

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

**Tuesday, June 3, 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 12:04 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	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	
<del>Darren Howlett</del>				
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, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)  
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC  
Katy Deadmond, Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA)  
Melissa Ohrwall, Illinois Department of Transportation IDOT  
Pastor Chuck Brown, CJ Harvest

Attending virtually:

Dawn Cook, Tazewell County PCOM  
Sabrina Bedenko, Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living (IVCIL)  
Brad Siltman, Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)  
Colleen Hamilton, Fresenius Kidney Care

## **2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **3. Approval of April 1, 2025 minutes**

Kraig Boynton motioned to approve the minutes from the April 1, 2025 meeting. Greg Cassidy seconded the motion. Motion carried, with the following corrections: Melissa Ohrwall (IDOT) attended the meeting in person, and Brad Siltman (GPMTD) and Lindsey Kerr (LifeLine Pilots), attended the meeting in person, not virtually.

## **4. Presentation by Pastor Chuck Brown from CJ Harvest**

Pastor Chuck Brown presented the following: He and his wife Julia, who works at CWTC, started working on CJ Harvest when they recognized the south side of Peoria is a food desert, which means a mile or two away from fresh groceries, or 10 miles if in a rural area.

It turned out to be a much larger project than they expected, and he said that with competition from Wal-Mart, Kroger, and Aldi that residents have become dependent on, people have forgotten about the small-town grocer. They have budgeted for shrinkage, which was the downfall of the corporate grocers that left the area. He said that they will have plenty of security on hand. Pastor Brown stated that they have thought of senior and disabled customers by buying a car that can transport them to the store so they can get out of the house.

They want the store to be a friendly neighborhood meeting place, with a barbeque restaurant. The store will have a private label, and they have partnered with local farmers. He hopes to open in late September and provide residents with a healthier choice of foods to combat obesity and cancer.

## **5. Provider and Agency Updates**

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

Katy Deadmond had nothing to report.

### ***Marshall County Board***

Dave Leuders was excited to report their two minivans have arrived.

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

Shelly Entrekin reported that they received a 14-passenger van and minivan.

### ***Advocates for Access***

Jodi Scott had nothing to report.

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

Melissa Orhwall reported that there is a new tab for inventory in BlackCat, and if you see any discrepancies let her know. Be aware that a bus had the hydraulic cord cut when it was caught on the wheelchair lift. This could put your vehicle out of commission.

### ***Washington Township***

Jim Bremner reported that the Washington senior taxi service has changed cab providers, now using TDK Events very successfully. The age has been lowered to 62, and a ride anywhere around Washington is \$3. Peoria or Morton rides are \$5. They gave 180 rides last month, 223 this month.

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

Alisha Dault reported that they received two wheelchair vans, but one has died. They are working on getting an SUV. Pekin Farmers Market started this week.

### ***EPIC***

Dawn Harper reported they are having electrical issues with the vehicles they received, so have been using Enterprise for ambulatory vans, and it's working out well. The WOW disability fair at EP!C will happen again this year with CityLink on July 24.

### ***TCRC/We Care***

Greg Cassidy had nothing to report for TCRC, but he introduced Alex Maxwell as the new director of We Care's transportation department. He said that the 50th anniversary celebration during the Morton Pumpkin Festival will include a spaghetti dinner and free rides.

***City of Galesburg***

Kraig Boynton reported that they have received seven paratransit vehicles. Capacity is increasing, and they are now using a dispatch software. Their next project is to start working on Medicaid.

***Thrive Community Services***

Joe Coffin reported they have received three new wheelchair lift vans that have issues with the lifts, and two used minivans.

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

Allison Borland had nothing to report, but she has been asked to be on the steering committee for the Bartonville ATP.

***Fulton County PCOM***

Audra Miles had nothing to report.

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

Brad Siltman stated that if anyone has ADA issues to let him know, and he reported that they received five CVP vehicles and are expecting three more next week. They also have four minivans for support vehicles being delivered this week. They are working on getting systems transferred over.

***Tazewell County PCOM***

Dawn Cook reported that the Peoria County Emergency Expo will be July 23 at Grand Prairie.

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

Meghan Brake had nothing to report.

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

Sabrina Bedenko had nothing to report.

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

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

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

Sabrina Bedenko had nothing to report.

## **6. HSTP Coordinator Report**

- a. Reema reported that the HSTP document has been officially updated and can be viewed at <https://tricityrpc.org/> under Documents > Plans.
- b. Reema reported that the Long-Range Transportation Plan document has also been officially updated and can be viewed on website.
- c. The Regional Food Council of Central Illinois at [www.regionalfoodcouncil.org](http://www.regionalfoodcouncil.org), has quarterly meetings if anyone is interested.
- d. Reema will be out of the office most of the remainder of June and half of July.

## **7. Other**

- Meghan Brake asked the group what they do with old vehicles when they get new ones.
  - Kraig Boynton responded that IDOT staff will help locate a new home for used vehicles.
  - Melissa Orhwall explained that if there is still life in the vehicle, they will coordinate a transfer.
  - Meghan stated she is looking for a 14-passenger vehicle.
  - Melissa said she will pass that request along.
  - Reema asked if that's only for 5310.
  - Melissa stated that it could potentially be moved to a 5311 agency if it meets the FTA rules.
  - Dawn Harper asked what to do if you can't find the contract information requested for the vehicle to be disposed of.
  - Melissa responded that it's a quick look-up for IDOT, just call.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, August 5, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

## **8. Adjourn**

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