

**COOK COUNTY COMMISSION  
ON SOCIAL INNOVATION  
PUBLIC CAPITAL COMMITTEE**

**February 25<sup>th</sup> – 2:00 PM  
69 W. Washington – Suite 2300  
Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**Minutes**

The February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting of the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation, Public Capital Committee was convened at 2:07 pm. The meeting was Chaired by Commissioner John Yonan, Chair of the Public Capital Committee. This meeting was open to the public.

Commission Members Present

- Kristi DeLaurentis
- Clayton Harris
  
- Also present was Chair Anaya's Staff, Nadia Ismail

Chairman Yonan gave an update of the topics that were discussed on the Commission on Social Innovation meeting that was held on February 20, 2020.

Commissioner Harris gave a summary status of a few projects that were underway at the Illinois International Port District. Butler Drive is the first Capital Improvement Project to take place since 1981 as the project was funded by Tax Increment Financing, Cook County and Federal Funds through the State Freight Program. Other projects include the Transit Shed, and coordination with the various railroads that serve the Port.

Commissioner Harris shared details on how the Governor's Capital Bill has appropriated funding for the Ports throughout the State of Illinois. The current infrastructure needs is approximately \$100 Million which would provide economic stimulus for the area. He stated that Ports and the Waterways provide for a more social economy whereas moving goods quickly but with a larger carbon footprint can be achieved by trucks and rail.

Commissioner DeLaurentis discussed the Opportunity Zones that have been created in South Suburban Cook County which have plans to target improving their infrastructure. Commissioner DeLaurentis shared how the CREATE program was able to accelerate the WA-11 project by receiving \$13.7 Million in Federal Grant Funds and how this example is allowing

opportunities for the South Suburban area look to establish Quiet Zones through the various Municipalities.

Commissioner DeLaurentis shared how the South Suburban Economic Growth Initiative (SSEGI) created the Southland Development Authority (SDA) to promote inclusive growth for the Communities in Southern Cook County. SDA will provide a single point of entry for potential Businesses that are looking to locate in the area. Among a list of numerous services, SSEGI and SDA will provide services that include resources to help business hire and train workers, along with providing property that may have tax complications by working with the Land Bank.

The meeting adjourned at 3:03 pm, and the next meeting will be set up after finalizing the availability of schedules.