

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

**Tuesday, April 7, 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 (KCCDD)	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/ **Sunny Pearson	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
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	
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  
Dawn Cook, Tazewell County PCOM, Emergency Management Agency

Attending virtually:

Andrew Davis, IDOT  
Carey Anderson, Stone-Hayes CIL  
Brad Siltman, GPMTD  
Brittany Burton, CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU  
Katy Deadmond, Western IL Agency on Aging  
Christine Adams, Snyder Village  
Gavin Hunt, TCRPC

## **2. Public Comment**

None

## **3. Approval of February 3, 2026 minutes**

Tabled due to lack of quorum

## **4. Tri-County Community Organization Active in Disaster (COAD): Presentation by Dawn Cook**

Tri-County COAD is for Tazewell, Peoria, and Woodford Counties, and was formed after what's known as the "Washington tornado" in November of 2013, although it affected several communities in Tazewell County. In this HSTP region, there are COADs in Tazewell, Peoria, Woodford, Fulton, and Stark Counties, but not in Marshall and Knox at this time. The mission is "to come alongside government agencies to help those in need after a disaster or emergency in the Tri-County area."

Core functions include sharing of information, resource coordination, unmet needs coordination, volunteer and donations management, mass care including pets, and long-term recovery support.

Partners include nonprofit organizations such as Salvation Army and Red Cross, churches, government agencies, private sector organizations, and volunteer groups.

Although there are no transit partners at this time, they could help with coordination of transportation services, access to services, planning support, and expertise. Dawn gave an example of when the Hopedale assisted living center lost power during a polar vortex and the residents needed to be transported to the Hopedale Hospital. She made a few calls and was able to obtain assistance.

Response needs could be small to large and don't always require all

partners to be involved. Help may be needed to coordinate resources, support mass care shelters including pets, assist with situational awareness, support emergency management, debris management, volunteer management, and donations management.

During recovery mode, COAD morphs into a long-term recovery committee, assisting with unmet needs coordination including transportation, case management, housing, financial assistance, community rebuilding efforts, behavioral health and emotional support, and donations and volunteer sustainment.

Tri-County COAD is currently holding quarterly hybrid meetings. The next meeting will be in person at Bethany Community Church in Washington on June 17 at 10:00 a.m. They will provide training opportunities and review activations and responses. They are expanding their membership and working on communication, collaboration, and coordination prior to disasters.

They are in need of transit partners. To get involved, let Dawn know you're interested, attend a meeting, and share your organization's capabilities. Participate in training, exercises, and support coordination efforts.

Contact Dawn at [dcook@tazewell.il.gov](mailto:dcook@tazewell.il.gov) or 309-925-2271. The phone number for COAD is 1-800-619-0765 for people who need help or want to help; they will get it organized.

Katy Deadmond commented that even if you don't have any experience with disasters, it's always good to be available to help take some of the pressure off the ones who are working so hard.

## **5. Beginning HSTP Document Update Process**

Reema explained that IDOT requires that Region 5 have a continuously updated HSTP document. The last plan was finalized about a year ago, where Tri-County staff updated the demographics and maps from the previous plan. This time, the update will be larger, including region-wide goals. The plan is meant to be used as a reference guide; there are several different sections that will be updated.

This update will include the addition of Logan County, and the plan must be completed by Spring 2027. There will be an outreach process as well; Reema will plan to visit organizations and partners around the region to learn more about them. There will also be an update to the surveys that the region has used in previous plans. If any partners are interested in collaborating on surveys that are more specific to their entities, let Reema know, and TCRPC can work with these partners.

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

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

Alisha Dault had nothing to report.

### ***Fulton County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)***

Audra Miles had nothing to report.

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

Brad Siltman had nothing to report.

### ***CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU***

Brittany Burton had nothing to report.

### ***Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living, Galesburg***

Carey Anderson reported that Greyhound buses now stop in Galesburg on their way to big cities like Denver and Chicago.

### ***Paratransit User***

Chris Mitchell reported that she has had excellent service on CityLift and CountyLink.

### ***Snyder Village***

Christine Adams reported that she is new to her position and is happy to be joining.

