

**Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee/
HSTP Rural Subcommittee/HSTP Urban Subcommittee (in lieu of
Lack of Quorum)**

Tuesday, February 3, 2026 – 12:00 PM

EPIC Board Room, 1913 W. Townline Rd., Peoria, IL 61615

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome, Introductions, & Roll Call

Reema Abi-Akar called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

RURAL AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Name	Organization	Representing	Present	Absent
Shelly Entrekin*	FCRT/FCRC	Fulton	X	
Barb Long*				X
Audra Miles	Fulton County PCOM	Fulton	X	
Joe Coffin	Thrive Community Services	Knox	X	
Kraig Boynton	City of Galesburg	Knox	X	
Hannah Fuchs	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall		X
David Lueders	Marshall County Board	Marshall	X	
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria		X
Allison Borland	SEAPCO	Peoria		X
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	~X	
Shannon Peterson	CIAOA	Stark	~X	
Meghan Brake	TMCSEA	Tazewell		X
Alisha Dault	Pekin Park District	Tazewell	X	
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford	X	
Alexandra Maxwell	We Care	Woodford	X	
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Jodi Scott	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Dr. ShamRA Robinson	Greater Peoria Mass Transit District	Provider		X
Kylie Rathmann	Interested Stakeholder	Partner	X	
Chris Mitchell*	Paratransit Users	User	X	
Connie Schiele*				X
Jim Bremner	Washington Township	Partner		X
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency		X

* = Shared seat

** = Proxy Vote

~ = Present via phone or Internet

Also in attendance:

Reema Abi-Akar, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC
Adam Crutcher, TCRPC
Jared Arthur, Snyder Village
Tona & Ben Owusu, citizens

Attending virtually:

Laura Calderon, Illinois Public Transit Association
Dawn Cook, Tazewell County PCOM
Andrew Davis, IDOT
Carey Anderson, Stone-Hayes CIL
Brad Siltman, GPMTD
Greg Cain, CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU
Brittany Burton, CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU
Sunny Pearson, CIAOA
Shannon Peterson, CIAOA
Shelly Richardson, Statewide Independent Living Council of IL
Sabrina Bedenko, IVCIL

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of minutes:

a. June 3, 2025 minutes

b. December 16, 2025

Kraig Boynton made a motion to approve the June 3, 2025 and the December 16, 2025 minutes, and Jodi Scott seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Working with Elected Officials: Presentation by Laura Calderon, Executive Director, Illinois Public Transit Association

Laura introduced herself and gave some background on her experience – 17 years at present position, a few years at IDOT managing a variety of transit programs, and prior to that was a legislative analyst in the Illinois House of Representatives primarily working on transportation issues.

She spoke about advocacy sometimes being uncomfortable, but everyone at this meeting has the same goal, to keep up with the service demands and advocate for the community of people they serve, who are sometimes invisible to government officials.

She gave an overview of transit funding, including federal funding: 5311 Rural, 5307 Urban, 5339 buses/bus facilities, 5339c Low/no emissions program, and Technical Assistance and Working Development Programs.

State funding includes Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP), which funds 65% of eligible operating expenses, the Downstate Transit Improvement fund, the Downstate Mass Transit Capital Improvement fund, and Transportation Series B Bond Program.

Costs have risen faster than revenue, and there is an impending fiscal cliff where the funds are not meeting the needs of the communities served.

After much advocating and educating, SB2111 was passed in October, and an inter-agency coordinating committee was created which will provide an annual increase of \$129 million into Downstate Transportation Fund that should last 10-15 years before another increase is needed. This will increase the reimbursement rate to 80% for rural agencies and 75% for urban agencies.

These changes were brought about by effectively working with government officials. Another transportation reauthorization is coming for federal transit. IIJA expires at the end of FY26.

Advocates should be developing relationships and telling their stories to state legislators, local members of Congress, local elected officials and their staff. They in turn speak to other state and federal legislators. Laura recommends to invite them to your transit agencies and show them what you do so they can see the results of their decisions.

She recommends talking about your system in the news and on social media when you have events and stories to tell. Develop marketing materials so you have something to leave behind when you speak to legislators. Add elected officials to your newsletter mailing lists. It's easier to ask for things when you already have those relationships built.

Kraig Boynton asked if there is any concern about the change in percent affecting call for projects funding. Laura explained that the change in percent should not affect it, but what could make a difference will be that the bill stated some of the monies earmarked for downstate transit systems will have a one-time diversion to inner-city rail that resulted from some give-and-take in the bill in order to get it approved.

5. Provider and Agency Updates

Cast Technologies

Kylie Rathman had nothing to report.

Pekin Park District

Alisha Dault had nothing to report.

Fulton County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)

Audra Miles had nothing to report.

Fulton County Rural Transit/Fulton County Resource Center

Shelly Entrekin had nothing to report.

ADDWC

Tyler Rogers had nothing to report

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott had nothing to report.

Snyder Village

Jared Arthur had nothing to report.

Marshall County Board

David Lueders had nothing to report.

EPIC

Dawn Harper had nothing to report.

Paratransit User

Chris Mitchell reported that she had excellent service on CityLift on a very cold day. The drivers were very cheerful and helpful in spite of the weather issues. She pointed out that once you give a destination, you can't change it. She'd like some clarification on that policy.

We Care

Alexandra Maxwell had nothing to report.

KCCDD

Joe Coffin had nothing to report.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton commented relative to the presentation that if you have a list of projects and dollar amounts in mind, make sure your officials are aware in case they have money left over at the end of the year.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

Adam Crutcher reported that Germantown Hills is beginning work on their Active Transportation Plan for sidewalks and bike paths, aiming for better safety and connectivity in that village.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)

Brad Siltman had nothing to report.

CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU

Greg Cain and Brittany Burton had nothing to report.

Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living, Galesburg

Carey Anderson had nothing to report.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Andrew Davis reported that IDOT's Chicago office is in the process of moving for the next month. He expects the email to be going out by the end of the month regarding the FY 2027 Downstate Operating Assistance Program and the FTA Section 5311 Program. The Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) conference will be in Springfield on March 3-5, and it includes special training for ADA compliance for transit managers and supervisors.

Tazewell County PCOM

Dawn Cook had nothing to report, but stated she is looking forward to the RTAC conference.

Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)

Sabrina Bedenko stated that she has been having difficulty getting transportation for disabled persons under 60 and asked if anyone knows any cab drivers or anyone with accessible cabs or vans, as her requests are increasing. She is located in Spring Valley, covering Marshall, Bureau, Putnam, and Stark counties.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAOA)

Shannon Peterson and Sunny Pearson had nothing to report.

Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois (SILC)

Shelly Richardson requested to continue receiving transportation-related complaints to their website, or any kind of problem in an email that she can send to the governor's office with detailed information about difficulty getting to employment with date, time, and location. Employment-related issues will go directly to Ryan Croke in governor's office, and to Rahnee Patrick at the Department of Human Services Division of Rehabilitation Services along with general complaints.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell had nothing to report.

6. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema reiterated that the RTAC conference is March 3-5 in Springfield. She

said that it is free to register, and Reema and Shelly Entriken will be speaking on a panel.

Reema stated that she sometimes takes calls for people trying to locate rides. She cannot always help directly, but she is a resource and can pass along information to someone who hopefully can help try to close those gaps.

Logan County will be joining this HSTP program soon, which will require some possible change among this group's structure. She is in the process of figuring out how to best manage this. Let her know if you have any connections in Logan County.

7. Other

- a. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

Reema adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.