

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee

Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – 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 12:03 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
Vivian Hagaman	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	EPIC	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

~ = Present via phone or internet

Also in attendance:

Reema Abi-Akar, TCRPC

Michael Bruner, TCRPC

Adrianna Tuszynski, Snyder Village

Meghan Brake, Tazewell/Mason Special Ed

Marie Argubright, IVCIL

Troy Maxwell, WeCare

Melissa Ohrwall, IDOT

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of February 7, 2023 and April 11, 2023 minutes

The committee did not have a quorum to approve the previous meeting's minutes, so they were tabled until the next meeting.

4. Provider and Agency Updates

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott had no updates.

EPIC

Dawn Harper reported that EPIC has hired a new bus driver. She also reported that she has performed outreach to find a new mechanic and found that dealerships are the best option but usually come with a 60-90 day wait.

Paratransit User

Chris Mitchell mentioned that GPMTD's most recent WOW ADA Event was very successful. The event discussed the new updated passenger rules.

GPMTD

ShamRA Robinson reported that GPMTD collaborated with art partners to create a new bus wrap for Juneteenth, and she noted the unveiling date. She said that GPMTD is still looking for paratransit drivers. CityLink is also looking for bus operators as well. ShamRA also introduced CityLink's new Human Resources Director, Paige Herron. CityLink, in collaboration with Washington Township is looking to develop a marketing plan to increase the awareness of the paratransit service within Washington Township.

After the meeting, ShamRA amended her previous statement correcting the date. The actual unveiling date and time is 10 am on June 19th.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that the city needs a mechanic after the departure of one of their mechanics. Kraig says that they released an RFP for a transit study that looks into the expansion of their transportation system into the county and Warren County. The hope is that this study will open opportunities for new funding opportunities.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that their organization is finally back to being fully staffed. MSW projects is currently busy because their medical offices are playing catch up and two of their nursing homes no longer provide transportation for their residents. Traci also reported that there has been a

hospital closure and reopening in the area that has affected their ridership and their destinations. The bridge closure is causing transportation issues for their riders from Lacon and heading to Chillicothe.

Fulton County

Audra Miles had no updates.

Fulton County Rural Transit (FCRT)

Shelly Entrekin had no updates.

AARP

Mary Patton reported that AARP was successful in lobbying and was able to obtain \$1.7 million for adult day services transportation. She also reported that Ameren will go before the Illinois Commerce Commission to ask for additional rate increases. AARP will be testifying against these rate increases and is looking for support against these rate increases.

Snyder Village

Adrianna Tuszynski reported that Audrey Barrett will be leaving Snyder Village, and Snyder Village is actively looking for a replacement at the transportation coordinator position. Snyder Village is also taking recommendations for companies that perform lift maintenance for buses.

IVCIL

Marie Argubright noted that IVCIL has moved from the LaSalle office; they are now in Spring Valley. Their new address is 1 Lesbuzz Way, Spring Valley, IL 61362. The organization still operates out of their Streeter location on Tuesdays from 10 am to 2pm.

Marshall County Board

David Lueders had no updates. David made a comment that the bridge closure on Route 17 is causing transportation issues throughout the county.

IDOT

Melissa Ohrwall reported that IDOT has two new northern section project managers. CVP still has a request for bid out and IDOT is still waiting to find out if they received any grants that they applied for.

Tazewell/Mason County Special Ed

Meghan Brake reported that she is appreciative of the Washington Township Paratransit service and teaching the students how to use public transportation has been very helpful.

We Care

Troy Maxwell introduced himself as the new Director of Transportation for We Care and reported that We Care needs drivers. Sean Griffin reported that their TripMaster software is going well. The dispatchers and drivers find it easier, and We Care anticipates moving away from paper by July 1st.

TCRC

Greg Cassidy reported that TCRC purchased a new building that will be the home for their administration in downtown Pekin. TCRC has their 5310 review at the end of the month.

5. Discussion: Of the By-Law Changes

Reema gave an update on the by-law changes. The changes to the by-laws were mostly updates due to the Open Meetings Act and wording that was outdated. There were no additional comments.

6. Section 5310 Program Management Plan Update

Reema explained that Tri-County is required to have a Program Management Plan to outline the management procedures for the Section 5310 program, which affects the Peoria-Pekin urbanized area. This plan update was meant to make the process more current.

7. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema reported on TCRPC's community kick-off event. She also shared how TCRPC plans to update their Active Transportation Plan, which outlines the use of transportation in the form of walking, biking, and public transit. TCRPC applied for a Section 5305 Transit Planning grant, and if awarded, these funds will be used to perform a bus stop inventory. Reema reported that she is still conducting 5310 reviews.

8. Other

Reema posed the question if committee members were interested in having name tents to let people know who is in the room. The committee commented that they were fine with that.

ShamRA also noted that CityLink has released new rider guides.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:41 p.m.