

COUNTY OF KANE

Corinne M. Pierog MA, MBA
Kane County Board Chairman



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DATE: April 19, 2021
TO: Mark Schauerte, District Director, Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi
FROM: Corinne M. Pierog, Kane County Board Chairman
RE: Kane County Community Project Funding

I. KANE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT PROJECT FUNDING PRIORITIES FOR 2021 – 2025: Tourism, Economic Development, and Agriculture

Fabulous Fox! Water Trail (tourism)

1. Multi-state / multi-county initiative launched by Kane County to designate the Fox River as a National Water Trail by the National Park Service
2. Kane County is in the "sweet spot" for international and regional tourism along the Fox River because of its location and transportation options from Chicago.
3. The 14th Congressional District already generates \$4.6 billion in tourism and outdoor recreational related spending. This number that would greatly increase and hotel and restaurant businesses in the communities along the Fox River would also greatly benefit.
4. Access to the Fox River would be increased for persons from disadvantaged communities and for persons with disabilities by added more public ADA accessible and launch ramps and programs for disadvantaged youth.

Total Request: \$500,000 per year/ \$2.5 million over 5 years for planning, marketing, infrastructure and small business supports.

Launching a Countywide Economic Development Organization

1. Kane County is the only large Collar County without a public/private economic development organization (EDO)
2. Creation of an EDO and strategic plan is needed for Kane County to compete now and in the future for high paying jobs, manufacturing, businesses and tourism.
3. Kane County's economy and job creation strengths in agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare and tourism are a microcosm of Illinois overall, but there is no coordinated marketing or business attraction/retention between the 30 municipalities.

Total Request: \$5.5 million over 5 years, front loaded funding to plan and launch with a transition to be sustained by private sector funding

Farmland Protection (benefits local foods, water and soils resource protection, and mitigating climate change)

1. Kane County and the 14th District are the only areas in Illinois with an active Farmland Protection Program and Local Foods Program linked to farmland protection.
2. Without Kane County's 20-year-old program, the over \$12 million in Federal dollars allocated for use in Illinois would have gone to other states.
3. Kane County has matched these \$12 million in Federal dollars with \$19 million in local funds to purchase over 5700 acres of permanent agricultural easements in prime farmland.
4. Kane County has a waiting list of farms that have applied to place prime farmland into permanent easements, but Federal dollars and funds for local match have diminished.
5. Kane County (and Illinois) lost approximately \$12 million in Federal dollars from 2009 – 2020 when our local match funding was reduced from over \$1 million each year to \$300,000.
6. In addition, Kane County added "Growing for Kane" to increase local food production. Local growers realized increased sales in 2020, so now is an opportune time to encourage the expansion of existing producers and assist new businesses by emphasizing women, veteran and minority owned producer startups.
7. Recent plans and studies underscore the significance of farmland for slowing climate change and protecting precious groundwater and soil resources. Kane County's programs incorporate best practices for soil and water conservation.

Total Request: \$10 million over 5 years for permanent and term agricultural easements

II. KANE COUNTY WATER SUPPLY PLANNING

1. Establishing a Countywide Groundwater Monitoring Network and supporting Sugar Grove Township network
2. Developing Countywide Sustainability Mapping for long term planning for communities to ensure a sustainable water supply
3. Completing a 2024 Water Quality Sampling for chloride and other contaminants in shallow drinking water
4. Installation of lead filters and water conserving fixtures in underserved communities and low-income areas
5. Establishing on the ground Water Conservation Education Program and resources for Kane County Communities to reduce overall water use

Total Request \$1,186,000 for 2021-2025

III. KANE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS AND FUNDING REQUESTS FOR CONSIDERATION IN THE FY2021 SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AUTHORIZATION LEGISLATION:

Appropriation Committee – Congressional Districts 6, 8, 11 & 14

5310 FTA funds – Kane County requests consideration of increasing Section 5310 funding for paratransit services. The Ride In Kane (RIK) program is restricted in its ability to adequately address public transportation services and needs to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities. The Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) has provided operating and capital funding to the Ride in Kane (RIK) Program and Pace Regional Call Center since 2007 with RIK sponsors (consisting of townships, local governments and non-profit agencies) currently funding a 50% local share required for the 5310 funds.

