

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

Tuesday, August 6, 2024 – 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 12:02 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
(Vacant)	(Vacant)	Peoria		
Traci Dowell	MSW Projects	Stark	~X	
Renee Razo	CIAOA	Stark	~X	
Meghan Brake	TMCSEA	Tazewell	X	
Max Schnieder	Tazewell County Board	Tazewell		X
Tyler Rogers	ADDWC	Woodford		X
(Vacant)	We Care	Woodford		
URBAN AREA SUBCOMMITTEE				
Dawn Harper	EP!C	Agency		X
Alexis Rhoades**	Advocates for Access	CIL	X	
Dr. ShamRA Robinson*	Greater Peoria Mass Transit District	Provider	X	
Angel Marinich*			~X	
Kylie Rathmann	Express Employment Professionals	Agency	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, TCRPC
Allison Borland, SEAPCO
Jessica Ortega, IVCIL

Ian Chenoweth, TCRPC
Gabriel Guevara, TCRPC
Jodie Vanderheydt, SEAPCO

While there was no quorum of the combined HSTP Steering Committee, a quorum of the Urban Area Subcommittee was present. David Lueders motioned to allow virtual participation for the Urban Subcommittee Members. Chris Mitchell seconded. The motion was carried by voice vote.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Approval of June 4, 2024 minutes

Greg Cassidy motioned to approve the minutes, and Kylie Rathmann seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved by the HSTP Urban Subcommittee members.

4. Presentation from Gabriel Guevara: Peoria Urban Transit Audit

Gabriel explained the scope and limitations of the Transit Audit that took place between July and October of 2023. The transit infrastructure and different features were graded based on 10 criteria, each utilizing a 10-point scale. The one or two Tri-County staff who carried out the audit would schedule trips using CityLink's apps, then take the trips and evaluate the trips and bus stops. Identified weaknesses included fare exchange, multimodality, and reliability. Riders commented on issues with wayfinding, infrastructure, and reliability, among other things.

Gabriel commented on several elements of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) systems that could be implemented in the Peoria Urbanized Area, even if the region does not have the density to support a full BRT transit system.

Recommendations for improvement include off-fare collection, intelligent transportation systems, intersection treatment, and platform docking. Conversations between TCRPC and CityLink have indicated there have been some improvements since the audit took place. Reema highlighted that the two auditors from TCRPC are not currently at the office, so the report was based on their notes.

Kylie Rathmann asked for more detail on the need for improvement in the Urbanized Area. Gabriel explained that the audit was based on the individual rider's experience within the Urbanized Area and not outside of it. Reema highlighted that themes from the audit will be incorporated into the Active Transportation Plan.

Jim Bremner asked if the audit focused only on Peoria or if it included areas of Pekin and East Peoria where transit is present. Gabriel explained that the audit covered all existing CityLink routes.

Chris Mitchell asked if any of the customers that were contacted shared their contact information to be followed up with. Gabriel responded that they did not. Chris followed up with recommendations for improving the audit process in the future.

Kylie commented that in the past, their organization had been hired to supply workers to conduct transit audits and they were not contacted this time. Gabriel commented that they had a conversation with CityLink previously on regularly performing transit audits.

Kylie asked where the information from the audit was going to go and how it would be used or implemented. Gabriel replied that it would be turned into a final report to be on the TCRPC website and incorporated into the Active Transportation Plan, as well as reported to CityLink.

5. Update from Jim Bremner: Washington as a Dementia Friendly Community

Jim Bremner commented that Washington applied to the national Dementia Friendly Communities network and was accepted based on their plan to improve dementia awareness in the community. The library is offering “stay sharp kits” for individuals to check out. Jim offered a handout on five ways to be dementia friendly in Washington. There is a dementia support group that meets for caregivers and individuals with dementia.

6. Provider and Agency Updates

Thrive Community Services

Joe Coffin gave no report.

Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)

Greg Cassidy reported they got approval of a couple buses and that they are waiting on approval of CARES money.

FCRT/FCRC

Shelly Entrekin gave no report.

Express Employment Professionals

Kylie Rathmann gave no report.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) – CityLink

Dr. ShamRA Robinson reported they just had their third annual ADA WWOW event that included several transit providers. They have secured over \$1

million for about 10 electric buses. They are partnering with local libraries in September to allow anyone with a library card to ride fixed-route buses at no charge.

Washington Township

Jim Bremner reported that transit and micro-transit services in Washington Township are operating well, and they are waiting for 5310 funding to be granted.

Special Education Association of Peoria County (SEAPCO)

Allison Borland reported that their students are starting again in the next week.

Tazewell-Mason Counties Special Education Association (TMCSEA)

Meghan Brake also reported that schools will start soon, so more students will use transportation.

Paratransit User

Connie Schiele gave no report.

MSW Projects

Traci Dowell reported that they are waiting for their new vehicles because they are down to one van with a lift. One of their vans was deemed unsafe due to rust on the bottom.

Central Illinois Agency on Aging (CIAOA)

Renee Razo reported that Eureka is also a dementia-friendly community with the same official designation.

Fulton County PCOM

Audra Miles gave no report.

Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD) – CountyLink and CityLift

Angel Marinich reported that they participated in the ADA WOW event and that they are actively recruiting drivers to address the driver shortage. The last few classes of applicants had few individuals pass for qualification reasons.

City of Galesburg

Kraig Boynton reported that they are in the process of working with a consultant on a transit study. They are in the process of doing public outreach at multiple locations. They are in the process of expanding services to cover all of Knox County. They also received approval to get new dispatch software.

Paratransit User

Chris Mitchell thanked CityLift for making it possible to attend the ADA WOW event. She recommended coordinating efforts across the region to address lift availability. She reported some residents who want to use lifts are not able to.

7. HSTP Coordinator Report

Reema reported that the available surveys are going to remain open to get more responses. Reema will reach out to specific agencies and providers to get more input.

Six Section 5310 funding applications have been submitted. They requested more funding than is available, so they will be reviewed in the future with the help of the Urban subcommittee members.

7. Other

a. Next meeting: Tuesday, October 1, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

Dave Lueders asked why they needed to attend in-person if a quorum and voting was possible with just the Urban subcommittee members. They stated they had an issue spending time attending when most items do not pertain to jurisdictions outside the urbanized area. Reema replied that they are open to ideas on better engaging the Rural subcommittee members.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 p.m.