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## Southwest Conference of MAYORS

Village of Alsip  
Village of Bedford Park  
City of Blue Island  
Village of Bridgeview  
City of Burbank  
Village of Chicago Ridge  
Village of Crestwood  
Village of Evergreen Park  
City of Hickory Hills  
City of Hometown  
Village of Justice  
Village of Lemont  
Village of Merrionette Park  
Village of Oak Lawn  
Village of Orland Hills  
Village of Orland Park  
City of Palos Heights  
City of Palos Hills  
Village of Palos Park  
Village of Willow Springs  
Village of Worth

### Gerald R. Bennett

President  
Mayor, City of Palos Hills

### David R. Brady

Vice President  
President, Village of  
Bedford Park

### Robert S. Straz

Vice President  
Mayor, City of Palos Heights

### Rhonda Hyde

Treasurer  
Treasurer, Village of  
Bedford Park

### Victoria A. Smith

Executive Director

**MEETING AGENDA**  
**April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 ~ Wednesday**  
**6:30 P.M. – Refreshments**  
**7:00 P.M. – SCM Business Meeting**  
**Willow Springs Community Center**  
**8156 Archer Road**  
**Willow Springs, Illinois**

- |             |                                                                                                 |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>I.</b>   | <b>Call to Order, Welcome &amp; Approval of the March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 Meeting Minutes</b> | <b>Mayor Bennett</b>    |
| <b>II.</b>  | <b>President's Report</b>                                                                       | <b>Mayor Bennett</b>    |
| <b>III.</b> | <b>Executive Director's Report</b>                                                              | <b>Vicky Smith</b>      |
| <b>IV.</b>  | <b>Committee Reports</b>                                                                        |                         |
|             | <b>A. Transportation Committee</b>                                                              | <b>Mayor Brady</b>      |
|             | <b>1. Local STP/Planning Liaison Updates</b>                                                    | <b>Brittany Matyas</b>  |
|             | <b>2. IDOT Local Roads Update</b>                                                               | <b>Kevin Stallworth</b> |
|             | <b>3. Cook County Update</b>                                                                    | <b>Joseph Seymour</b>   |
|             | <b>4. Illinois Toll Highway</b>                                                                 | <b>Kelsey Passi</b>     |
|             | <b>B. Legislation Committee Report</b>                                                          | <b>Mayor Bennett</b>    |
|             | <b>C. Utilities Committee Report</b>                                                            | <b>Mayor Wasowicz</b>   |
|             | <b>1. Update Given by Utilities Companies' Representatives</b>                                  |                         |
|             | <b>D. Public Works Committee Report</b>                                                         | <b>Brittany Matyas</b>  |
|             | <b>E. Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council Report</b>                                             | <b>Vicky Smith</b>      |

V. Other Business

A. MVCC

B. Pathlights

C. Miscellaneous Task Forces/Committee Update

Steve Pappageorge

Alison Parker

VI. Old Business /New Business

VII. Next Meetings/Events

**April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Wednesday**

*IML Springfield Legislative Day*

**\* *The SCM will not be hosting any events .***

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Tuesday**

*SCM Transportation Committee Meeting*

9:30 A.M.

**\* Via Zoom**

**May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Wednesday**

*SCM Dinner Meeting*

6:00 P.M. – Reception

6:30 P.M. - Meeting

7:00 P.M. – Dinner

*Location TBD*

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026- Wednesday**

*SCM Annual Golf Outing*

*Cog Hill Country Club*

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Tuesday**

*Public Works Committee Meeting*

9:30 A.M

**\* Location To Be Determined**

**September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Tuesday**

*SCM Transportation Committee Meeting*

9:30 A.M.

**\* Via Zoom**

**September 17<sup>th</sup> – September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Illinois Municipal League Conference*

*Chicago Hyatt Regency*

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 - Tuesday**

*SCM Public Works Committee Meeting*

9:30 A.M.

**\* Location To Be Determined**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 - Wednesday**

*Cal-Sag WSPC/SCM Business Meetings*

5:30 P.M. - Refreshments

6:00 P.M. - Cal-Sag WSPC Meeting

7:00 P.M. - SCM Business Meeting

*Orland Park Village Hall*

14700 South Ravinia Avenue

VIII. Adjournment

**Southwest Conference of Mayors  
March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026 – Meeting Minutes  
Lake Katherine - Palos Heights**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
John Ryan	Mayor	Village of Alsip
Jerry Bennett	Mayor	City Palos Hills
Terry Vorderer	Mayor	Village of Oak Lawn
Jim Dodge	Mayor	Village of Orland Park
Bob Straz	Mayor	City of Palos Heights
Nicole Milovich-Walters	Mayor	Village of Palos Park
Gary Lewis	Trustee	Village of Bridgeview
David Gilgenberg, II	Mayor	City of Burbank
Bill Peters	Public Works	Village of Lemont
Rick Boehm	Manager	Village of Palos Park
Joe Smith	Public Works Director	City of Palos Heights
Jeff Smith	Building Inspector	Village of Bedford Park
Steve Pappageorge	Vice President	Moraine Valley Community College
Pamela Haney	President	Moraine Valley Community College
Elaine Grande	Executive Director	Pathlights
Mary Patchin	President/CEO	CSCVB
Kim Kislowski	Exec. Vice President	CSCVB
Adriana Carrasquillo	External Affairs	ComEd
Kevin Stallworth	Civil Engineer	IDOT-Local Roads
Joe Seymour	Senior Planner	Cook DOTD
Ryan Gougis	IGA Specialist	CMAP
Kelsey Passi	Comm. Relations Manager	Illinois Tollway
Kathy Hilton	Aide	Commissioner Sean Morrison
Matthew Zarebczan	Economic Devel. Director	Village of Justice
Housam Haj Yousif	AB	GSI
Gareth Blakesley	Director	Lake Katherine
Ian McCormick	Project Engineer	Christopher B. Burke Engineering
Ben Schnelle	Mgr. Housing/Comm. Devel.	Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
Jennel Hooper	Executive Director	Chicago Southland Chamber
Vernard Alsberry		Robinson Engineering
Kate O'Malley	Resident	
Laura Shallow	Exec. VP/Adjunct Faculty	World Data Systems/St. Xavier Univ
Brittany Matyas	Program Coordinator	Southwest Conference of Mayors
Vicky Smith	Executive Director	Southwest Conference of Mayors

