that he considered it his privilege for his first opportunity as Chair of the newly seated Commerce committee to be the hearing to nominate Congressman LaHood to be the Secretary of Transportation.

President Obama couldn't have made a better choice....for all of the United States, not just 336.

Congressman Hare Holds Meeting With Illinois Secretary of Transportation Sees on 336



On December 17th, Congressman Hare presided over a meeting he initiated to determine what steps could be taken to hasten the completion of Phase I of 336 from Peoria to Macomb. (Note - No one knew at that morning meeting by teleconference that President elect Obama would name Congressman LaHood to be his Secretary of Transportation later that same day).

Those in attendance included IDOT Secretary of Transportation Milt Sees, Congressman Phil Hare, Senator David Koehler, Representative Mike Smith, Director and IDOT Chief Engineer Christine Reed, Region 3 Engineer Joe Crowe, Program Development Engineer Eric



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Therkildsen, Andy Rowe, and Carol Merna. Several 336 Board Members were also on the call.

The most prominent outcomes of that meeting were:

- Elevated awareness of Springfield IDOT officials of the importance of 336 to Central Illinois
- Commitment by IDOT to convene the final public hearings for Phase I to be held this Spring
- Speaking on behalf of himself and Senator Risinger, Senator Koehler stated the high priority 336 has for them both
- Secretary Sees assured everyone that failure to have Phase I complete will not slow or hinder the progress of 336 in the event a federal stimulus infrastructure plan materializes

--336 is well positioned relative to other highway projects in Illinois in terms of readiness for funding

Many thanks to Congressman Hare for his leadership in calling for this very important meeting. Thanks also go out to Andy Rowe, Congressman Hare's economic development director, for his efforts in all the logistics involved in putting the meeting together.

[The 336 Board Decides to Reorganize](#)

At the December meeting of the Coalition Board, the group unanimously voted to reorganize itself around three board level groups.

The Executive board duties will be to attend regular meetings as scheduled. Set the agenda of the Coalition and execute against that order of business. Further, it requires commitment to attend a majority of regular meetings in person or via conference connection.

The Board of Governors duties will be to attend an annual meeting of the Coalition and vote to seat Executive Board members. Governors will also attend special functions of the Coalition and assist when able in special projects.

The Liaison member duties will be to serve as liaisons to the elected or other government officials they serve.

The new board assignments are as follows:

Executive Board	Board of Governors	Liaison Board
Rod Ahitow	Leonard Barnard	Maureen Addis-Project Engineer
Jim Fassino	Carol Davis	Joe Crowe—Reg. 3 Engineer
Mark Johann	Larrilyn Hall	Mike McLuckie-Liaison Eng. Dist. 4
Bill Kuhn	Peg Meisinger	Eric Therkildsen-Prog. Dev. Eng. Dist. 4
Dan Kiesewetter	Bob Molleck	Andy Rowe-Congressman Hare
Chad Murphy	Dr. Bob Ritschel	Carol Merna-Congressman Schock
Kim Pierce	Mark Rothert	Sheila Miller-Sen. Sullivan
Tony Rolando	Robert Senneff	Kyle Dooley-Sen. Koehler
Kevin Stephenson	Mike Smith	Norraine Hammond-Rep. Myers
Elaine Stone		
Don Swartzbaugh		
Missy Towery		
Ron Zessin		

Opening Ceremony of 336 from Macomb to Carthage

On October 29 IDOT conducted an opening ceremony for 336 running from Macomb to Carthage. Below are several photos from the event.

Joe Crowe, Region 3 Engineer with IDOT, addresses the audience.



QNI CEO Tom Oakley offers his congratulations to Region 3 Engineer Joe Crowe following his remarks.



The ribbon cutting with a number of dignitaries performing the honors.



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A number of people from the Fulton County area made the trip over for the opening. Here they are pictured along with Senator John Sullivan, Representative Rich Myers, Region 3 Engineer Joe Crowe, and Canton Mayor Kevin Meade.



Traffic heading west bound following the event.

Annual Membership Mailing Goes Out

Our annual mailing for 2009 dues went out earlier this month. If you are not a member of the 336 Coalition, please contact us via our 336coalition.com website for details.

Our sincere thanks go out to all of you that provide the financial support we need to keep us going and on track to see this project to completion. We are closer than we have ever been to seeing this become reality. With any luck, maybe the recent dues mailing will be one of our last.



YES! I want to keep the momentum moving for a four-lane highway in western Illinois. Sign me up for a membership in the 336 Coalition.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Company (if applicable) _____

Donations of all sizes will be accepted. Please make checks payable to the "336 Coalition" and mail to:

336 Coalition

P.O. Box 761, Canton, IL 61520

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual - \$25 • Business and Industry under 20 employees - \$100

Business and Industry over 20 employees - \$200 • Cities, Townships and Municipalities - \$500 • Counties - \$1,000



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 President Mark Johann, Wells Fargo Bank -retired
 Vice President Dan Kiesewetter, Kiesewetter Insurance
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 Chad Murphy, Spoon River College
 Kim Pierce, Executive Director MAEDCO

Tony Rolando, Illinois DCEO manager
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 Recording Secretary Bob Molleck, retired public official

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 Mark Rothert, SRPED
 Robert Senneff, Graham Hospital
 Mike Smith, State Representative

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Kyle Dooley - Sen Koehler office
 Norine Hammond - Rep. Rich Myers Office
 Carol Merna - Congressman Schock

Sheila Miller - Sen Sullivan
 Andy Rowe - Congressman Phil Hare Office
 Eric Therkildsen - Program Dev Eng District 4

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