

SB3951



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

SB3951

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Sen. Ram Villivalam

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure and Policy. Provides for the membership of the Commission. Provides for the appointment of a chairperson of the Commission by the Governor. Provides that the members shall be appointed by May 31, 2022. Provides for the meetings and duties of the Commission. Provides that the Commission shall report a summary of its activities and produce a final report of its data, findings, and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 31, 2023. Provides that the Act shall be repealed on February 1, 2023. Effective immediately.

LRB102 25883 RAM 35240 b

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning transportation.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation Infrastructure
6 Funding and Policy Act.

7 Section 5. Findings. The General Assembly finds the
8 following:

9 (1) Illinois' transportation system is crucial to
10 every resident, employee, and business. It serves as the
11 backbone of the economy and is a critical component of
12 Illinois' economic competitiveness.

13 (2) The State must continue to pursue an equitable
14 transportation network in which marginalized communities
15 have improved access to all modes of transportation,
16 thereby enhancing access to jobs, housing, and other
17 services.

18 (3) Illinois is home to an expansive transportation
19 network, currently ranking third in the nation for the
20 number of roadway miles and bridges, totaling 127,044 and
21 26,848, respectively. The State also has 6,883 miles of
22 freight railway, 1,118 inland waterway miles, 58 transit
23 systems with over 450 million annual transit trips, and 17

1 major airports.

2 (4) The historic Rebuild Illinois capital plan adopted
3 in 2019 will end in June 2025.

4 (5) The motor fuel tax and vehicle registration fees
5 remain the most significant form of transportation funding
6 for Illinois.

7 (6) Illinois will continue to contend with
8 transportation funding shortfalls due to increasing
9 vehicle fuel efficiency and the rising popularity of
10 electric vehicles.

11 (7) New and innovative funding and policy options are
12 needed to adequately maintain Illinois' transportation
13 systems and support future growth.

14 (8) The General Assembly should study these issues to
15 determine funding mechanisms for transportation projects
16 and operations in Illinois, policy changes to support the
17 efficient governance and delivery of transportation
18 projects, and the workforce needed to support the future
19 transportation system.

20 Section 10. Commission created.

21 (a) The Blue-Ribbon Commission on Transportation
22 Infrastructure Funding and Policy is created within the
23 Department of Transportation consisting of members appointed
24 as follows:

25 (1) Four members of the House of Representatives, with

1 2 to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of
2 Representatives and 2 to be appointed by the Minority
3 Leader of the House of Representatives.

4 (2) Four members of the Senate, with 2 to be appointed
5 by the President of the Senate and 2 to be appointed by the
6 Minority Leader of the Senate.

7 (3) Eight members appointed by the Governor with the
8 advice and consent of the Senate.

9 (4) The chair of the Commission to be appointed by the
10 Governor from among his 8 appointments.

11 (b) Members shall have expertise, knowledge, or experience
12 in transportation infrastructure development, construction,
13 workforce, or policy. Members shall also represent a diverse
14 set of sectors, including the labor, engineering,
15 construction, transit, active transportation, rail, air, or
16 other sectors, and shall include participants of the
17 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. No more than 2
18 appointees shall be members of the same sector.

19 (c) Members shall represent geographically diverse regions
20 of the State.

21 (d) Members shall be appointed by May 31, 2022.

22 Section 15. Meetings. The Commission shall hold its first
23 meeting within 2 months from the effective date of this Act.
24 The Commission may conduct meetings at such places and at such
25 times as it may deem necessary or convenient to enable it to

1 exercise fully and effectively its powers, perform its duties,
2 and accomplish its objectives and purposes.

3 Section 20. Duties. The Commission shall evaluate
4 Illinois' existing transportation infrastructure funding and
5 policy processes and develop alternative solutions. The
6 Commission shall:

7 (1) Evaluate current transportation funding in
8 Illinois, taking into account the viability of existing
9 revenue sources and funding distributions.

10 (2) Consider new and innovative funding options,
11 including, but not limited to, a vehicle miles traveled
12 fee, tolling, congestion pricing, and local government
13 funding options.

14 (3) Evaluate the existing governance of Illinois'
15 transportation system, including roles and
16 responsibilities for the state and county, township, and
17 municipal governments.

18 (4) Evaluate current and future workforce needs to
19 design, construct, and manage the state's transportation
20 system within the Illinois Department of Transportation
21 and within the State as a whole.

22 (5) Evaluate current and future data needs of the
23 Illinois Department of Transportation.

24 (6) Consider and recommend steps to expedite project
25 approval and completion.

1 (7) Consider future trends that will impact the
2 transportation system, including safety needs, racial
3 equity, electric vehicles, and climate change.

4 (8) Consider ways to improve transportation investment
5 impacts on goals such as improving racial equity,
6 addressing climate change, and increasing economic growth.

7 (9) Consider improvements to the performance-based
8 programming system.

9 (10) Consider multimodal system needs, including
10 public transportation, bicycle facilities, railways,
11 waterways, and airports.

12 (11) Consider alternative solutions employed by other
13 states.

14 Section 25. Report. The Commission shall direct the
15 Illinois Department of Transportation to enter into a contract
16 with a third party to assist the Commission in producing a
17 document that evaluates the topics under this Act and outline
18 formal recommendations that can be acted upon by the General
19 Assembly. The Commission shall report a summary of its
20 activities and produce a final report of the data, findings,
21 and recommendations to the General Assembly by January 31,
22 2023. The final report shall include specific, actionable
23 recommendations for legislation and organizational
24 adjustments. The final report may include recommendations for
25 pilot programs to test alternatives. The final report and

1 recommendations shall also include any minority and individual
2 views of task force members.

3 Section 30. Repeal. This Commission is dissolved, and this
4 Act is repealed on February 1, 2023.

5 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
6 becoming law.