

THE CITY OF FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 9, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Fairview Heights City Hall
Fairview Heights, Illinois

Committee Members in attendance – Alderpersons Jimmy Winkeler – tele/conference, Brenda Wagner, Pat Peck

Committee Members absent – Alderpersons Josh Frawley, Bill Poletti

Other Alderpersons and Elected Officials in attendance – Mayor Mark Kupsy, Clerk Karen Kaufhold, Alderpersons Frank Menn, Anthony LeFlore, Barb Brumfield, Derrick King

Staff in attendance – City Attorney Andrew Hoerner, Finance Director Gina Rader, Human Resources Associate Director Becky Thompson – tele/conference, IT User Support and Systems Manager Zach Bartley – tele/conference, Land Use and Development Director Dallas Alley – tele/conference, Police Chief Steve Johnson, Public Works Director John Harty

Recorder – Jill Huffman

Public Participation

None

Approval of Minutes, June 11, 2025

Motion and second to approve minutes were made by Alderpersons Wagner/Peck. Roll call vote: Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler - yes, Wagner – yes, Peck - yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

Law Enforcement Committee

Aldersperson Brenda Wagner, Acting Chairman

PRESENTATION BY BI STATE ON SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS AT FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS METRO

Melissa Webb, Bi-State Development, offered her background information related to police enforcement, and presented a slideshow regarding security at the Metro Link stations.

Aldersperson Wagner relayed that communication to the general public is needed regarding security at MetroLink stations.

Ms. Webb stated Bi-State is currently promoting the campaign – “See Something, Say Something” and educating the public through video. They have also opened communication through social media platforms – Instagram, X, TikTok, LinkedIn, and Twitter.

Regarding education, tours are offered at the Real Time Camera Center facility and Ms. Webb challenged the Council members to tour the facility. If a problem occurs on Bi-State transportation, a phone number for texting, and a phone number to call to alert the Center is posted in all of their rolling stock. Photos/video can also be transmitted to the Center. Ms. Webb stated cameras are located in MetroLink cars enabling riders to see behind them. This campaign started five months ago.

Ms. Webb stated that Bi-State is educating the public by videos, signage, social media platforms, and distributing educational information. They will be touring university campuses throughout the transit alignment and distributing informational cards which fit into lanyards. Discussed the possibility of distributing information at Cardinal games.

Aldersperson Wagner questioned if videos or calls received by Bi-State are utilized to create a security plan to avoid repeat situations to which Ms. Webb relayed they utilize data analytics. This information is used to apply deployment strategy throughout the systems.

Security personnel obtain information, through their cell phones, from the Camera Center. Ms. Webb stated that security personnel also hit wave points with their cell phones throughout the system which aids with patrol strategies and statistical data. Ms. Webb relayed that the majority of security personnel are retired police officers.

Ms. Webb stated that the Emerson Park location was the first MetroLink stop to have security gates installed with cameras located at face level. Two types of gates have been installed – a roto-type gate, and a swing gate for ADA compliance and for a person not comfortable going through a roto-type gate. Eleven stops now have this security enhancement. Security personnel are present to educate the public, and also to ensure that a rider has valid fare. If a valid ticket/pass is not shown, the security personnel will not open the gate. Ms. Webb believes that the security team is getting to know the community and the community is getting to know the security team members. Aldersperson Wagner questioned if these gates will be installed at all platforms to which Ms. Webb confirmed.

Ms. Webb discussed security fencing which is eight feet tall and similar to fencing installed at St. Louis Soccer SC soccer fields. This was chosen, not only for security, but enables light rail operators to view the track.

Ms. Webb stated that monthly Regional Reports state Bi-State’s progress, lists her email address, and a QR code launching informational videos.

Ms. Webb encouraged the Council to tour the facilities. The Mayor stated that anyone interested in a tour should contact his administrative assistant who will compile a list and coordinate with Ms. Webb to schedule the tour(s).

Aldersperson Menn questioned when all of the platform gates will be completed to which Ms. Webb replied January, 2026.

Ms. Webb encouraged everyone to view the latest Channel 5 news report or Post-Dispatch article regarding the Secure Platform Plan (SPP) reporting that ridership is up and incidents on the system are down.

