SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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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

UPDATED

MEETING AGENDA

October 21st, 2026~ Wednesday
5:30 P.M. – Refreshments
6:00 P.M. – Cal Sag WSPC Meeting
7:00 P.M. – SCM Business Meeting
Palos Hills City Hall
10335 South Roberts Road

I. **Call to Order, Welcome & Approval of the September 30th, 2026 Meeting Minutes** — **Mayor Bennett**

II. **Guest Speaker**
Zach Braun, Associate Government Affairs – NITA
People Over Parking Act

III. **President's Report** — **Mayor Bennett**

IV. **Executive Director's Report** — **Vicky Smith**

V. **Committee Reports**

A. **Transportation Committee** — **President Brady**
1. **Local STP/Planning Liaison Updates** — **Brittany Matyas**
2. **IDOT Local Roads Update** — **Kevin Stallworth**
3. **IDOT Program Update** — **Tavis Farmer**
4. **Cook County Update** — **Katherine Ginensky**
Joseph Seymour
5. **Illinois Toll Highway** — **Kelsey Passi**

B. **Legislation Committee Report** — **Mayor Bennett**

C. **Utilities Committee Report** — **Mayor Wasowicz**
1. **Update Given by Utilities Companies' Representatives**

D. **Public Works Committee Report** — **Brittany Matyas**

E. **Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council Report** — **Vicky Smith**

VI. Other Business

A. MVCC — Steve Pappageorge
B. Pathlights — Elaine Grande
C. CSCVB Update — Mary Patchin/Kim Kislowski
D. Miscellaneous Task Forces/Committee Update

VII. Old Business /New Business

VIII. Next Meetings/Events

IX. Adjournment

Southwest Conference of Mayors
September 30th, 2026 – Meeting Minutes
Orland Park Village Hall

NAME	TITLE	REPRESENTING
John Ryan	Mayor	Village of Alsip
Jerry Bennett	Mayor	City Palos Hills
Terry Vorderer	Mayor	Village of Oak Lawn
Kris Wasowicz	Mayor	Village of Justice
Mary Werner	Mayor	Village of Worth
Jim Dodge	Mayor	Village of Orland Park
Gary D. Lewis	Trustee	Village of Bridgeview
Bob Straz	Mayor	City of Palos Heights
David Gilgenberg II	Mayor	City of Burbank
Melissa Neddermeyer	Mayor	Village of Willow Springs
Jack Lind	Mayor	Village of Chicago Ridge
Dean Casper	Outreach Coordinator	Village of Orland Park
Steve Pappageorge	Vice President	Moraine Valley Community College
Elaine Grande	Executive Director	Pathlights
Kelsey Passi	Community Outreach Magr.	Tollway
Jeff Smith	Building Inspector	Village of Bedford Park/Mayor Brady
Noreen Ligino-Kubinski	Project Coordinator	HBK Engineering
Bill Peters	Street Supervisor	Village of Lemont
Gavin Yeaman	Director of Public Works	Village of Evergreen Park
Brad Cole	CEO	Illinois Municipal League
Brian Skala	Trustee	Village of Crestwood
Mary Patchin	President/CEO	CSCVB
Kim Kislowski	Exec. Vice President	CSCVB
Houssam Haj Yousf	CTO	GSI
Adriana Carrasquillo	External Affairs Manager	ComEd
Lisa Aprati	External Affairs Manager	ComEd
Greg Castellanos	External Affairs Manager	ComEd
Ryan Gougis	Government Affairs	CMAP
Sam Balark	External Affairs	AT & T
Sue Lehr	Dir. of Public Works	Hickory Hills
Matthew Zarebczan	Economic Develp. Director	Village of Justice
Housam Hajyousif	CTO	GSI
Mary Ryan Norwell	Clerk	Village of Orland Park
Kyle Braghini	Project Engineer	HR Green
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 7:05 P.M. On a motion by President Vorderer and seconded by Trustee Lewis the May 20th, 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Guest Speakers

Ryan Gougis, Sr. Intergovernmental Affairs Specialist - CMAP, gave an update on all the workings of CMAP including: the Century Plan, the Union Pacific & Northfork Southern merger and there was conversation about Metra service - specifically the Southwest Service Line.

