

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

**Tuesday, February 4, 2025 – 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 12:07 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	
Darren Howlett	We Care	Woodford	X	
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Jodi Scott	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Dr. ShamRA Robinson*	Greater Peoria Mass Transit District	Provider	X	
Angel Marinich*			~X	
Kylie Rathmann	Express Employment Professionals	Agency	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, TCRPC  
Jared Arthur, Snyder Village  
Adam Crutcher, TCRPC  
Melissa Ohrwall, IDOT  
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC

Attending virtually:

Monica Vandeven, Center for Sight and Hearing  
Jodie Vanderheydt, SEAPCO

**2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**3. Approval of December 3, 2024, October 1, 2024 and August 6, 2024 minutes.**

David Lueders motioned to approve the minutes of December 3, 2024, October 1, 2024 and August 6, 2024. Kraig Boynton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**4. Approval of Bylaw Update**

Kraig Boynton motioned to approve updates to the bylaws. Dr. ShamRA Robinson seconded the motion. Reema noted that these bylaw updates clarify target populations in Article 1.D. and made language consistent in Article C. Article 4 updated OMA language due to a recent change in law. Motion carried.

**5. HSTP Document Update**

Reema shared a presentation on the HSTP 2025 Document Update, which outlines the state of human services transportation for seniors, people with disabilities, low income populations, veterans, and all other transit-dependent populations across HSTP Region 5 - Knox, Stark, Marshall, Fulton, Peoria, Woodford, and Tazewell counties. The document helps to explain where we are now, where we want to be, and how we get there.

- a. The HSTP document components include:
  - i. The state of the region
    - Transportation needs and options, programs and funding sources, regionwide and urban demographics, and a list of transit and human service entities
  - ii. Analysis and planning
    - Outreach opportunities, service gap analysis, goals and successes
- b. This year's plan updates include:
  - i. Demographic maps and charts of 7 counties and the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area using 2022 data, which is the most current that was

- available
- ii. HSTP committee list, collaborating entities list, other service providers, bylaws, Section 5310 projects and funding amounts.
- c. There were 24 completed surveys since the last iteration of the HSTP document. Survey response themes:
  - i. Service gaps, travel and cost, and suggested improvements
- d. Appendix B lists several other service providers in the region with clickable links and phone numbers. Reema said that she would love to have a more complete list.
- e. The document was sent to 20 regional libraries and five public transit providers, also available to view online. The 30-day public comment period runs from Feb 3 – March 4, 2025. This group will consider adoption of the plan at the April 1 HSTP committee meeting.

## **6. Provider and Agency Updates**

### ***City of Galesburg***

Kraig Boynton stated that they are training on new software and expanding their services.

### ***Thrive Community Services***

Joe Coffin stated they are still waiting for three lift vans.

### ***ADDWC***

Tyler Rogers had no report.

### ***CAST Technologies***

Kylie Rathmann shared that her employees who need transportation to work have a difficult starting time of 5:30 a.m. They have problems finding rides.

### ***Pekin Park District***

Alisha Dault introduced herself. She is involved with the Miller Senior Center in Pekin. They have two wheelchair-accessible vehicles that they run five days a week.

### ***Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)***

Dr. ShamRA Robinson shared that buses are running seven days a week, working with TransDev.

### ***Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)***

Greg Cassidy had no report.

### ***Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)***

Melissa Ohrwall said to keep an eye out for contracts, as progress is

being made. Some vans have been inspected and delivered. There has been an increase in accidents, so she recommends going over driver training programs. Registration is open for the RTAC Conference on March 5-6. Section 5310 training will be available.

***Advocates for Access***

Jodi Scott had no updates.

***Fulton County PCOM***

Audra Miles had no updates.

***Washington Township***

Jim Bremner reported they have a city-township co-op with CityLift to move some of the high school kids to EP!C or to employment or other services. They also assist with Agency on Aging transportation clients. TDK Events uses their weekend transit vans during the week to help shuttle folks, and they're very good at what they do.

***Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAOA)***

Shannon Peterson had no update.

***Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association (TMCSEA)***

Meghan Brake had no update.

***Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)***

Allison Borland had no update.

***Snyder Village***

Jared Arthur stated that they are working on defensive driver training.

***We Care***

Darren Howlett stated that he had nothing to report other than he really appreciated the maps that Tri-County has helped with.

***EP!C***

Dawn Harper stated that EP!C is having their biggest fundraiser on March 20 at the Par-A-Dice, and tickets are on sale now. They are excitedly waiting on IDOT vehicles.

***Center for Sight and Hearing***

Monica Vandeven introduced herself and the Center. She had no report.

### ***MSW Projects***

Traci Dowell reported that one of their lift vans is back in business after both were unusable, and she is excited to hear that new vans will be coming soon.

### ***Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)***

Jodie Vanderheydt had no update.

### ***Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)***

Angel Marinich with TransDev stated that CityLift is still short-staffed, and they are working on possible solutions.

### ***Paratransit User***

Chris Mitchell said that she was impressed that her doctor's office called CityLift, and dispatcher confirmed that she was ready to go. She said that CityLift has excellent drivers that remember her and respect her and other passengers and their equipment, unlike the ambulance service that Methodist uses who have damaged her equipment when taking her home.

### ***Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)***

Jessica Ortega had no update.

### ***Fulton County Rural Transit/Fulton County Rehabilitation Center (FCRT/FCRC)***

Shelly Entrekin had no update.

## **7. Other**

- a. Several attendees commented that this location seems to work better than the previous one at the Twin Towers building. Reema will confirm with Dawn if EP!C is available for the next meeting and for the rest of the year.
- b. Joe Coffin stated that they applied for vehicle in 2020, and he wondered if this is usually how long it takes to receive one. Melissa Ohrwall responded that since Covid, timing is a bit different, not annually as they used to. She said that IDOT is hoping to get back to annual applications. They only get a certain number of vehicles at a time, and the cost of vehicles is increasing, so the supply does not always meet the demand.
- c. ShamRA stated that GPMTD has had a change in staffing since Dr. John Myers left. Kofi Kisseh is now the acting General Manager.

- d. Reema will send a link to view the HSTP document. Members of the public have 30 days to read it and send any comments to Reema.
- e. Next meeting: Tuesday, April 1, at 12:00 p.m. at EP!C.

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 p.m.