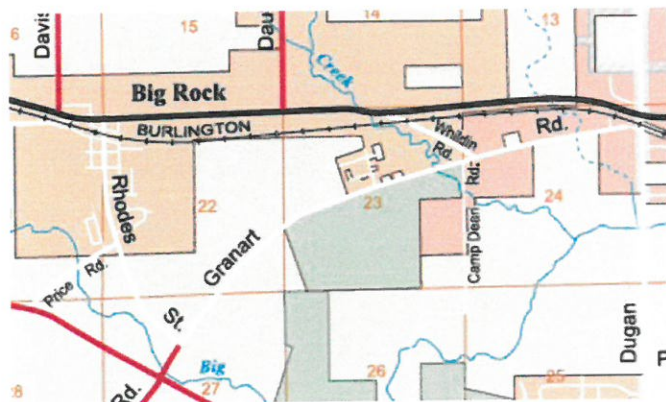
Each year it becomes more difficult for the Sponsors to provide the same level of service. Additional funding would make the program more sustainable and help address expansion needs in the Fox Valley area and west of the Randall/Orchard Road corridor to better address countywide needs. RIK services qualifies as a capital expense - "Section 5310 (4) Eligible capital expenses.—the acquisition of public transportation services is an eligible capital expense under this section."

Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds – Kane County requests consideration of increasing STP funding available for local formula distribution to the counties. Increased investment in transportation infrastructure is critical to protecting and enhancing economic development. While funding should first be focused on safety improvements, maintenance, and modernization of existing infrastructure, Kane County's growth also requires appropriate capacity improvements.

Transportation & Infrastructure Committee – Congressional District 14

In discussions with different congressional staff, it currently appears that each congressional district will be able to submit up to 10 projects and that each member has perhaps a total of \$15 Million to allocate across their entire district for projects in the TIP or STIP. Recommended that agencies submit 2 or 3 projects for consideration. The next few pages include three Kane County projects for consideration:

Dauberman Road to Granart Road Extension

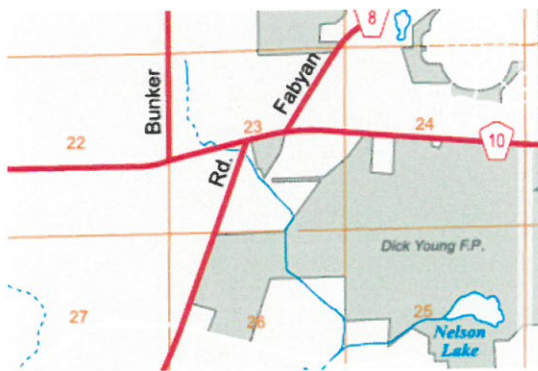


Project Information - This project consists of extending Dauberman Road over US 30 and the BNSF Railroad to connect south to Granart Road. A ramp and fully signalized intersection will be constructed to connect Dauberman Road to US 30. The project also includes improvements to the intersection with Granart Road. This project is funded in part with Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) funds and federal funds. The project will address safety concerns due to the at grade railroad crossing at Rhodes Street and the BNSF Railroad. The project will also remove regional traffic from Granart Road which is a local street and reduce traffic at the Dugan Road at grade railroad crossing of the BNRR.

Phase 1 Engineering is complete with land acquisition in process. Phase 2 Engineering is nearly complete with construction programmed for FY2022. The construction and construction engineering cost estimate is \$23.87 Million. Kane County is requesting that \$3 Million of the project costs be considered for funding in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation.

Total Request: \$3 Million

Bliss Road to Main Street at Fabyan Parkway Realignment



Project Information - This project involves the realignment of Bliss Road and Fabyan Parkway to create a four-legged intersection with Main Street. The project will construct a roundabout to address safety and capacity concerns due to the current offset of the roadways. Phase 2 Engineering and land acquisition is complete with construction programmed for FY2021.

The construction and construction engineering cost estimate is \$14.4 Million. Kane County is requesting that \$7 Million of the project costs (or a portion thereof) be considered for funding in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation.

Total Request: \$7 Million

Fabyan Parkway at Illinois Route 31



Project Information - This project involves the realignment of Fabyan Parkway at Illinois Route 31 to improve safety at the intersection and address capacity issues. Kane County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are jointly working on a Planning & Environmental Linkages (PEL) study.

The design, construction and construction engineering cost estimate is \$16 Million. Kane County is requesting that \$10 Million of the project costs be considered for funding in the 2021 Surface Transportation Authorization Legislation in order to keep this important safety project moving forward.

Total Request: \$10 Million