



**3. MINUTES OF MEETING.**

Chairman Mills asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the July 15, 2015 Regional Planning Commission meeting. There were none. The minutes were accepted as mailed.

**4. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE POLICY BOARD.**

There was no meeting of the Executive Policy Board.

**5. REPORT OF OFFICERS.**

Chairman Mills reported that Karen Davis, the new Director of Planning & Economic Development for the City of Springfield may be attending the meeting today. He wished to welcome her to the Regional Planning Commission and congratulated her on her new position with the city.

**6. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.**

- A. SSCRPC FY2014 Audit** – Norm Sims reported that the SSCRPC’s FY2014 annual audit prepared by Cameron, Smith & Company has been completed. Copies of the audit along with the management letter were available at the meeting. See attached. Sims noted that it was a clean audit with no material findings.
- B. Funding** – Sims stated that it is required by Federal law that a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) be submitted to the State every year regarding Springfield Area Transportation Study (SATS) activities. By Federal law, the UPWP must be submitted and approved by the beginning of the State fiscal year which is July 1. The UPWP was submitted to the state in a timely manner, however, it has not yet been approved by the State. It is our understanding that the State has not approved the UPWP due to the fact that the General Assembly and Governor have not approved the appropriation for the administrative dollars related to the Federal funding. The Federal road money was approved in the Capitol Bill, but not the administrative funding. Sims noted that a bit more than 50% of the SSCRPC’s budget is these Federal funds. Sims stated that it is his opinion, which he has shared with the SATS Technical Committee and SATS Policy Committee, that the State is currently not in compliance with Federal law. Sims stated that it affects not only what we are required to do by Federal law as a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), but State spending of Federal Highway money in general. Sims noted that it was only earlier this week that the SSCRPC received payment for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter of State FY2015. Federal law requires that payment be made 15 days from submission of an invoice and that mark was not met. With the approval of the Policy Committee, Sims stated that he sent a letter to the Regional Director of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) asking how they want to deal with these issues. Senior staff at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has publicly stated that they believe the State is not in compliance with Federal law. Sims noted that he pointed out at a Policy Committee meeting that before Federal funding for a road or highway project is approved, it has to be entered into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and certain things are required for the TIP to be certified. A list of things to be certified to by the SSCRPC and IDOT was received recently from Federal Highways. Among items in that list was that the UPWP was submitted in a timely manner to IDOT with authorization prior to the start of the State fiscal year. So now there is a question as to whether the TIP can even be approved or amended.

- C. Transportation Project Locator** – Sims stated that the staff is looking into more ways to provide information to the public. Sims and Linda Wheeland recently met with members of the Springfield City Council who requested that the SSCRPC provide maps on its website showing where transportation projects will occur. A demonstration of the application was then presented to the Commission. Any county address may be entered. The application will then display SATS committed transportation projects in the area, along with a description of the project which has been approved and currently funded. Sims asked Commission members to pass along ideas for similar applications that may be useful to the public.

Eric Hansen asked the website address where the application may be found. Sims said it may be found at [www.sscrpc.com](http://www.sscrpc.com) under the interactive mapping (e-map) application.

Bill Moss asked if other projects could be added to the application, such as those that could be submitted by a township. Sims stated that he did not see why those could not be added.

Chairman Mills asked if the numbers shown on the interactive map related to priority. Joe Zeibert said they referenced proximity to the address entered.

Moss asked if there were any projects currently being done that are affected by the funding hold up. Sims stated that these are committed projects, so funding is available. On the State side, these projects should be in the Capitol Plan. The problem on the local level is that the match that locals have to provide, which is 20% of the total project cost, often comes from Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) dollars. Those funds have not yet been appropriated. Sims noted that the Regional Planning Commission staff assists the Regional Leadership Council, made up of various local mayors and village presidents. They expressed concerns at their last meeting regarding the delay in appropriation of MFT funds. If bids were sent out now, it would be too late and a construction season would be lost. Township road commissioners have also expressed concerns and Sims said he understood their laws were a little different and he was not sure where they stand.

Roger Blickensderfer asked if the delay in Federal funding affected payroll. Sims stated that the Federal funding was available. There is a question about the Federal money in that what we were originally told was to prepare a work program on the administrative side for 2/3 of the year. That request was made since the Feds have not passed a new bill and are going on a continuing resolution on the transportation bill. They expected that the full earmark amount would be provided. Sims understood that funding was available for the committed projects. The Senate passed a bill and sent it back to the House, but they will not be acting on it until after summer recess. On the administrative side, it is his understanding that State employees are being paid by court order, but does not specify the type of funding. He understands that these employees are being paid with funds that have not yet been appropriated and would not be in compliance.

**7. CORRESPONDENCE.**

There was no correspondence.

**8. PUBLIC HEARING.**

There was no one who wished to address the Commission.

**9. COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**Land Subdivision Committee** – There were no projects to be reviewed by the Planning Commission this month.

**10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

There was no unfinished business.

**11. NEW BUSINESS.**

There was no new business.

**12. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

There were no special announcements.

**13. ADJOURNMENT.**

There being no further business, Frank Squires moved to adjourn. Bill Moss seconded the motion and the meeting adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

MJN

Mary Jane Niemann  
Recording Secretary