

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

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 – 12:00 PM

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
Suite 401, 456 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602

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 |
| VACANT | VACANT | Peoria | - | - |
| Traci Dowell | MSW Projects | Stark | | X |
| Renee Razo | CIAOA | Stark | | X |
| Meghan Brake | TMCSEA | Tazewell | ~X | |
| Max Schnieder | Tazewell County Board | Tazewell | | X |
| Tyler Rogers | ADDWC | Woodford | | X |
| VACANT | VACANT | Woodford | - | - |
| URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE | | | | |
| Dawn Harper | EP!C | Agency | X | |
| Jodi Scott | Advocates for Access | CIL | X | |
| Dr. ShamRA Robinson* | Greater Peoria Mass Transit District | Provider | X | |
| Angel Marinich* | | | | |
| Kylie Rathmann | Express Employment Professionals | Agency | X | |
| Chris Mitchell* | Paratransit Users | User | | X |
| Connie Schiele* | | | | |
| 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, TCRPC
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC
Kofi Kisseh, CityLink
Melissa Ohrwall, IDOT

~Ed Heflin, RTAC
~Katy Deadmond, WIAAA
~Loni Baker, Stone-Hayes CIL

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of August 6, 2024 minutes

Not possible due to lack of quorum in the room.

4. Presentation about Non-Emergency Medical Transportation

Reema gave a presentation about Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT), the information of which came from Riley Anderson, Assistant HSTP Coordinator for Regions 9, 10, and 11. These are some key points from the presentation:

- Accessing Medicaid benefits is a challenge. Each state administers Medicaid under Federal guidelines.
- NEMT in this context constitutes non-emergency medical transportation for seniors, people with disabilities, veterans, and low-income residents to travel to their pre-approved non-emergency medical services.
- Public transportation is one recognized form of NEMT.
- Must be the least costly and most appropriate option.
- Medicaid is the last resort when there is no other third-party payor.
- Managed Care Organization (MCO) is mandatory for most people on public assistance, and they must collaborate with NEMT, which furthers collective understanding.
- Rural area residents are a special case because more time and money are needed to transport them.
- No-show clients cause lost funds. "No load" or "dead head" miles with no passengers can be more costly to the transportation provider.
- Different options are available; therefore, flexibility is available.
- Medicaid does allow trip-sharing, though each rider (or their payor) pays for their own portion.

Discussion:

- Ed Heflin reported that those needing rides should call First Transit, then that organization will arrange the ride with a private transportation provider or public transit system. An individual can sign up to transport a relative and be paid by DHS for the service.

- Dr. ShamRA Robinson offered to arrange a presentation with a Life Flight pilot for this committee.

5. Provider and Agency Updates

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) – CityLink

- Kofi Kisseh reported that CityLift is currently 10 drivers short of being fully staffed at 42 drivers.
- Dr. ShamRA Robinson reported there will possibly be free fare for early voters for all routes. CityLink will be attending TazFest in East Peoria. In October, bus pass holders will get free admission to the Caterpillar Museum. CityLink and Kroger are hoping to collect 12 tons of food during the Stuff-a-Bus promotion.

Express Employment Professionals

Kylie Rathmann reported that her agency's client count is expanding, and that many employers are short staffed due to the cost of rides for qualified workers who don't drive, and for third shift workers who can't find a ride home at 4:00 a.m.

Snyder Village

Jared Arthur reported that he has been working on vehicle maintenance.

IDOT

Melissa Ohrwall reported that the Vehicle Certification survey form is being updated and is almost ready to send out. Organizations can possibly do a swap if vehicle needs have changed. With the increase in accidents occurring in agency vehicles in recent years, it might be a good idea to have drivers take Defensive Driving courses. IDOT and RTAC offer these classes. Melissa will find the information and pass it along.

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott gave no report.

EPIC

Dawn Harper reported that EPIC's IDOT inspection went well. She had a recommendation to share: Josh at Piston Revolutions is located on Adams by UFS, but they will come to you to do repairs, and they can conduct inspections once they're certified. Their phone number is 309-241-9413.

Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy gave no report.

Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging (WIAAA)

Katy Deadmond gave no report.

Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living

Loni Baker gave no report.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that he has five new buses on order, and he is working on a transit study to update routes. He is hoping that the rural areas of Knox County will have on-demand service soon. New dispatch software will make the job easier and will be able to bill Medicaid. His staff underwent mental health training through OSF to de-escalate situations, and they are now sharing their onboard cameras with police if needed. Kraig will provide contact information for the OSF training.

Fulton County PCOM

Audra Miles gave no report

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell gave no report.

6. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema reported the following:

- Dave Patton from RTAC has materials relating to transit that would be beneficial for job fairs to help attract staff.
- There is a driver shortage and/or a vehicle shortage across the state.
- Madison County has a new microtransit service; Reema will report on that after having a conversation with them.
- Reema brought IDOT materials to put in buses that advertise IDOT's statewide transit plan. These materials have a QR code that leads to a transportation survey.
- Gabriel Guevara has moved to Tri-County's sister organization in Chicago, so TCRPC is looking to fill his position.
- Reema asked for suggestions for other ways to hold this meeting. She will send ideas in a follow-up email for later discussion.
- Reema will send the NEMT presentation document everyone, especially since the virtual attendees were not able to access it.

7. Other

- a. Next meeting: Tuesday, December 3, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

- b. Melissa Ohrwall stated that now is the time to take agency vehicles in for undercoating before they endure the salty winter roads, in order to increase longevity of vehicles.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

DRAFT