

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Special Meeting

Tuesday, December 6th, 2022 – 12:00 PM

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCRPC)

Suite 401, 456 Fulton St., Peoria, IL 61602

Hybrid Meeting: Both Virtual and In-Person Options

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*	FCRC/FCRT	Fulton	X	
Barb Long*				X
Doug Manock*	Fulton County Board	Fulton		X
Audra Miles*	Fulton County PCOM		X	
Joe Coffin	KCCDD	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
ShamRA Robinson	GPMTD - CityLink	Peoria	X	
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
J. Thomas Howes	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Sierra Smith	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell	X	
Max Schnieder	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford	X	
Sean Griffin	We Care	Woodford	X	
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EP!C	Agency	X	
Jodi Scott	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Angel Marinich	TransDev (CityLift/CountyLink)	Provider		X
Renee Razo	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency	X	
Chris Mitchell	Paratransit User	User	X	
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency		X
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency		X

* = Shared seat

** = Proxy Vote

stricken = no longer in their position

Also in attendance:

Reema Abi-Akar, TCRPC

Connie Sheile, Transit Rider

Francesca Lewis, TCRPC

Jim Bremner, Washington Township

Gabriel Guevara TCRPC

Marie Argubright, IVCIL

Katy Deadmond, Western Illinois Agency on Aging

Kylie Rathmann, Express Employment Professionals

Cindy Johnson, Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of October 4, 2022 minutes

Shelly Entrekin moved to approve the October 4, 2022 minutes. Jodi Scott seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the minutes were approved.

4. Approval of November 1, 2022 minutes

Chris Mitchell moved to approve the November 1, 2022 minutes. Jodi Scott seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the minutes were approved.

5. Approval of the final HSTP document

Reema stated that she spoke with a colleague who shared information about accessible fonts and accessible design within written documents. She went on to explain the font was the only major change made to the document during the 30-day comment period. The font was changed from a serif font to a sans serif font, therefore, making it easier to read for people with visual disabilities.

Chris Mitchell moved to approve the final HSTP document. Sean Griffin seconded the motion. There were no comments, and the HSTP document was passed unanimously.

5. Provider and Agency Updates

Central Illinois Agency on Aging

Renee Razo had no report.

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott had no report.

EPIC

Dawn Harper reported that several of their vehicles have been failing inspection recently.

We Care

Sean Griffin reported that they had to delay online live training with TripMaster due to a lack of drivers. They hope to be live by the end of January.

ADDWC

Tyler Rogers had no updates.

Tazewell County Board

Sierra Smith had no reports.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that they are very busy and in need of drivers.

GPMTD

ShamRA Robinson reported that she met with Kylie from Express Employment Professionals, and they discussed different route ideas that would support the employees looking to get to work. One route discussed is from Farmington Rd to Reservoir. ShamRA plans on bringing these route ideas to the next operational touch point meeting, as well as the route restricting meeting to see if it's something they can move forward with.

Other areas/locations discussed in their meeting were areas of Bartonville, the federal prison in Pekin, McDonald's, and Thornton's at 116th and 26th a little past East Peoria. The Washington Pilot Project has 125 completed trips for November with only seven no-shows. Many trips are serving riders for dialysis and transferring students from Washington High School to their co-op jobs at Peoria Production. There is more interest in transportation for students at the schools. They are also looking to schedule a meeting with Reema, Jim Bremner with Washington Township, and GPMTD General Manager Doug after the new year begins to discuss future opportunities with the pilot and the possibility of an extension.

Washington Township

Jim Bremner provided relevant information regarding the Washington Pilot Project. He expanded on the development of a program to transfer high school students or post-high school individuals with disabilities to HISRA, Peoria Production, or EPIC. Out of 125 rides, 66 were for these students, and another large number of rides were for individuals on dialysis. CityLift is also assisting the Central Illinois Agency on Aging to transport people to their needed services since CityLift has so much demand.

To summarize the last four months of the Washington Pilot, August provided 61 rides, September provided 91, October provided 110, and November

provided 125, so it is on a growth pattern, and they hope to continue the service.

Marshall County Board

David Lueders had no report.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that they are excited to leverage funds from an old grant they had previously received that is still open. They will be using the funding to add cameras to their paratransit fleet and with the upgrade of this technology, they will now be able to view live camera footage instead of after downloading.

This will increase security, and Galesburg is looking to complete an app for rides to utilize and track the buses. This will also help alleviate dispatchers getting frequent calls inquiring about the bus's location. They are also thankful for Jeff Waxman with IDOT, who is working with them to get loaner vehicles due to an insufficient fleet.

KCCDD

Joe Coffin had no report.

Fulton County

Audra Miles had no report.

Fulton County Rural Transit (FCRT)

Shelly Entrekin had no report.

Paratransit User

Chris Mitchell mentioned there is a resource that could be of aid to everyone. In Morton, there is a Center for Sight and Hearing, which is a satellite office for Rockford. A person from their organization will come out and do specific training for employees of agencies that work with people with hearing and sight related disabilities. This person works from a grant for free, and her name is Tamera Brunson. She is also a vocational rehabilitation specialist that could be of help here in planning.

Transit Rider

Connie Sheile wanted to thank CityLift for their help in a difficult situation on a Blind Center bus where they were trying to pick folks up for Thanksgiving dinner that the center had put together, but the lift had stopped working. CityLift sent out individuals to help. Connie reported these individuals tried their best to help solve the problem and were very professional and experience. Connie shared her appreciation for their help, although the bus eventually had to be towed.

Express Employment Professionals

Kylie Rathmann had no report.

IVCIL

Marie Argubright had no report.

Western Illinois Agency on Aging

Katie Deadmond had no report.

Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging

Cindy Johnson is with the Graceland Center for Purposeful Aging, which is a non-profit whose mission is to help those who are aging, age with purpose and grace. They are working on Graceland Gatherings. Since they don't have a physical location, they are going out into the community to share their purpose and plan and hold a short program on their topic of choice and gather their input for funding purposes.

7. HSTP Coordinator Report

Last week, Reema went to Springfield to meet with IDOT and other coordinators who helped teach Reema how to conduct 5310 reviews. This only applies to folks who have vehicles from the state through the 5310 program. Reema will contact the folks who do have those vehicles to complete an inspection. This will likely be sometime next year because we are waiting on IDOT for the next steps. Reema explained there are two main parts to 5310. One part is the department of transportation for the state releases a grant where folks can apply to receive vehicles for their organization. In this role, Reema educates on the topic and helps applicants apply.

The other part of 5310 is that Tri-County receives funding on an annual basis to fund capital, mobility management, and operations projects. An example of that funding would be the Washington Pilot Transit Program. Reema went on to explain that from the funding that TCRPC receives from 5310, will be releasing another call for projects in January for Urban 5310. This funding is only applicable to urban projects. Participants should look out for an email in mid-January about amounts and eligibility for this call for projects.

8. Other

None.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.