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Fall 2002

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336 Update

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROUTE 336 COALITION

Both Gubernatorial Candidates Express Their Strong Support for 336

Fall 2002

The fall general election is just around the corner. Be sure to Vote on November 5th!

Your Coalition board has been working overtime lately getting our need for a four-lane highway from Peoria to Macomb in front of both gubernatorial candidates.

On June 13th we were fortunate to have Illinois' Attorney General Jim Ryan, republican candidate for Governor, and Senator Carl Hawkinson, republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor, join us at our Rally that was held in Lewistown. Both candidates addressed the estimated 400 citizens in attendance.

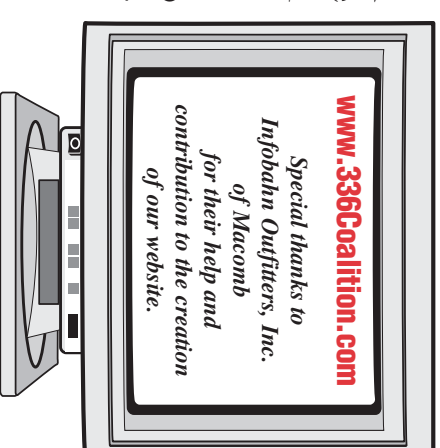


Ryan stated that he and Hawkinson had met with the transportation group in the Quincy area and stated that they fully understand the need for modern transportation in and around the west central Illinois area. He said that he "...attended the 336 Coalition Rally to show his support for the project". He went on to say "That (336) is a top priority".

In August we had they opportunity to meet with Congressman Rod Blagojevich, democrat candidate for Governor, during a campaign swing through Canton. Blagojevich was very generous in giving us the time to give him an update on our progress. He expressed his regrets for his schedule not allowing him the chance to be at the Lewistown rally.

During a campaign speech in Jones Park in uptown Canton following our briefing, Blagojevich stated that, "...he would ensure that Route 336 extends all the way from Macomb to Peoria".

Both candidates are firmly in our camp. Please be sure to thank them for their support whenever you have the opportunity.



www.336Coalition.com
Special thanks to
Infobahn Outfitters, Inc.
of Macomb
for their help and
contribution to the creation
of our website.



Fall 2002

Lewistown Hosts the 336 Coalition Summer Rally

The fairgrounds in Lewistown was the site of the 336 Coalition's summer rally on June 14th.

The Central Illinois Ag Coalition was co-host for the event. Candidate Jim Ryan used the opportunity to express his support for the ethanol industry in Illinois and said that it is a win-win situation by way of its help to the state's economy and it also reduces air pollution.

A highlight of the event occurred when Mayor

Ray LaHood

Transportation Symposium

On September 3 several of the Coalition members were in attendance at a planning symposium convened by Congressman Ray LaHood at Wildlife Prairie Park.

Congressman LaHood began the meeting by explaining that his district is now one of the largest districts (geographically) in Illinois. It is important that citizens and communities within the district meet in order to prioritize the various wants and needs so that the highest priorities can be the focus of attention by our congressional and state legislators over the next 5-10 years.

Barry Blackwell took the podium and expressed his support for 336. He then presented a check to the Coalition for \$2600 that represented \$1 for each of Lewistown's 2600 residents. Coalition president Mark Johann said, "Thanks. We promise to put that to good use".

Many thanks go out to Lewistown for their generous unsolicited contribution and for the extra effort the city administration and public works personnel provided in getting everything ready. Everything went great.

Of great interest to all of us 336 members were remarks that the Congressman shared with the audience prior to taking any remarks from those in attendance. LaHood said, "We're not here to talk about two things. One is the improvement to I-74 being made through Peoria. It is funded and it will happen. The other is 336 from Peoria to Macomb, it is a given".

All of you that support 336 needs to know how much Congressman LaHood has done to advance this project over the past 4-5 years. Please be sure to thank him for his support and leadership on this very important project.

— Membership Dues —

Thank you to everyone that has sent in their bi-annual membership dues. If you haven't done so, please consider forwarding it along as soon as possible so that we can keep our membership list current.

Your dues are used to support the Coalition in many different ways. The rallies and luncheon events we conduct incur varying costs to produce. Our semi-annual newsletter costs \$2500-\$3000 per issue. Frequently we find ourselves attending fund raising events for candidates of government that are valued friends of the Coalition or are new to the scene and we are in need of being in front of them with our project.

All of the time and labor on the part of the Coalition directors have been entirely volunteer and our plans are to continue in the same manner.

We truly are appreciative of the significant donations that have been made by several of the communities since we began our efforts. They include Bushnell, Farmington, Trivoli, Hanna City, and, most recently, Lewistown.



Fall 2002



Did you know that...

- By land area, Fulton County is the 10th largest county in the State of Illinois. Of the seventeen (17) largest counties in the State, Fulton County is the only county without any 4-lane highways within its borders.
- Since 1980, Fulton County's unemployment rate has not recovered. It is nearly double the state and national average and currently continues to be the highest amongst the 30 Counties listed in the analysis. Lack of a 4-lane highway is the most frequently cited reason for lack of economic growth.
- Of the 30 largest counties in the state of Illinois (by land size), only three (3) do not have any 4-lane highways running within their borders. Fulton County has the largest population of the three (38,250) compared to 35,372 and 22,893. (Christian and Shelby Counties, respectively).
- Of the twenty-seven (27) largest Counties (by land size) having a 4-lane highway running within their borders, seven (7) of those counties have a lesser population than does Fulton County. (Bureau, Fayette, Hancock, Lee, Montgomery, Pike, and Wayne Counties).

Join The 336 Coalition

It's extremely important that individuals and organizations join the efforts of the 336 Coalition. For this project to become a reality, a strong and consistently committed effort must be shown to state and federal agencies. Your support facilitates effective communication with these agencies, and keeps you informed on the progress being made to benefit our region through economic development.

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

- * You and your company are concerned about the future of western Illinois
- * You want to provide a high quality of life, both in the near future and for years to come
- * You acknowledge the need for safe and efficient travel in the area
- * You want to see business and industry grow in this region

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Individual - \$25 • Business and Industry under 20 employees - \$100
Business and Industry over 20 employees - \$200 • Cities, Townships and Municipalities - \$500 • Counties - \$1,000

TODAY!

YES! I want to keep the momentum moving for a four-lane highway in western Illinois. Sign me up for a membership in the 336 coalition.

Name _____
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Company (if applicable) _____

Donations of all sizes will be accepted. Please make checks payable to the "336 Coalition" and mail to:

336 Coalition
P.O. Box 761, Canton, IL 61520