

# Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

## Tuesday, February 5, 2019 – 12:00 PM

CityLink Administrative Offices, 2105 NE Jefferson Ave, Peoria, IL

### Meeting Minutes

#### Welcome, Introductions & Roll Call

Hannah Martin 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	
Susan Lindsey	KCCDD	Knox		X
Kraig McCluskie	Galesburg Transit	Knox		X
Diana Bradstatter	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall	X	
Debbie Daykin	Marshall County Board	Marshall	X	
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria	X	
Andrew Dwyer	GPMTD - CountyLink	Peoria	X	
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
Robert Mueller	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Mary Jo Holford	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Michael Godar	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford		X
Mike Hutchinson	We Care	Woodford	X	
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Jeannine McAllister	Advocates for Access	CIL		X
Doug Roelfs	CityLink	Provider		X
Renee Razo*	Central Illinois Agency on Aging	Agency	X	
James Barrett*			X	
Connie Schiele	Paratransit user	User		X
Don Rulis	CWTC	Agency		X
Greg Cassidy	TCRC	Agency		X

\*Shared seat \*\*Proxy Vote

#### Also in attendance:

Hannah Martin, TCRPC  
 Reema Abi-Akar, TCRPC  
 Nick Standefer, GPMTD  
 Julie Briner, MSW Projects

Audrey Barret, Snyder Village  
 Becky Jollay, Galesburg  
 Richard Dubois, St. Joseph's  
 Mark Rudolph, KCCDD

Lee Linwood, WeCare  
 Lizette Tripur, DHS  
 Ellen Larsen, VNA  
 Ray Lees, TCRPC

## **Public Comment**

Hannah Martin introduced some new members and attendees including Mark Rudolph from KCCDD, Lee Linwood from We Care, Lizette Tripur, and Nick Standefer from CityLink. Hannah also mentioned on behalf of Chris Mitchell that CityLift did a great job in the recent frigid conditions.

## **Approval of the December 4, 2018 Minutes**

Debbie Daykin moved to approve the December 4, 2018 minutes, and Mary Patton seconded. The motion passed.

## **Provider and Agency Updates**

### ***CityLink***

Andy Dwyer reported that there is a new General Manager for CityLift and CountyLink. Chad Betts will start next week. Andy mentioned that Nick Standefer will begin attending HSTP meetings in place of Doug Roelfs. Andy apologized for spotty transit issues during recent weeks; there had been some security breaches that required servers to be shut down a couple of times. Now, he said, they are up and running. A new safety manager will also be starting at MV soon.

### ***AARP***

Mary Patton discussed livable communities and smart streets. She said that Syracuse, New York received a grant so the city could clean sidewalks around main roads, bus stops, and schools. She noted that Rochester, New York also does the same, but charges a fee.

Andy mentioned that Peoria tried this with their Smart Streets Initiative that is no longer happening. He said that there is currently a GPMTD agreement to clear sidewalks within five feet of any sign. Hannah said that there may be a fee for businesses that don't clean their sidewalks. Ray Lees noted that a recent Peoria Journal Star article reported that Councilwoman Beth Akeson said that the City of Peoria should start enforcing their snow clearing ordinance more.

### ***St. Joseph's Nursing Home, Lacon***

Richard Dubois commented that the roads in Lacon were dangerous after the recent snow and icy weather. He mentioned a crash involving a teacher from a local high school.

### ***We Care***

Mike Hutchinson reported that they are beginning to work on 5311 grants. He said that We Care was closed this past Wednesday due to inclement weather, but they were open again on Thursday.

### ***FCRC/FCRT***

Shelly Entrekin reported that RTAC training will take place on February 15, and as of now there are open seats still available. Hannah mentioned that this training will be good for three years for those who attend.

### ***KCCDD***

Mark Rudolph reported that KCCDD has added a minivan and a Ford Transit, but they are still raising money for more vehicles.

### ***CIAA***

Renee Razo reported that they are always working to find drivers.

### ***City of Galesburg***

Becky Jollay reported that their Paratransit Handivan was closed last Wednesday due to extreme cold weather. She also said that Masstrack was hired to work on their transit, and the City submitted its second IDOT quarterly report.

### ***Marshall County Board***

Debbie Daykin said that while she has nothing to report, she commented that she was pleased to see Mary Patton's name quoted in a recent issue of the AARP bulletin.

### ***MSW Projects***

Traci Dowell reported that their 5311 contracts should be receiving payments soon. She said that their organization closed with the local schools, so they ended up being closed seven days in two weeks. Traci also mentioned that MSW Projects is celebrating 45 years this month.

### **HSTP Coordinator Report**

Hannah reported that Zoe Keller will be taking over for Mike Healy in IDOT's CVP program. She said that any vehicles that were awarded from last spring can be picked up in the fall due to a backlog. Applications should become available soon, but awards will not be available for much longer.

Dawn Harper asked if any other organizations have picked up new buses lately, because EP!C has had problems with their heavy duty buses when they received them. She said they were different from other buses they'd gotten in the past, and there was something wrong with the door.

Hannah said that urban subcommittee positions will be expiring, and that anyone should let her know of any expected changes. Hannah said that she will share goals and objectives in April, leading up to the plan update. June 2017 5310 grants and agreements will be in place next

month—there will be more money available in an upcoming funding round. She will have more information about this at the April HSTP meeting. Further, Hannah noted that the RTAC conference will occur on March 12 and 13.

Reema is beginning to transition into Hannah’s current role leading the HSTP meetings—these changes will be more evident in the next several months.

### **Discussion: Autonomous Mobility**

A new regional nonprofit called NexMobi, which is a partnership among CityLink, Tri-County, and other entities in the community, focuses on autonomous vehicles and their potential in the Peoria area. The regional team is planning to pursue a grant for up to \$10 million to carry out physical demonstrations of autonomous vehicles in the area. Hannah said there may be more community meetings regarding this topic.

### **Other**

Since there are several new faces coming onto the HSTP committee, Hannah conducted an HSTP 101 discussion session to help acclimate them and refresh others’ memories. Hannah explained that one of the goals of HSTP is to make the most of federal and state funding to support people who are elderly and those who are disabled. HSTP also identifies service gaps and overlaps. Debbie clarified that the group seeks to understand transportation needs and challenges across the full region—collaboration is key. Mary commented that it is valuable to meet face-to-face with others to spur further dialogue and communication. Audrey Barrett said that she has been able to connect with contacts and help solve issues that have arisen for her organization.

Ray asked how this group collaborates with political representatives and legislative issues. Andy said that he is currently talking with PACE’s CEO. He said that HSTP is the oversight agency aimed to collaborate with regional groups to share problems. He said that at the core, HSTP emerged from mandated programs that were put into place.

The question of minimum wage came up in the discussion. Some members commented that it is necessary to speak with legislators to understand how a possible increase in minimum wage will impact smaller, rural operations and their service. Mary said that for a variety of issues, it is imperative to visit and speak with as many political figures as possible because they listen to people, and it seals your place with them even if there is some disagreement. Andy said he is hoping to work with IPTA (Illinois Public Transit Association) to deliver a letter about this minimum wage issue and questions regarding its future.

Andy mentioned that Peoria will host the September 2020 IPTA conference, which will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GPMTD organization. He encouraged anyone in the group to join and become a member of IPTA. He said that Representative Darin LaHood will co-chair the bus caucus that advocates for equipment.

## **Adjournment**

Debbie Daykin moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mary Patton seconded. The meeting adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

—Submitted by Reema Abi-Akar & Hannah Martin