



DUPAGE COUNTY

2014 State Legislative Program

Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board
Jerry "JR" McBride, Chairman, Legislative Committee



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Introduction

OVERVIEW

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 907,364 residents and is comprised of 9 townships and portions of 39 municipalities. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to over 750,000 jobs and 16 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories - Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator, 300 miles of bikeways and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property. Over 20% of the county is open space.

County residents elect the County Board Chairman at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials - Auditor, Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State's Attorney, and Treasurer. The County Board includes 18 members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members from each district).

Core county government services include: public safety and the operation of the county, jail and the 18th judicial circuit court; construction and maintenance of the county highway system and bikeways/trails; economic development and planning; public health and mental health care services; stormwater management; workforce and employment training; water and sewer services; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; the administration of countywide elections; the operation of the county nursing home; community and senior services; emergency management preparedness; and animal control.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to reduce the size of county government in order to minimize the tax burden on our residents. Over the past three years, the county's budget has been reduced by \$10.5 million and full-time headcount has been reduced by 50 positions. DuPage County continues to receive the highest bond rating from all three major credit rating agencies (AAA), a status achieved by less than 1% of all counties nationwide. In 2013, county government accounted for less than 3% of the average homeowner's property tax bill.



2014 Legislative Priorities

SUMMARY

- **Public Transit Reform:** ensure a viable and sustainable public transportation system for the entire region with appropriate oversight and equitable funding
- **Reduce the Size of Government:** remove barriers and authorize local governmental agencies to centralize, dissolve or consolidate services on a regional basis and reduce the number of taxing districts and costs for all taxpayers
- **Protect Local Revenues:** oppose any efforts to divert the obligated share of income and sales tax revenues to counties and municipalities that utilize these funds to provide critical services to taxpayers
- **Remove Sunset Date—9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge:** remove the surcharge sunset date to support public safety agencies that depend on these funds to ensure a swift and appropriate response to 9-1-1 calls
- **Enhance Accessibility of Elected Officials:** provide direct access to elected officials who serve the public by requiring individual email addresses for officials whose governmental entities maintain a website
- **Conduct of County Appointees:** provide county officials with the tools they need to ensure the appropriate conduct of county appointed officials including the authority to remove an appointee for just cause
- **Adequately Fund County Probation Departments:** restore adequate state funding of county probation costs that continue to rise largely due to the imposition of new state mandates
- **Capital Funding**
Support critical Infrastructure Improvements for County Highways & Trails, Stormwater, Public Works & Drainage Projects



2014 Legislative Priorities

INITIATIVES

Public Transit Reform

The operation of an efficient and effective mass transit system for Northeastern Illinois is critically important to our region's economy and to both riders and suburban taxpayers. We cannot continue to operate a public transit system based on 30-year old policies that protect specific interests at the expense of regional solutions. A more collaborative approach is needed.

In order to create a more accountable and equitable transit system, a number of legislative reforms are required including:

- **Expanded Oversight:** the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) needs greater authority and the proper tools to successfully carry out its statutory duties including enhanced budget oversight of the three service boards through financial and audit controls and enforcement mechanisms.

Local appointing authorities should also have the ability to remove (their) appointees to the RTA, Metra, or Pace Boards with just cause. Currently, there are two ways board members may be removed from office. First, board members at the RTA, Metra, or Pace who are found formally of incompetence, neglect of duty or offenses while in office may be removed if eleven other board members at the RTA or eight other board members at Metra or Pace vote to remove the individual. Secondly, the Governor may remove a board member in response to a report from the Executive Inspector General. This differs from the CTA, where the appointing authorities, the Mayor of Chicago and the Governor, may directly remove board members. All appointing authorities, regardless of transit agency, should have the same ability to remove board members they appoint based on just cause.

- **New Governance Structure:** representation on the transit boards should reflect current population trends in Northeastern Illinois and from where transit dollars originate. The supermajority voting requirement for any action should also be preserved as it protects minority interests and ensures regional consensus. While a supermajority voting practice may elongate the decision-making process, it requires all parties to work together towards a mutual solution.



