

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

Tuesday, June 2, 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 12:04 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
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, Lori Reynolds, Isaiah Hageman, Bano Moosavi, Thomas Schnelle – Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
Christine Adams – Snyder Village
Rodriques Kimbrough, Brittany Burton – WeDriveU
Jewel Ward – Washington Township Supervisor
Lashawn Gordon – Western Illinois Regional Council

Attending virtually:

Andrew Davis – Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Dawn Cook – Tazwell County PCOM
Brad Siltman – Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)
Katy Deadmond – Western IL Agency on Aging
Sabrina Bedenko – Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Minutes

a. February 3, 2026 minutes

b. April 7, 2026 minutes

Tabled due to lack of quorum

4. Partners Spotlight: Tazewell and Peoria Counties Special Education Association, Meghan Brake & Allison Borland

Meghan and Allison shared with the group information about their jobs at their respective locations: Meghan at Tazewell-Mason County Special Education Association (TMCSEA) and Allison at Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO).

They are Transition Specialists and Pre-Employment Career Training (PECT) Specialists, assisting high school aged individuals with disabilities in preparing for graduation and moving out into the world. They are building employment skills, transportation training, hard skills, soft skills, and interviewing skills in hopes that they don't "graduate to the couch" but move into employment, recreation, and leisure, and community college with accommodations as needed.

They connect with local agencies and work with employers to help find employment and rides to and from work so the individuals can be as self-sufficient as possible. Workshops at a Career Summit include opportunities to talk with educators and other parents and learn about career opportunities in six categories including trades and hospitality, similar to a college job fair.

5. Provider and Agency Updates

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

Thomas Schnelle stated that Tri-County has been working on an analysis of the Chillicothe sidewalk system. Bano Moosavi stated that the work is fun to do, and she enjoys talking to the residents. Isaiah Hageman stated that he has been working on the Bus Stop Accessibility Plan, which includes staff riding the buses to understand riders' perspectives.

LaborMax Staffing

Kylie Rathmann stated that she has changed jobs and is now at LaborMax Staffing. She is still working on getting rides for employees who work third shift and do not have transportation.

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

Shelly Entrekin had nothing to report.

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott has been communicating with Centers for Independent Living statewide, working on getting more funding for home modifications, focusing on ramps. Call her for information on starting the paperwork for an application.

Snyder Village

Christine Adams reported that she is new to her position and is happy to be joining. Her title is Community Life Coordinator, and she will be taking Jared Arthur's place at the HSTP meetings. She shared that Snyder Village has independent living, cottages, apartments, a health center for long term care, assisted living, and memory care. She works on coordinating activities for the independent side and finding transportation. She is having trouble finding drivers.

CityLift/CountyLink/WeDriveU

Brittany Burton reported that CountyLink has 10 daily routes and can add an additional route if needed.

WeDriveU

Rodriques Kimbrough stated that his goal is to give the best possible quality service, abiding by their Ride Guide. If anyone has a need or an issue, let him know and he will work it out.

EPIC

Dawn Harper had nothing to report.

Washington Township

Jewel Ward is the new Washington Township Supervisor, and she will be replacing Jim Bremner.

Western Illinois Regional Council

Lashawn Gordon stated that she is a new HSTP coordinator from Macomb and she's here to learn.

WeCare

Alexandra Maxwell reported that they have taken over northern Tazewell County for individuals aged 60+, and they can travel into Peoria. Funding is from the Central Illinois Agency on Aging (now known as Age Central).

Pekin Park District

Alisha Dault shared that the Pekin Farmers Market opens Thursday.

Thrive Community Services (formerly KCCDD)

Joe Coffin had nothing to report.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that they now have tablets on the fixed routes. They are working on an agreement with IDOT as well as planning for bus stop relocations. Taste of Galesburg will be happening on July 16.

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.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Andrew Davis had nothing to report.

Tazewell County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)

Dawn Cook had nothing to report.

Tazewell County Resource Center (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy reported that they gave up on CARES money; they were hoping to update their parking lot.

Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA)

Katy Deadmond had nothing to report.

Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)

Sabrina Bedenko had nothing to report.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (now Aging Central)

Sunny Pearson had nothing to report; she noted that Alex already covered it.

Association for the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County (ADDWC)

Tyler Rogers had nothing to report.

6. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema Abi-Akar introduced herself to the group since there were some new faces. She talked about how Tri-County released a combined Call for Projects, which invited applicants to submit requests for funding for urban-specific Section 5310 transit funds.

Tri-County did not receive many submissions, so if someone in the urbanized area has a need, she will see what she can do, even though it is past the deadline, so she can find a way to spend the money that was not applied for.

She said that there is a possibility of an HSTP Urban Subcommittee meeting at the Peoria Main Library. She will send out information.

There will be upcoming surveys for updating the HSTP document; she will be sending those out when they are available. Jodi Scott asked if that will include Logan County. Reema replied that it will. She is still working on getting representatives from Logan County, and the structure of the group may need to be changed to accommodate.

7. Other

a. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2026

Reema noted that this was a typo; the actual date should be August 4, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. However, Reema will not be available, so the meeting will either be moved to the following Tuesday, August 11, or someone else can serve as chair.

Additionally, the meeting after that, on October 6, coincides with the Illinois Public Transit Association conference (and the equivalent national conference), which is relevant to several individuals in this group. So, the date will be changed for that as well.

Reema noted that the bylaws state there is an option to select a chair and vice-chair, if someone wants to step up in the future.

Joe Coffin had a question about whether using the wheelchair lift safety straps is an IDOT rule or not. There was discussion about which straps he was referring to, and ultimately the answer was that no, the wheelchair lift safety straps are not mandatory. Brittany thinks it also depends on each organization's policies.

Joe also had a question about the size of vehicles that need to undergo a state inspection. His inspector only inspects vehicles that carry more than 11 passengers. Dawn responded that she thinks it depends on whether they have CV plates; if they do have CV plates, they need to be inspected.

8. Adjourn

Reema adjourned the meeting at 1:05 p.m.