

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

Tuesday, April 1, 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 12:02 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	
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
Adam Crutcher, TCRPC
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC

Attending virtually:

Monica Vandeven, Center for Sight and Hearing
Carey Anderson – Stone-Hayes CIL
Dawn Cook – Tazewell PCOM
Katy Deadmond – CIAOA
Lindsey Kerr – LifeLine Pilots
Sabrina Bedenko - IVCIL
Brad Siltman – GP Transit

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of February 4, 2025 minutes.

Kraig Boynton motioned to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2025 meeting. Greg Cassidy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4. Presentation by Lindsey Kerr from LifeLine Pilots

Lindsey gave a very well received presentation on this not-for-profit agency that matches volunteer pilots with patients needing to travel out of the immediate area for non-emergency medical care. They can also transport loved ones to patients out of the immediate area.

There is no cost for their services. They are not funded by government funds, but by non-governmental grants, fundraising, and donations. 3.6 million patients don't receive medical care due to transportation barriers. Aviation is a great solution, as they can fly into smaller airports, and can go up to 1,000 miles, throughout the Midwest and beyond because there are sister organizations around the country to partner with for longer flights. LifeLine Pilots gave over \$2 million in free flights last year.

The agency requires 4-5 days notice and a physician's release. The patient needs to find their own accommodations and ground transportation, need to be able to sit upright, be ambulatory, and demonstrate a financial or compelling need.

The pilots are all volunteers with their own planes, at least 21 years old, 250 hours of flying/instruction, in good standing with the FAA, love to fly and help others. The agency has a 100% safety record, in business since 1981. Besides transporting passengers, they also deliver supplies to devastated areas where the large airports have closed, but they are still

able to land at smaller airports.

5. Approval of HSTP Region 5 Update Document

Kylee Rathmann motioned to approve the HSTP Region 5 Update Document, and Jodi Scott seconded the motion. Reema stated this document is updated every 5 years per IDOT. She shared a presentation of the final updates of the document, and pointed out the following changes:

- a. She fixed some spacing and formatting issues
- b. A new photo was added to the front middle bottom
 - i. The taxi company that operated the Washington Senior Taxi service has changed, so the photo was changed to show a TDK Event Services van with a rider
- c. She updated the list of "other transportation options" in Appendix B (p. 103)
 - i. Added Reliable Cab Havana and Transcare Plus
 - ii. She deleted PPAW Transportation, Midstate Limo, and Peoria Limousine because their websites were no longer functional
 - iii. One cab company and two shuttle bus services that are closed or nonexistent were removed (one as of March 2025!)
 - iv. She included only companies with what looks like an updated website; and added some because she had seen them shuttling through the area
- d. Updated the bylaws in Appendix C from February meeting

Reema will take this to Tri-County's Technical Committee, and if all goes well, they'll recommend it to the Full Commission. In 1 month, this plan should be fully approved

Provider and Agency Updates

Tri-County

Adam Crutcher reported that he is working on the City of Peoria Bike Plan, and the Bartonville Active Transportation Plan so it includes things like walking and biking.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that they found out today they will receive 7 paratransit buses on Friday. Need to order the fixtures for the heavy-duty buses they'll be getting. They completed the study for the county-wide transportation and are working with the county to secure the funding so they can get the local match.

Pekin Park District

Alisha Dault had nothing to report.

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott had nothing to report.

Chris Mitchell, paratransit user

Chris reported that she had a great driver today but is sometimes treated unfairly. Riders' self-judgement is often questioned. For example, which door to get dropped off at, or how to get on a vehicle, and they risk being denied service if the driver doesn't agree with what they know their capabilities are.

WeCare

Darren Howlett had nothing to report.

Washington Township

Jim Bremner reported that more transit van people are asking to go to Peoria for medical care, more are ambulatory challenged, so they are dropping the age of service to 62 to accommodate more riders.

Marshall County Board

David Lueders had nothing to report.

SEAPCO

Allison Borland had nothing to report.

Fulton County PCOM

Audra Miles had nothing to report.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District

Dr. Robinson reported that on March 19 they started Travel Training for students and teachers at Dunlap High School with 10 students with disability challenges. They were shown how to get in and out of the bus, how to pay, how much to pay. We want to make sure they understand how to travel safely. Angel Marinich reported that their driver numbers are increasing, and their on-time performance is increasing.

Cast Technologies

Kylie Rathmann reported that she is still having issues with employees having trouble getting to work at 5am. They have to be at their station and ready to work by 5:30. Some can't make it, and it holds up

production.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging

Shannon Peterson reported they are hiring some new employees to help with the transportation program to better assist our clients, and constantly brainstorming ways to improve the program.

Tazewell PCOM

Dawn Cook reported they are getting ready to take their application for 5311 and DOPE to the board.

Center for Sight and Hearing

Monca Vandeven reported they have a support group every month for blindness and low vision at Advocates for Access in Peoria Heights.

IDOT

Melissa Ohrwalt reports they will have the next CVP application this summer

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that they have completed the 5311 and DOPE grants. They are down to one van with a lift and it's finicky.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (Galesburg)

Katy Deadmond reported that Galesburg is working on becoming dementia-friendly and are hosting a kick-off event on May 2 from 5-8pm at the Kensington Ballroom in Galesburg and it's open to the public.

ADDWC

Tyler Rogers had nothing to report.

Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living

Sabrina Bedenko had nothing to report.

Thrive Community Living

Joe Coffin reported that they got a new medium duty lift van on March 18, and the week before that they got two wheelchair accessible minivans that are only three years old and are pretty nice.

6. HSTP Coordinator Report

- a. Reema reported that she was hoping to go to the RTAC conference but got the flu for the whole week so didn't make it, so she doesn't have a report from that but would like to know if anyone else went. Kraig Boynton said he heard the breakout sessions were good.
- b. Long Range Transportation Plan document is being updated, and there is a section about HSTP in it. Will hopefully be approved by our Full Commission tomorrow.
- c. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 3, at 12:00 p.m. at EP!C.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 p.m.