Alderperson Wagner stated that many people won't rider the MetroLink because of the negativity and this sounds very promising. Ms. Webb stated that the only way the negative perception changes is through education and an open dialogue with people.

Ms. Webb stated that at the Emerson platform location, lighting has changed, LED screens have been installed informing riders of delays, proper conduct when riding MetroLink, etc., and music.

Alderperson Wagner stated that because Fairview Heights is the last MetroLink stop at night, trouble arises and police reports are issued. Riders depart MetroLink in Fairview Heights and there is no place to go. The Fairview Heights station has negativity related to it, not having anything to do with the City, but is associated with MetroLink. She stated that this issue has to be overcome before people from this area will ride MetroLink. Ms. Webb stated that discussions are taking place regarding the Fairview Heights station, and a new program is in its final stages. Ms. Webb stated that the Chestnut Health program is imbedded in their security teams which started in St. Clair County and is now in Missouri and has been successful.

The Mayor stated that perhaps Bi-State look at a star number for riders to alert a security issue instead of two different phone numbers for contacting the Real Time Camera Center. Ms. Webb appreciated the idea.

PURCHASE OF POLICE VEHICLE – INVESTIGATIONS (ESCROW)

The Chief relayed that the purchase of this vehicle is in the 10-year plan which replaces administration and detective vehicles. Utilizing Escrow Funds, the Dodge Durango would replace a Crown Victoria.

Alderperson Peck questioned why the Kansas Highway Patrol is selling this vehicle to which the Chief replied that once a vehicle approaches 50,000 miles, the vehicle is stripped and sold. The Chief stated that the City obtains two or three vehicles every year from the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with the recommendation of approval a police vehicle for investigations from the Kansas Highway Patrol for the amount not to exceed \$37,900.00 by Alderpersons Peck/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

STATE OF DEPARTMENT

The Chief of Police presented his written report to the elected officials for their review of which there were no questions or comments.

The Chief reported that the officers injured last month are healing, however, it will be a long recovery for two of them. The other three officers are back to work and doing well.

The Chief reported on a year-long investigation in the City regarding foster parents who literally tortured children they were fostering. He stated that this is an ongoing investigation.

Aldersperson Wagner questioned the security situation at the MetroLink station. The Chief replied that it is consistently bad. The Chief is pleased that Bi-State pushed up the timeline to install some security at the Fairview Heights station. The Chief stated that even with the gates, so many of the problems are attributed to riders receiving free tickets from hospitals and airports because they do not want these people at their facilities. The Police Department is in weekly communication with MetroLink. Discussion regarding a closer connection with comprehensive behavioral mental health and actually having a vehicle on site is in the works, but very expensive.

Aldersperson Menn inquired about the installation of a metal detector at the gates on the platform. The Mayor stated that a metal detector would have to be manned. Aldersperson Menn relayed that Bi-State intends to have a security person stationed at the site. Aldersperson Wagner stated it needs to be established how important it is to have safety. The Chief stated he had asked Bi-State to consider metal detectors and Bi-State relayed they would utilize a nationwide consultant to review this possibility.

Aldersperson Wagner stated that Longacre Ponds continues to be a problem as the entrance gates are not working properly and traffic backs up on Longacre Drive. Aldersperson Peck said the gates are not stopping people from entering the complex; people on foot are going in, over, or through the fence, or between the brick column and the fence. The Mayor stated it appears there is no pedestrian access to the complex. Aldersperson Wagner relayed Uber drivers leave packages at the foot of the gate and Aldersperson Peck said trash trucks cannot get into the complex. The Mayor stated protocol is in place for emergency vehicles to enter the complex. The Chief stated that if there is a power outage or a major emergency, the gates are designed to open and remain open. The Chief stated he will contact the complex's management and the Fire Chief to discuss. The Mayor stated that between the Chief and the Land Use Director, this issue will be addressed.

Aldersperson Peck complimented the Police Department on the Fairview Heights Police Academy Program and that the graduation ceremony was phenomenal and well attended.

