

SENATE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
SUBJECT MATTER HEARING
OCTOBER 15, 2024 10 AM
State Capitol Building Room 212 Springfield, IL

Testimony from Cynthia Hoyle, FAICP

Good Morning.

Thank you for allowing me to speak to your committee today.

My name is Cynthia Hoyle. I live in Urbana, IL. I am a transportation planning consultant who has worked with transit for 20 years. I serve on the national Board of Directors of the Sierra Club, and I am the former president of our statewide bicycle organization, Ride Illinois.

I have spent most of my professional career advocating for a just and equitable transportation system that provides people with safe and convenient mobility and access. Given that around 30% of our population cannot drive it is unfair that these folks often cannot safely get where they need to be. **Access to transit is fundamental to being able to live, work, and play.**

As part of the team that worked on a countywide plan in Champaign County a few years ago, one of the main things we heard from people was the need for transit. People living in small villages all around the county expressed their desperate need to be able to get to Champaign-Urbana for work, doctor's appointments, and to access training via our educational institutions. Rural transit is difficult to provide without funding. In Champaign County we have managed to offer some rural transit with funding from IDOT and through a partnership between the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District, and the Village of Rantoul, which has fixed route service. The service is known as C-CARTS. Trips outside of Rantoul are on-demand only.

In Champaign-Urbana itself there is a constant drumbeat of calls for more frequent bus trips, more destinations, and more services. Our community has great transit service for a mid-sized American city, but we could use more. The State of Illinois' support for transit is essential. I know from riding Amtrak that the trains are frequently sold out. I know from riding our buses that on campus they are jammed full of people. My husband and our kids used transit to get to school and work. Our family tries to live car-free. It is better for the environment and our health if we minimize our driving.

Transit is fundamental to our communities.

Thank you for your time today.