2014 Legislative Priorities

INITIATIVES

- **Equitable Distribution of Funds:** a formula that fairly distributes discretionary fund dollars across all three transit agencies must be developed to support the entire region's infrastructure needs.
- **Consolidation:** strategic consolidation of administrative functions is critical in creating a public transit system that effectively serves our region. Further study is required of model transit systems that share services, eliminate redundancies, and spend resources more efficiently.
- **Unified Ethics Standard:** a universal ethics policy needs to be adopted across all four transit agencies. Currently, the four different ethics standards and policies in place make it difficult to gauge how ethically each agency performs. Furthermore, this practice continues to isolate each transit agency from each other. Development of a universal ethics policy based on the highest standard of conduct in stakeholder activities and business practices should be applied to the entire transit system.

Reduce the Size of Government

Illinois continues to lead the nation with the most units of local government, with more than 400 separate taxing districts in DuPage County alone. In May of 2012, DuPage County launched the ACT (Accountability, Consolidation, Transparency) Initiative in order to reinvent county government through shared services, greater collaboration, and intergovernmental cooperation with county departments and county appointed agencies. To date, over \$79 million in projected savings to taxpayers has been achieved.

In 2013, DuPage County received legislative authority (SB 494) to actually dissolve and consolidate the operations of inefficient and duplicative county appointed governmental agencies.

Many more opportunities exist to consolidate governmental functions if units of local government are granted the authority to work collaboratively as a region (and state) to redesign how we deliver critical services to our citizens. By decreasing the size and scope of government, expenses such as mandated employee pension benefits to rising personnel costs could be significantly reduced and taxpayer resources maximized.



2014 Legislative Priorities

INITIATIVES

As this process moves forward to streamline government, DuPage County will continue to serve as a demonstration model for the rest of the state, paving the way for larger scale consolidation efforts that address inefficiencies at all levels of state and local government.

Protect Local Revenues

In recent years, the General Assembly has adopted legislation to borrow and actually divert portions of the local share of income tax proceeds (LGDF) and corporate personal property tax replacement revenues (CPPRT) in order to fund state obligations. Other actions by state government to reduce reimbursement levels and payment cycles for state services provided by county governments have placed additional burdens on our local taxpayers.

Diverting monies owed to other units of government that deliver state mandated programs and other critical services further strains local budgets and potentially diminishes the level of services provided to our residents.

State revenue sharing recognizes the partnership between the state and local governments that provide the majority of direct services. DuPage County opposes any further diversion of revenues collected on behalf of local governments, supports the prompt payment by the state of monies owed, and the restoration of the 10% designated share of income tax collections.

Remove Sunset Date - 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge

The DuPage Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) maintains oversight of the Enhanced 9-1-1 systems for citizens of DuPage and portions of Cook, Kane and Will Counties excluding Burr Ridge and Naperville. Enhanced 9-1-1 systems are a critical state of the art tool for the expeditious response of public safety personnel to citizen requests for emergency services.



2014 Legislative Priorities

INITIATIVES

The DuPage ETSB is wholly funded by its portion of the 9-1-1 monies received from the wireless and wire-line telephone surcharge fees (as the use of landlines decreases, wire-line surcharge revenues will diminish). As 72% of the 9-1-1 calls placed in the county originate from wireless technology, the wireless surcharge in particular represents a corresponding and appropriate user based fee to support the county's 9-1-1 infrastructure and operations. The Wireless Emergency Telephone System Surcharge is scheduled to sunset however as of July 1, 2014.

Legislation adopted by the General Assembly in 2013 extended the surcharge until 2014 and established a 9-1-1 Advisory Board to work with the Illinois Commerce Commission to determine the level of funding required to adequately support the future operations of 9-1-1 systems statewide and to develop an equitable distribution model. The Advisory Board is required to issue its recommendations by May.

DuPage County supports the removal of the wireless surcharge sunset date and the development of a long-term, stable funding mechanism to support local emergency response systems that our citizens depend on.

Enhance Accessibility of Elected Officials

First and foremost, individuals elected to office are there to represent the public good and the interests of all the citizens they serve. Elected officials should also be accessible to members of the community, especially those individuals who may be unable to attend a meeting of the public body but have a concern or issue that needs to be addressed.

DuPage County supports legislation to require email accounts for elected officials if the governmental entity they represent maintains a website. The website should include a contact information page that lists each elected official with a corresponding email account, permitting direct access by the residents of the district.