Aldersperson Peck questioned the Chief regarding fireworks reports. The Chief stated that he will forward information on calls received by the Police Department. He did not know of any major occurrences.

Public Works Committee

Aldersperson Pat Peck, Acting Chairman

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT – ASHLAND BIKE TRAIL – ST. CLAIR COUNTY

The Public Works Director stated that this agreement describes the responsibilities of the County and City for the construction of the Ashland Bike Trail located from Old Collinsville Road to Judy Lane.

Aldersperson Wagner questioned why the trail ends at Judy Lane to which the Land Use Director replied it is a terminus sweet stop for funding purposes. He stated that a grant was submitted today for the next trail segment from Judy Lane to Crispy Crème Donut on Illinois Route 159.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with the recommendation of approval the Agreement with St. Clair County associated with the bike trail project on Ashland Avenue from Old Collinsville Road to Judy Lane by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

ASPHALT OVERLAY BID RESULTS

The Public Works Director stated that bids were opened yesterday for the Fountains Parkway Asphalt Overlay project. Two bids were received and the low bid was approximately \$369,000 which the Director believes was a great bid. The other bid was approximately \$425,000 and the Director stated he had estimated \$430,000. He is pleased with Christ Brothers Asphalt and they will be ready to start and be finished by August 15.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with the recommendation of approval the proposal from Christ Brothers Asphalt, Inc., for \$368,996.60 for the FY 2026 Asphalt Overlay project associated with Fountains Parkway by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

OIL AND CHIP PROGRAM BID RESULTS

The Public Works Director stated that bids were opened yesterday for the FY 2026 Oil and Chip Program essentially associated with Ward 1 streets north of I-64. Two bids were received. DMS Contracting, Mascoutah, was read as low bidder. They were awarded the Oil and Chip Program last year, did very well, and the Director recommends that DMS is awarded the FY 2026 program.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with the recommendation of approval the proposal from DMS Contracting, Inc. for \$38,530.17 for the FY 2026 Oil and Chip Program by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

LINCOLN HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS BID RESULTS

The Public Works Director relayed that the Lincoln Highway Improvements project was rebid yesterday. One bid was received for essentially the same dollar amount as previously received. He stated he contacted the State and expressed his concern over the project estimate and not being able to proceed with the project. The Director stated that this project will be funded 100 percent through Motor Fuel Tax funds; Home Rule funds or the City's operational funds will not be expended. The Director believes that better bids will not be received and relayed that this is a complicated project. The Director is requesting to use the City's Motor Fuel Tax funds and to award the project to Hank's Excavating & Landscaping, Inc. for Lincoln Highway Improvements from Barnes and Noble to Jospeh Drive.

Alderperson Peck questioned if the budget allows for this project to which the Director confirmed.

Motion and second to forward to City Council with the recommendation of approval the proposal from Hank's Excavating & Landscaping, Inc. for \$2,157,293.56 for the Lincoln Highway Improvements project by Alderpersons Wagner/Winkeler. Roll call vote showed Alderpersons Frawley – absent, Winkeler – yes, Wagner – yes, Peck – yes, Poletti – absent. Motion carried.

Aldersperson Menn questioned when the project would begin to which the Director replied probably within six weeks. The Mayor stated that the City does not do projects after November.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT/PROJECT UPDATES

The Director presented his written report to the elected officials for their review to which there were no questions or comments.

The Public Works Director stated that signs are posted informing motorists that I-64 construction work will begin on July 7. He stated that this work will include the Illinois Rte. 159 bridge. The Mayor relayed that IDOT will utilize the 72 acres in the City and an area in Caseyville for staging areas.

The Mayor mentioned an STP grant was submitted for Ashland Avenue (not a City roadway), however, construction would still be a couple of years away. The Director relayed that Longacre Drive is in the same timeframe, however, it is the intent in the near future to patch approximately 15 joints on the roadway which would need to be done before the road is overlayed. The plans and specifications will be completed in-house. The Mayor reminded Council that some of these streets are not the City's responsibility. He stated that the City has a very comprehensive road enhancement program managed by Public Works.

Adjournment 7:59 p.m.

Submitted By:


Recorder

Attachment: Bi-State Slideshow Presentation