

## Conquering a Capital Bill

IRTBA Insider

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The Illinois House and Senate this weekend overwhelmingly approved an historic transportation funding measure. **Governor J.B. Pritzker** is expected to sign the bill into law. This is an epic win for all Illinois citizens, and it is an especially huge victory for the transportation construction industry.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all members, industry volunteers, partnering organizations, organized labor, legislators willing to offer a friendly ear, and anyone we may have inadvertently forgotten for your advocacy and grassroots efforts -- the best reward we could ask for is the passage of this historic legislation! Specifically, industry expresses its deep gratitude to Governor J.B. Pritzker, Deputy Governor Christian Mitchell, House

**Speaker Michael Madigan, House Leader Jim Durkin, Senate President John Cullerton, Senate Leader Bill Brady, Senator Marty Sandoval, Senator Don DeWitte, Representative Jay Hoffman, Representative Luis Arroyo, and Representative Margo McDermed for their bipartisan leadership in support of a sound transportation system for Illinois.**

### ***Here's What We Know About the Bill***

While the media reports that the total capital bill will be approximately \$45 billion (with a "B"), that amount includes transportation and vertical construction over six years, and includes federal funding as well as previously committed state funding. Still, additional annual revenues for transportation will be about \$1.8 billion, double the amount that IDOT had planned for construction in FY 2019. Final negotiations of the exact portions for transportation and vertical capital programs are underway in Springfield. IDOT has informally advised the IRTBA that it is considering a special letting this summer. IRTBA will share additional details as they become available. IRTBA will also advocate that IDOT release additional professional services bulletins to expedite the delivery of more significant transportation projects.

The new Motor Fuel Tax will be \$.38 per gallon, effective July 1, 2019. This will more than double the current rate. Equally significant is that this amount is indexed and lockboxed, meaning as Senator Sandoval said in remarks on the Senate floor on Sunday, "we will never have to vote on this again." Vehicle registration and driver's license fees will also be increased. And beginning in 2021, revenue from the sales tax on motor fuel will begin to be put into The Road Fund.

The bill created a new "Transportation Renewal Fund" from which revenues would be distributed. Of the total dollars for that fund, 80 percent would go to highway maintenance, highway construction, bridge repair, congestion relief, and construction of aviation facilities. Of that 80 percent, 60 percent would go to IDOT's State Construction Account Fund, and 40 percent would be distributed to municipalities, counties, and road districts. The remaining 20 percent from the Transportation Renewal Fund would go to transit, and 90 percent of that amount would go to RTA, with the remainder going to downstate transit. The approximate breakdown would be \$1.15 billion for IDOT, \$400 million for local, and \$250 million for transit. IRTBA will also provide further information to members as it becomes available on the bonding measures that were approved with this bill.

IRTBA will also keep members posted when the bill is signed by **Governor Pritzker** .

### ***Additional Grassroots Efforts***

In the meantime, IRTBA members are asked to call their members of the House and Senate to express industry's gratitude and thank those who voted "yes." [Here](#) is the [roll call of the](#)

[House members](#) who voted yes on SB 1939, and [here is the Senate roll call](#) . Please call your representative's and senator's district offices to thank them for their support. The General Assembly website features links to the [House members](#) and the [Senate members](#) pages. Clicking on the members' name will bring up their office phone numbers. Please call the district office numbers and let them know how grateful we all are.