*Attachments referred to in these minutes can be obtained by contacting the Southwest Conference of Mayors' office at (708) 701-2232.*

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:10 P.M. On a motion by Mayor Milovich-Walters and seconded by Mayor Ryan the January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved.

### **Guest Speaker**

Gareth Blakesley, Director of Lake Katherine gave an overview of what Lake Katherine and all the wonderful things Lake Katherine has to offer.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Ms. Smith reported that the SCM's golf outing will be held on Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> at Cog Hill. She requested that the SCM Members email her the names and email addresses for those that can be invited to the outing. Ms. Smith asked all SCM members to donate a gift basket that represents their municipality for the silent auction and raffle prizes are also needed. Your assistance with the SCM golf outing is appreciated and necessary for it to be successful. Ms. Smith asked the Mayors to let her know if they plan on attending the IML's April 29<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day in Springfield. Ms. Smith noted that the SCM will be hosting an event with CMAP on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM at Bedford Park Village Hall to roll out CMAP's Century Plan – a long-term vision for the region. Please share this information with those from your staff who should attend. Ms. Smith noted that in the Mayors' packets they will find a letter the SCM signed onto with seven other COGs regarding our concerns for the Governor's Build Up proposal. Also in your packets is a fact sheet the IML created regarding what the Governor's proposed cut to LGDF would mean financially to each Senate (\$1,018,486) and House (\$509,245) district. Also, the SCM has been working with City of Chicago and the other COGs on an op-ed regarding this matter. In your packet this is information regarding CMAP's and the RTA's call for Technical Assistance projects. The deadline to submit a project to be considered for funding is Noon on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Smith mentioned that on September 12<sup>th</sup> Pathlights will be hosting a community walk in Oak Lawn. We are looking for municipalities to have a team or two in the walk. There is information in your packet.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Transportation Committee/Local STP Report**

Ms. Matyas reported on the SCM's call for STP projects and the public comment period. Ms. Matyas noted that she has responded to the public comments that she has received so far and at the April business meeting she plans to present the SCM's updated STP Program for approval. Ms. Matyas reminded everyone about the importance of submitting the STP project quarterly status updates on time; they are due today.

#### **IDOT Local Roads Update**

Mr. Stallworth, IDOT, presented the Local Roads and Street Status Sheets for Federal Aid Projects in the Southwest Conference of Mayors area. Attachment A

#### **CMAP Update**

Mr. Gougis gave an update on all the happenings and programs at CMAP including the TAP Program. He also encouraged everyone to attend the April 21<sup>st</sup> Century Plan event.

### **Cook County Highway Department**

Mr. Seymour, Cook County, presented the Cook County DOTH Project Status Report for the Southwest Conference of Mayors and he noted the Invest in Cook Program and Cook County's Safety Action Plan Program - the deadline for submittal is May 26. Attachment B

### **Illinois Tollway**

Ms. Passi gave an update on the Tollway's budget process and noted that the 2026 budget was approved. Ms. Passi also reported on other Tollway items.

### **Legislative Committee Report**

Mayor Bennett gave a Legislative update which included the important items covered in the Governor's budget address: BUILD Up Illinois and a reduction in LGDF to the municipalities. A lengthy discuss between the Mayors occurred regarding both of these topics. Mayor Bennett also mentioned the IML's April 29<sup>th</sup> Lobby Day

### **Utilities Committee Report**

Ms. Adriana Carrasquillo, ComEd, noted that ComEd's multi-year grid play was filed earlier this year and gave a brief synopsis of it. ComEd's Annual Reports will be coming out. Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Carrasquillo for arranging the presentation at last month's meeting on data centers.

### **Public Works Committee Report**

Ms. Matyas noted that the next Public Works Committee meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at Bedford Park Village Hall and she asked the Mayors to encourage their Public Works Directors and staff to attend the meeting.

### **Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council Report**

Ms. Smith noted that the next meeting for the Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council will meet next on April 22, 2026.

### **Other Business**

#### **MVCC Update**

Mr. Pappageorge noted that Dr. Haney, MVCC President, was in attendance at the meeting. Mayor Bennett welcomed Dr. Haney. Mr. Pappageorge gave an update on the programs and happenings at MVCC.

#### **Pathlights**

Elaine Grande gave a brief update on the happenings of Pathlights and the many programs they offer to provide assistance to residents. Ms. Grande shared the current impact numbers with the Mayors.

**CSCVB Update**

Ms. Mary Patchin and Ms. Kim Kislowski gave an update on the happenings of the CSCVB. They shared with the Mayors a report on short-term rental in the area. They also mentioned some new of the awards the CSCVB will be looking for nominations for.

**Adjournment**

Mayor Bennett thanked the City of Palos Heights for hosting the meeting tonight.

Mayor Milovich-Walters announced that Rick Boehm, Village Manager, is retiring after 16 years with the Village.

On a motion by Mayor Straz and seconded by Mayor Milovich-Walters the Southwest Conference of Mayors' Business Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 P.M.