2014 Legislative Priorities

SUPPORTED INITIATIVES

Conduct of County Appointees

In DuPage County, the Chairman and County Board nominate and appoint over 250 citizens to serve on various governmental entities that deliver either direct services to the public or serve in an advisory capacity. These volunteers play an important role as a custodian of public funds or through the development of public policy on behalf of fellow citizens.

To ensure the highest ethical conduct of citizen volunteers, Lake County has introduced legislation (Senate Bill 2618) that permits counties with a population greater than 300,000 but less than 2 million, by ordinance, to enforce a "code of conduct" or standards regarding the accountability, fiscal responsibility, procurement authority, transparency, and ethical conduct of county appointees. The legislation also authorizes a process for the Chairman or County Board to remove an appointee from office for good cause.

DuPage County supports this legislation to hold local boards accountable and to provide counties with the ability to make local decisions affecting their residents.



2014 Legislative Priorities

PENDING ISSUES

Graduated Income Tax

There are several bills and resolutions before the Illinois General Assembly that would alter the current flat income tax system in Illinois in favor of a graduated income tax.

A graduated income tax imposes a higher tax rate depending on the level of income and increases as the amount of taxable income or funds rises.

In order to implement a graduated income tax, both the House and Senate, by a three-fifths vote, would need to adopt legislation to place on the ballot a referendum question to amend the State Constitution to alter the income tax system in Illinois. Subsequently, voters would have to act to approve such a constitutional amendment.

DuPage County leaders are concerned about the potential impact of a graduated income tax system on our homeowners and businesses. The county plans to hold public hearings early in the year to further examine the topic and the likely income tax increase that would result for the majority of county residents.



2014 Legislative Priorities

APPROPRIATIONS

Probation Funding

The state requires counties to provide probation services as part of a mandated court services program yet over the years, state reimbursement of county probation costs has been cut dramatically and payment cycles reduced.

For fiscal year 2014, county probation funding did receive a 15% increase over last year's level of \$47 million (the Supreme Court requested \$95 million to adequately fund probation services). However, any net increase to DuPage County will be offset by a series of new unfunded mandates imposed on county probation departments including GPS monitoring, establishment of a Violent Offenders Registration System, and a change in the age for Juvenile Court. House Bill 2404 assigns those charged with a felony who are age 17 to Juvenile Court, thus requiring juvenile detention facilities versus county jails to house these offenders at a substantially higher cost.

DuPage County supports the restoration of probation funding to required levels.



2014 Legislative Priorities

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Attached to this document is a list of proposed highway and trail improvements, public works-drainage projects, and stormwater initiatives for DuPage County. If completed, these projects would enhance safety on our roadways, offer significant congestion relief for the region, and reduce the incidence of flooding countywide.



DuPage County Public Works Projects

Rosewood Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$750K

Description: The Rosewood Development consists of over 3,800 residents living in condominiums and multi-family apartments. This development is serviced by a sanitary sewer that was originally installed in the late 1970's and has begun to deteriorate with the possibility of sewer back-ups. This project will reconstruct new sanitary sewer lines in some areas and rehabilitate other others. This project is critical to the residents in order to provide a functioning sanitary sewer to a densely populated area.

Location: west of Route 83, south of 91st street, and east of Clarendon Hills Road

Nordic Park Wastewater Treatment Plant & Collection System Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$2.0M

Description: The Nordic Park Treatment Plant services over 2,000 residents and has been in operation since the 1960's. The plant is in need of renovation and improvements to increase plant efficiency, continue to meet IEPA regulations, reduce operational costs and to provide more plant capacity for future development. This project will also reconfigure the existing sanitary sewer collection system to eliminate frequent surcharges from undersized sanitary sewers. This project will have a substantial environmental benefit for the region upon completion.

Location: service area is Irving Park road to the north, Bloomingdale road to the south, Route 53 to the east, and Medinah road to the West

Glen Ellyn Heights Water System Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$1.0M

Description: The Glen Ellyn Heights Water System services a population of over 2,500 residents in areas of unincorporated DuPage County. This system was constructed in the early 1950's and is experiencing operational and maintenance problems that are overwhelming the aging infrastructure. Many users experience low water volume and pressure due to the undersized system and frequent water main breaks. This project will provide critical upgrades to the existing water system resulting in much improved water service to existing customers and allowing for future expansion of Lake Michigan water to areas that are currently serviced by private wells.

