



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

April 8, 2013

Mr. Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Dear Mr. Blankenhorn:

A Tier One Record of Decision (ROD) was issued for the Illiana Corridor project in January 2013. The Tier One ROD represents the conclusion of a successful bi-state planning process that identified a preferred 2000-ft corridor (B3) in the study area.

Tier Two studies that began in February involved more detailed engineering and environmental studies, with the objective of identifying a preferred alignment, interchanges, and right-of-way footprint, the associated direct and indirect impacts and mitigation. We will also be engaging in financing studies on a parallel track. The extensive stakeholder and agency coordination will also continue in Tier Two, and Illinois Department of Transportation staff will be working very closely with you over the next several months to provide the information necessary for the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning's (CMAP) technical review of the Illiana Corridor project.

A Tier Two Draft Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated for release in fall of this year. In order to gain final Federal Highway Administration approval of Tier Two, the Illiana Corridor project must be included in the region's fiscally constrained long-range plan, GO TO 2040. As such, please consider this letter our formal request that CMAP update the GO TO 2040 to include the Illiana Corridor Project in the fiscally constrained plan. Given the current project timeline, an October 2013 adoption by the Policy Committee is requested.

We look forward to continuing to work with you on this regionally and nationally significant project. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact John Fortmann, Acting Deputy Director of Highways, Region One Engineer, located at 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196, by telephone at (847) 705-4110.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ann L. Schneider".

Ann L. Schneider
Secretary