

Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 3, 2021 – 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 12:05 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	
Mark Rudolph	KCCDD	Knox		X
Pamelyn Usher	City of Galesburg	Knox	X	
Hannah Fuchs	Marshall-Stark PCOM	Marshall	X	
David Lueders	Marshall County Board	Marshall	X	
Mary Patton	AARP	Peoria	X	
Andrew Dwyer	GPMTD - CountyLink	Peoria		X
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	X	
J. Thomas Howes	Stark County Board	Stark		X
Joe Roberts	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Brandon Hovey	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford		X
Mike Hutchinson	We Care	Woodford		X
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EPIC	Agency	X	
Jodi Scott**	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Angel Marinich	TransDev	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

Ray Lees, TCRPC

Michael Bennett, VNA

Audrey Barrett, Snyder Village

Gabriel Guevara, TCRPC

Bryan Schmid, HSTP Coordinator for Region 2

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of the June 1, 2021 Minutes

Mary Patton moved to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes, and Greg Cassidy seconded. The motion passed.

4. Provider and Agency Updates

Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy reported that TCRC has officially merged with WeCare and are beginning to merge services with transportation.

Transit User

Chris Mitchell noted that CityLift continues to work very well and has increased the number of places that she can go.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging

Renee Razo reported that Cliff Williams, their program manager for transportation services, is retiring and they are currently looking for a replacement.

TransDev: CityLift & CountyLink

Angel Marinich reported that they are improving on every performance measure. On-time performance has been in the upper 90s every day. Staff have been working to learn new software. She said that they have introduced a new database to look at pick-up times and cancellations. Angel and TransDev are looking to hire 10 more people to prepare for the influx anticipated to happen in the fall.

Advocates for Access

Jodi Scott reported that Adam Duvall is leaving the organization, and they are figuring out what they are going to do about the position.

EPIC

Dawn Harper noted that they are following CDC guidelines. Things are going well on their end.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that they finally can get caught up on payment delays that occurred when they did not have a PCOM.

AARP

Mary Patton reported that they are still dealing with Coronavirus issues.

Marshall County

David Lueders reported that he met with Traci Dowell and everything is going well on their end.

Marshall-Stark PCOM

Hannah Fuchs has also been working with Traci.

City of Galesburg

Pamelyn Usher-Miller had no updates.

KCCDD

Mark Rudolph reported that they are enjoying their two new vehicles.

Fulton County PCOM

Audra Miles has received their fiscal year 2022 contract, and the process is going more smoothly than last year.

FCRT/FCRC

Shelly Entrekin did not have updates.

Snyder Village

Audrey Barrett reported that Snyder Village is having mechanical issues with a new van, and the lift does not work. She said that the van is under warranty and they are having trouble finding the issue. Dawn Harper recognized this lift issue and suggested a fix for it that had worked on EP!C's vehicles. Audrey acknowledged this. Audrey also noted that Snyder Village needs drivers.

VNA

Michael Bennett reported that he is the new director of the VNA.

TCRPC

Ray Lees reported that micro-transit and autonomous vehicles studies are happening in the region.

5. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema explained what micro-transit is to the committee and how that relates to the grey area study. The public comment period for the grey area study has ended. The study focused on the Peoria urbanized area.

Reema reminded the group of the Grey Area report that Lochmueller conducted with Tri-County. This referred to parts of the urbanized area that are underserved by public transit. One of the main recommendations was a Microtransit option. Reema explained that this service would mimic Uber or Lyft, where people can request a ride via smartphone and it will arrive shortly after.

Simultaneously, the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District is collaborating with a consultant to conduct a separate study focusing specifically on Microtransit. This is identifying the logistics of potentially providing Microtransit in the region. There is no draft report yet for this, the team is still working on it.

6. Summary of Tri-County Stakeholder Informational Interviews

Gabriel gave a presentation on the findings from stakeholder interviews for the HSTP planning document. He explained that Tri-County staff conducted these interviews to prepare for the HSTP planning document and to engage stakeholders by understanding their organization, goals, and transportation needs.

As far as the findings, Gabriel noted that organizations said they need more drivers, more accessible vehicles, more transit options, more accessible transportation, and a more connected regional transit system. He noted that people requested the following from the HSTP committee: To continue to serve as a facilitator, source of information, and collaboration space.

7. 5310 Call for Projects

Reema explained that the 5310 call for projects has been delayed due to newfound information that there is additional funding via American Rescue Plan (ARP) and CRRSAA. Reema says she is hoping to release it this month, and she will send out notifications when it is released.

8. Discussion: Amending Bylaws to Include Virtual Attendance & Voting

Reema explained the need to vote on amending the by-laws to allow for virtual meeting participation. To our knowledge, the Governor has not extended the virtual meeting option, which means that people cannot participate in meetings virtually. Due to the interest in keeping a virtual option for HSTP, Reema explained that a majority of the group would have to vote to amend the by-laws to allow for attendance and voting virtually. There was no discussion about this topic.

9. Approval to Amend Bylaws to Include Virtual Attendance & Voting

Dawn Harper moved to amend the bylaws to include virtual attendance and voting, and Angel Marinich seconded. There was no further discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

10. Other

Reema noted that she might be out of town shortly before the upcoming meeting on October 5, so she asked if anyone has a conflict with moving the meeting to the 12th. Mary Patton noted that the 12th would not work for her. Reema said that we will keep the October 5th date for now, unless it is decided otherwise.

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 12:42 p.m.