President's Report

Mayor Bennett welcomed Brad Cole, CEO - IML, to the meeting and noted that Mr. Cole will be stepping down from the IML on January 15th. Mr. Cole thanked Mayor Bennett for his support while he led the IML. Mr. Cole gave a brief legislative update.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Smith Thanked everyone who participated in the SCM's June 17th golf outing. Thank you to the many sponsors and those made donations– we appreciate it. Ms. Smith reminded everyone to use their outing rainchecks by June 17th, 2027. Ms. Smith noted that she participated in the IML's FOIA Stakeholders meeting. The IML is working on FOIA legislation to be presented during veto session. Ms. Smith detailed the FOIA issues that the IML hopes to address in the proposed legislation. Ms. Smith noted that all invoices for municipal and Associate Member dues have been sent out and she thanked everyone who has already paid their invoices. Ms. Smith noted that she is in the process of confirming the meeting dates for 2027 and will be looking for municipalities to host the meetings. Ms. Smith reminded everyone that the Cal Sag WSPC and the SCM will meet on Wednesday, October 21st. Ms. Smith noted that the SCM has decided to wait to hold a municipal auction until the spring due to a lack of participants. On a personal note, Ms. Smith thanked everyone who sponsored her for the Pathlights' Community Walk.

Committee Reports

Transportation Committee/Local STP Report

Ms. Matyas reported that there were a few updates to the SCM's STP Program. Ms. Matyas gave an update on the SCM's call for STP projects. She explained the process and noted that she sent out award or contingency letters to all who applied. Ms. Smith noted that project forms were sent out and she asked everyone to make sure they get completed because they are important to the process. Ms. Matyas further noted that quarterly updates are due and she sent reminders. The next Transportation Committee meeting will be October 13th.

IDOT Local Roads Update

Local Roads and Street Status Sheets for Federal Aid Projects in the Southwest Conference of Mayors area-Attachment A

Cook County Highway Department
Cook County DOTH Project Status Report for the Southwest Conference of Mayors.-Attachment B.

Tollway Report
Ms. Passi gave a report on the happenings at the Tollway. Attachment C

Legislative Committee Report
Mayor Bennett gave a Legislative update. He thanked the Mayors for assisting during the Legislative Session especially with the housing legislation and LGDF.

Utilities Committee Report
Mr. Balark, AT & T, thanked everyone for their patience during the storms. Thank you for your support during this difficult time. Mayor Wasowicz thanked Adriana and her team at ComEd for their rapid response during the storms - Justice had two tornadoes go through their town and ComEd's response was amazing. Ms. Carrasquillo thanked everyone for their patience and support during this unprecedent time. Mayor Bennett thanked Ms. Carrasquillo, Ms. Aprati and ComEd on behalf of all the Southwest Conference of Mayors members and thanked Ms. Carrasquillo for her external service to all the municipalities during this very difficult time. Numerous Mayors thanked Ms. Carrasquillo for answering her phone, no matter what time of the day it was. Mayor Ryan noted the rapid response from Ms. Carrasquillo and the ComEd team and he noted that the emergency kits handed out to the residents were great!

Public Works Committee
Ms. Matyas reported that the SCM Public Works Committee will meet next on November 10th

Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council Report
Ms. Smith noted that the Cal Sag Watershed Planning Council will meet next on October 21st, 2026 at Palos Hills City Hall and there will also be a virtual option for the meeting.

Other Business

MVCC Update
Mr. Steve Pappageorge gave a brief update on the happenings at MVCC and he also gave a brief update on the MVCC referendum that will be on the November ballot.

Pathlights
Ms. Grande gave an update on Pahtlights and thanked everyone for supporting the Pathlights' Community Walk. She also noted that it's open enrollment for Medicare and Pathlights has staff that can assist with this.

CSCVB Update

Ms. Mary Patchin and Ms. Kim Kislowski gave an update on the happenings of the CSCVB.

Adjournment

Mayor Bennett thanked Mayor Dodge and the Village of Orland Park for and hosting the meeting tonight.

On a motion by Mayor Vorderer and seconded by Trustee Lewis the Southwest Conference of Mayors' Business Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 P.M.