

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

Tuesday, August 5, 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 12:03 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	Interested Stakeholder	Partner		X
Chris Mitchell*	Paratransit Users	User	~X	
Connie Schiele*				X
Jim Bremner	Washington Township	Partner		
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
Corrie Heck Scott, Farm Family Foods
Melissa Ohrwall, Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Jewel Ward, Washington Township
Jared Arther, Snyder Village
Carey Anderson, Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living

Also attending virtually:

Dawn Cook, Tazewell County PCOM
Adam Crutcher, TCRPC
Andrew Davis, IDOT

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of April 1, 2025 minutes

There was no quorum, so a vote was not taken.

4. Presentation by Corrie Heck Scott from Farm Family Foods

Corrie Heck Scott presented an overview of her family business. She is one of four female owners; the other owners are her sisters and mother. Their business serves eight rural communities with online-ordered grocery deliveries and a physical store in Benson. They took over the family farm in 2021 from their grandparents and started networking with 125 other farms within 400 miles, 35 of which are “hyper local,” meaning they are within 40 miles of the physical store. On their farm, they have 72 acres of grain production – corn, wheat, soybeans, and have converted eight acres to fruits and vegetables. In addition to fruits and vegetables, they partner with meat producers and dairies, as well as artisans pickling; baking; and producing coffee, spices, and personal care products.

Scott said that for every dollar spent locally in the community, \$1.90 is generated in economic activity that stays in the community. She said that when people shop at big box stores, only 11 cents of the dollar stays at home. So she said that supporting their local businesses allows people to access the freshest and most nutrient-dense foods grown locally and harvested at their peak, which are delivered to one pick-up location in the communities being served. Scott said that their business is reducing shipping miles and creating local jobs. She is waiting to hear back if they’ve been approved for SNAP/EBT benefits, and she is hoping to obtain a refrigerated truck to help with transportation. She noted that this idea is growing and happening nationally now.

5. Provider and Agency Updates

Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)

Allison Borland reported that she attended her first steering committee meeting for the Bartonville Active Transportation Plan, with another meeting coming up in September.

Snyder Village

Jared Arthur had nothing to report.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAOA)

Shannon Peterson had nothing to report.

EPIC

Dawn Harper reported that she was excited that she got her bus back that had been out for repairs.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)

Lance Randle had nothing to report.

Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

Melissa Ohrwall reported that all vehicles have been delivered. She is not sure of the date for the next CVP application. She recommends that grantees keep their ICQ updated and continue working on preventative maintenance. Melissa said that she is still working on getting all the inventory entered into Black Cat. She is helping different agencies out with their maintenance plans, and she is willing to look over others. She recommended that grantees work on their vehicle longevity.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that they are working on completing a new app for their fixed-route bus service; it should be ready to go live by the end of August. He said that he is working on service contracts, and that hopefully in another month, Galesburg will be Medicaid eligible.

Thrive Community Service

Joe Coffin had nothing to report.

Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)/We Care

Greg Cassidy reported that TCRC/We Care has their 50th Anniversary celebration on September 20, which will include a spaghetti dinner, rides, and tours.

Association of the Developmentally Disabled of Woodford County (ADDWC)

Tyler Rogers had nothing to report.

Fulton County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)

Audra Miles had nothing to report.

Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living

Carey Anderson had nothing to report.

IDOT

Andrew Davis introduced himself as the Transit Operations Program Manager for the north section of Illinois, based in Chicago. He said that he will be taking the baton from Melissa for HSTP.

Tazewell County PCOM

Dawn Cook reported that she hosted an informal PCOM meeting on July 15. Three IDOT personnel attended as well, and she said that it was well received. She said that they will be having another one at the Illinois Public Transit Association (IPTA) conference.

Fulton County Rural Transit/Fulton County Resource Center

Shelly Entrekin had nothing to report.

Paratransit User

Chris Mitchell reported that she attended the ADA WOW! event at EP!C and it was a really nice experience. She had excellent service on her CityLift ride today despite the weather conditions.

Washington Township

Jewel Ward, the new Washington Township Supervisor, had no report today.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Adam Crutcher reported that Tri-County will begin work in about a month to improve the Illinois Route 29 corridor from downtown Peoria up to Chillicothe, which will include making travel safer for pedestrians, bicycle riders, and cars, as well as better options for transit. This will take 1½ to two years.

6. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema discussed the Bus Stop Inventory project. Tri-County received an approximately \$200,000 IDOT Transit Planning Grant to conduct an

inventory of all the CityLink fixed route bus stops. She said that TCRPC GIS staff is going to every bus stop to document different features, asking questions such as, Is there a shelter or is there a bench? Is there a garbage can? And also, What is the condition of the sidewalks leading up to the bus stop. If there are great amenities but they are inaccessible, that is also of note. This study will last two years, with most of the documentation taking place this year while the weather is nice, then staff will conduct a prioritization process to determine which bus stops in which areas have the highest need.

Reema stated that she attended the Transit Retreat, a national transit conference, in Des Moines, Iowa. She was the only person from Illinois at this smaller conference. It was interesting to see how people from different parts of the country do things differently when it comes to transit.

Reema stated the next major state conference she will attend is the Illinois Public Transit Association conference that runs from Sept. 29 through Oct. 1 in Champaign. She said that she is looking forward to seeing what statewide partners have been working on.

7. Other

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.