



HSTP Steering Committee Meeting (Human Services Transportation Plan)/

HSTP Rural Subcommittee/HSTP Urban Subcommittee (in lieu of Lack of Quorum)

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 – 12:00 PM

Open to the Public

Meeting Location:

EPIC (Board Room)

1913 W. Townline Rd., Peoria, IL 61615

Microsoft Teams • [Need help?](#)

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 276 151 495 318

Passcode: Aq9JA268

OR

Dial in by phone:

[+1 929-346-7201](#)

Phone conference ID: 847 614 021#

Agenda

- 1. Welcome, Introductions, & Roll Call**
- 2. Public Comment**
- 3. Approval of minutes:**
 - a. June 3, 2025 minutes**
 - b. August 5, 2025 minutes**
- 4. Presentation by Kraig Boynton from the City of Galesburg: Knox County rural transportation**
- 5. Provider and Agency Updates**
- 6. HSTP Coordinator Report**
- 7. Other**
 - a. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at 12:00 p.m.**
- 8. Adjourn**

Opportunities for public comment will be afforded.

For more information, contact Reema Abi-Akar at (309) 673-9796 ext. 231 or rabiakar@tricountyrpc.org, or visit <http://www.tricountyrpc.org/transportation/transit/>

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, should any person wishing to attend this meeting need special accommodations for signing or other communications, please contact the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Office at (309) 673-9330.

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 | |
| Darren Howlett | | | | |
| 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, 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.

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.