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

Andrew Davis reported that IDOT's Chicago office's new address is 115 S. LaSalle, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chicago 60603. He also shared that 2027 Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) and FTA 5311 Programs were due beginning of April; contact him and their IDOT program manager for more information. IDOT is working to complete them as soon as possible to get them approved quickly.

There is a new lengthy risk assessment on those that is time-consuming but will reap benefits at the end. Make sure to have all budget summaries in so it is a smooth transition to the new year. The Consolidated Vehicle Procurement Program Call for Projects will be in early summer.

### ***Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)***

Gavin Hunt had nothing to report.

### ***Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA)***

Katy Deadmond had nothing to report.

***Fulton County Rural Transit/Fulton County Resource Center (FCRC/FCRT)***

Shelly Entrekin had nothing to report.

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

Meghan Brake reported that her organization is holding a resource fair on April 29 from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at East Peoria High School.

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

Allison Borland reported that the Central Illinois Transition Planning Committee, which serves Peoria, Tazewell, Mason, and Woodford Counties, is hosting a sub-paratransit committee April 17th that will include riders, co-ops/school districts, paratransit providers, advocacy groups and other stakeholders to focus on collaboration. Riders will share their experiences, we will ask paratransit providers to share new protocols for riders, and collaboration ideas moving forward.

***Advocates for Access***

Jodi Scott had nothing to report.

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

ShamRA Robinson reported that on April 16, CityLink will celebrate its 16th Annual Passenger Appreciation Day to honor Jerome Lilly by providing free rides to passengers all day on CityLink fixed-route buses, CityLift paratransit vehicles, and CountyLink rural transportation vehicles. Jerome Lilly was a beloved General Manager of CityLink who passed away unexpectedly in 2007.

There will be a free giveaway for each passenger who stops by the Transit Center lobby between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. on April 16. There will be a survey, and also a QR code on the buses that leads to the survey. April is also free entry to the Riverfront Museum for monthly bus pass holders.

***EPIC***

Dawn Harper had nothing to report.

***Marshall County Board***

David Lueders had nothing to report.

***Thrive Community Services (formerly KCCDD)***

Joe Coffin had nothing to report.

***City of Galesburg***

Kraig Boynton reported that they are working on a contract agreement for

rural service for Knox County, which is a big deal because Knox County has never had public transportation. He anticipates it starting this Fall.

***Tazewell County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)***

Dawn Cook had nothing to report but asked if there is a national rider appreciation day. ShamRA responded yes, it was on March 18.

**7. HSTP Coordinator Report**

Reema reported that she sent out a link to an IDOT focus group but needed to correct the date to April 29. There are separate groups for transit professionals and community members. She will send a correction in an email later today with additional information.

Reema also reported that Section 5310 annual Call for Projects may be released as early as next week. Section 5310 is federal transportation funding stream for the urban Peoria area. She then gave a presentation on the topic, explaining that this urban funding is split between IDOT and TCRPC. In the urbanized area, the funds are used to increase mobility for seniors and people with disabilities. The funding is for non-profits, public transit providers, and government agencies.

Capital projects are funded at 80% federal with a 20% local match, and operational projects are funded at 50% federal with a 50% local match. Examples of eligible capital projects are radios/communication/dispatch equipment, computer hardware/software, transit-related intelligent transportation systems, wheelchair securements and lifts, benches, shelters, sidewalks and other passenger amenities, wayfinding, and signage. Requests for vehicle funding should go through IDOT's CVP Program.

Examples of eligible operational projects are expansion of paratransit service parameters beyond the 3/4 miles already required by ADA, expansion of hours of operation, incremental cost of same-day service, incremental cost of door-to-door service for all eligible ADA paratransit riders, providing escorts or assisting riders through the door of their destination, expenses related to voucher programs, mileage reimbursement, and support for volunteer driver programs.

Applications will tentatively be released on April 15 and tentatively due in late May. Utilize HSTP plan goals in the [current HSTP document](#) as guidance. The Urban Subcommittee and TCRPC staff will review and grade eligible projects later this summer, then they will go through TCRPC Technical and Policy boards for approval. Finally, TCRPC will apply for funding through FTA.

After the awards are distributed, there are required reports to be made,

including financial and status reports, some of which may require additional administrative work depending on the project.

**8. Other**

- a. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

**9. Adjourn**

Reema adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.