

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

Tuesday, December 16, 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 12:02 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	
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, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)
Lori Reynolds, TCRPC
Gavin Hunt, TCRPC
Jared Arthur, Snyder Village
John Bannon, RTAC
Haley Dorothy, WIRC

Also attending virtually:

Adrianna Leach, Snyder Village
Marie Argubright, IVCIL
Dawn Cook, Tazewell County PCOM

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of minutes:

- a. June 3, 2025 minutes**
- b. August 5, 2025 minutes**
- c. October 7, 2025 minutes**

There was no quorum, so a vote was not taken. No necessary changes were noted.

4. Presentation by Kraig Boynton from the City of Galesburg: Urban Public Transportation

Presentation Summary

Kraig Boynton gave a presentation on Galesburg Public Transportation Fixed Route System & Vision Plan. He stated that he uses the term 'urban' loosely because they have probably the smallest fixed route systems in the state.

They currently have four fixed routes, three 60-minute loops, and one 30-minute loop, and they are on a flag stop system, running Monday through Saturday, 7:00 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Their key destinations are downtown, retail, medical, Knox College, and Carl Sandburg Junior College. In addition, they have a Handivan paratransit service to compliment the system. The system's key challenges are long travel times, limited hours, and no Sunday service. Routes have not changed since the 1990s. They are working on building a reliable fleet of vehicles, securing staff, and working through funding constraints.

In 2024, a study was commissioned to complete a comprehensive system audit, identify inefficiencies, evaluate county-wide needs, and develop a data-driven vision. Proposed recommendations included replacing loops with bi-directional routes, expanding from four to five routes, moving away from flag stops, improving travel times, and providing clearer navigation.

Broadening access was also recommended, which would include county-wide on-demand service, longer hours, future regional route options, and improved stops, signage, and shelters.

Estimated costs for these changes would mean an approximately 24% budget increase (\$750,000), higher operating costs, capital needs of buses, stops, and a transfer center. Many of these items are eligible for state and/or federal grants. Positive changes would be shorter, more reliable trips, better access to employment and medical care, stronger regional connections, and better positioning for grants. Negative effects could be more staffing and vehicles would be needed, riders would have to learn new routes, the system would depend on multi-year grant cycles, and changes must be phased in.

The recommended path forward would include four phases:

- Phase 1: Switch from flag stops to planned stops for efficiency
- Phase 2: Work with Knox County to secure funding for county on-demand rides
- Phase 3: Analyze data collected from new software and surveys to determine potential route changes
- Phase 4: Explore regional routes and new transfer center

There would be a need to continue engagement with agencies and riders to make sure needs are met.

Questions and Answers

Gavin asked what kinds of additions or modifications are planned for signage. Kraig responded that the signage currently in place is probably from the 1980s, so they are looking at software, QR codes, and color coding.

Reema asked if Quincy was studied, or will it be used as a model. Kraig stated that Galesburg and Quincy speak regularly, sharing ideas back and forth. Even though the study recommended bi-directional routes, community members prefer the looped routes because they can go to more places.

One attendee asked how the study was funded and who conducted the study. Kraig responded that IDOT paid for the study, and it was done by Nelson\Nygaard. TransSystems did the previous study in 2018-2019, so they wanted a fresh set of eyes.

Reema asked how long Kraig anticipates each phase taking. Kraig responded that they are already working on eliminating flag stops this year. Working with the county will take place over the next 12-18 months.

He would like to wait at least a year before making any changes to routes, and exploring regional routes and the transfer center all depends on what funding they receive.

Gavin asked what other transportation is available in Galesburg, like Amtrak. Kraig responded that they had Trailways, but it was recently purchased by Jefferson. Hopefully they can get a transfer center near Amtrak because right now, their transfer center is at the intersection of Main and Prairie Streets, right on the street, so if the street is closed for a parade or a downtown event, they are moved, which is confusing for the patrons.

5. CVP Updates: Applications Open March 2026

Reema spoke about the Consolidated Vehicle Procurement (CVP) Application, with notes provided by Zoe Keller from IDOT. This is federal funding for replacing or purchasing new ADA accessible vehicles, aimed mainly at transporting seniors and people with disabilities. Several agencies in this group have received a grant to purchase vehicles for free. The catch is that IDOT must monitor each program, so it must be executed properly.

The grant program opens periodically; we're getting close to a new grant opening in about March 2026. The due date will be in May, and awards are anticipated in July. BlackCat is a website that many agencies use for grants through the State of Illinois, and this is where you will find the CVP application when it is posted.

If you need to join BlackCat or add a new person, email Zoe Keller at zoe.keller@illinois.gov, and she can help you do so. The application will tell you if it accepts your status. If you have a vehicle through this program that has been totaled recently, you would apply this way to have it replaced.

Zoe says when filling out the application, ask for everything you need, and don't feel like you're asking for too much. There is a section to justify whether you need a larger or smaller vehicle, your mileage needs, etc. You get higher points if your organization has a representative attending these HSTP meetings, so that's another reason why Reema is happy to see you at every meeting, and this attendance requirement in relation to CVP is stated in this group's bylaws. Reema stated that she will share all of these notes via email, and IDOT will also be sending more information.

6. Provider and Agency Updates

Fulton County Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM)
Audra Miles had nothing to report.

We Care

Alexandra Maxwell had nothing to report.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton had nothing additional to report.

EPIC

Dawn Harper had nothing to report.

Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC)

John Bannon reported that RTAC does online training with a paid subscription on the TAPTCO platform. Interested persons can email him or Mable Kreps to get set up. In-person topics include Defensive Driving, Emergency Procedures, Passenger Assistance, and Passenger Emergencies. "Working with Elected Officials" in-person training will be at 1pm on January 21 at the Springfield Mass Transit training room. The RTAC conference is March 3-5 in Springfield, and statewide rodeo on April 25. [RTAC Training Opportunities](#)

Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC)

Haley Dorethy had nothing to report.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)

Dr. ShamRA Robinson reported that CityLift is in its second week of using WeDriveU, who replaced TransDev to manage CityLift and CountyLink.

Marshall County Board

David Lueders has been trying to get in touch with someone to get rid of a couple vehicles but having no luck.

Snyder Village

Jared Arthur and Adrianna Leach had nothing to report.

ADDWCC

Tyler Rogers had nothing to report.

Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)

Allison Borland had nothing to report.

Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association (TMCSEA)

Meghan Brake reported that East Peoria High School will be the location of the Tazewell County Resource Fair next year, for students ages 14 and up, or any age students that have disabilities that need resources. Contact her if an agency would like to be represented at the fair. It will be held April 29

from 5:00 -7:00 p.m.

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

Gavin Hunt reported that Tri-County is continuing work on a Bus Stop Accessibility Plan. He can do a presentation in a few months when it is completed.

Tazewell County PCOM

Dawn Cook had nothing to report but asked how much funding for the CVP will be allocated. Reema stated that she would pass along that question.

Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy had nothing to report.

Advocates for Access – Center for Independent Living

Jodi Scott had nothing to report.

Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living

Marie Argubright had nothing to report.

Fulton County Rural Transit/Fulton County Resource Center

Shelly Entrekin had nothing to report.

7. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema stated that she and Shelly Entriken will be on the HSTP coordinator panel at the RTAC conference that John mentioned on March 3-5 in Springfield.

8. Other

- Next meeting: Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 12:00 p.m.

9. Adjourn

Reema adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.