Location: service area bordered by Busch Road to the west, River Drive to the east, 1st Avenue to the south and North Avenue to the north

DuPage County Drainage Division Projects

Liberty Park Drainage Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$6.5M (project can be completed in multiple smaller phases to accommodate funding)

Description: In 2010 the Westmont Water Surface Protection District (WWSPD) formally dissolved. The purpose of the WWSPD was to provide flood protection for an area comprised of over 1500 residential and commercial properties known as Liberty Park. Liberty Park contains properties in Downers Grove, Westmont, and areas of unincorporated DuPage County. This area remains one of the most flood prone areas of DuPage County requiring a major infrastructure investment. The storm sewer, detention basins and ditches throughout this region will require complete replacement to eliminate the flooding experienced during all levels and frequencies of storm events. This project will also include the buyout and demolition of some of the worst flooded structures. DuPage County, Westmont and Downers Grove are working jointly on this project as it affects all three areas.

Location: 39th Street to north, Cass Ave. to east, Naperville Road to south, Cumnor Road to west

Timber Lake Drainage Improvement Project

Funding Request: \$1.0M

Description: The Timber Lake project consists of dredging of an existing regional lake that will greatly improve the subdivision's drainage conditions and overall lake water quality. This lake is the primary location for stormwater storage and conveyance for the subdivision of over 500 homes. Over time, the capacity of the lake has been greatly diminished as the lake has been filled in with sediment. This project will remove all accumulated sediment within the lake, improve conveyance channels and stabilize the banks from further erosion.

Location: This project is located in the Darien/Burr Ridge area, south of I-55 and west of Route 83.

Northwest DuPage County Drainage Rehabilitation Projects

Funding Request: \$750K (consists of many small projects that can be funded with lesser amounts)

Description: This group of projects consists of multiple different projects within a single geographical area. These projects are required in order to install a conveyance system that can accommodate larger storm events through residential areas. This project will reduce the occurrence of widespread flooding and will benefit over 200 properties located in unincorporated Wayne Township-Geneva Woods and the unincorporated areas of Winfield and Bartlett. Currently, numerous properties and roadways experience severe flooding during storm events limiting access by emergency vehicles that could be resolved as part of this project.

Location: Multiple projects located throughout the northwest portion of DuPage County

DuPage County Stormwater/Flood Relief Project

Klein Creek Flood Mitigation Project (Armstrong Park)

Funding Request: \$6.3M

Description: The project seeks to address severe flooding experienced by over 267 residences located in Carol Stream that continue to be affected by flood damages due to over-bank stream flooding sanitary sewer back-ups, and/or sump-pump failures. The principal cause of the flooding is due to the inadequate capacity of the natural channel to convey runoff. The mitigation project will consist of a two reservoir system that will operate when Klein Creek experiences increased elevations.

Highway and Trail Improvements in DuPage County

State Highway Safety and Congestion Relief Projects

DuPage County Priority	Scope of Work	Comments	C/B District
Elgin-O'Hare/West By-Pass	New Regional Facility	Project of National Significance. Fund balance of State committed land acquisition	1
IL 38 at County Farm Road	Intersection Improvement	County requests inclusion of land acquisition and construction phases of this project into IDOT's Program	6
Finley Road at Ogden Avenue	Intersection Improvement	County requests project addition to IDOT multi-year program, estimated project cost TBD.	2
IL 59 at Stearns Road	Intersection Improvement	County requests prioritizing this project within IDOT's multi-year program.	6

County Highway and Trail Safety and Congestion Relief Projects

DuPage County Priority	Scope of Work	Comments	C/B District
IL Prairie Path (Aurora Branch) at CNRR/EJ&E	Trail Underpass	\$2M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	5
Fabyan Parkway - IL 38 to County Line	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$14.2M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	6
31st Street- IL 83 to Jorie	Intersection Improvement	\$1.1M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	2
75th Street - Ogden to Washington	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$2M for Engineering to determine improvement needs and to leverage federal funding assistance.	5
75th Street - Washington to Janes	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$2M for Engineering to determine improvement needs and to leverage federal funding assistance.	3, 5
Plainfield Road at Bailey Road	Intersection Improvement	\$550K for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	3
Glen Ellyn Road, Army Trail Road to Fullerton Avenue	Center Turn Lane, Resurfacing	\$3M for Engineering and Construction	4
Warrenville Rd over West Branch DuPage River	Bridge Replacement	\$1M for Engineering and Construction	6