

**Human Services Transportation Plan Steering Committee**  
**Tuesday, August 8, 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	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

~ = Present via phone or internet

Also in attendance:

Reema Abi-Akar, TCRPC

Michael Bruner, TCRPC

Gabriel Guevara, TCRPC

Melissa Ohrwall, IDOT

Chris McLaurin, Central Illinois Friends

Jim Bremner, Washington Township

Kylie Rothmann, Express Employment Professionals

Meghan Brake, Tazewell & Mason Counties Special Education Association

Marie Argubright, IVCIL

Adrianna Tuszynski, Snyder Village

Jared Arthur, Snyder Village

Rebecca Impens, Best Buddies

Heather Bouchez, Best Buddies

Loni Baker, Stone-Hayes CIL

## **2. Public Comment**

No public comment.

## **3. Approval of February 7, 2023, April 11, 2023, and June 6, 2023 minutes**

The committee did not have a quorum to approve the previous meetings. Reema noted that the group does not have to officially approve minutes from a meeting that did not have a quorum, so she said that for future meetings, she will not include minutes from meetings with no quorum in the agenda packet.

Reema also noted that all meetings will have documented minutes that will be posted on the Tri-County website for the past two fiscal years, regardless of quorum or lack thereof. No one was opposed to this.

## **4. Approve Bylaw Changes**

The committee did not have a quorum to adopt bylaw changes.

## **5. Presentation from Rebecca Impens, Best Buddies International**

Rebecca shared a presentation on digital accessibility. Her presentation covered font accessibility and the use of color to make graphics for people with disabilities. The recommendation is to use sans serif fonts to increase the ease of reading. When it comes with the use of colors for graphics or presentation, it is important to use contrasting colors for accessibility.

## **6. Provider and Agency Updates *Advocates for Access***

Jodi Scott reported that there was a meeting at the Statewide Independent Living Council where transit partners from around Illinois gathered concerns about public transportation. There is currently a form that people can fill out and submit their concerns to any of the Centers for Independent Living.

### ***Paratransit User***

Chris Mitchell mentioned her experiences traveling to and from Macomb. She shared that she has had positive experiences, and the drivers have been extremely helpful and have positive attitudes.

### ***Greater Peoria Mass Transit District (GPMTD)***

ShamRA Robinson reported that GPMTD will be holding a job fair at CityLink. CityLink also recently got a new HR director. The positions available at the job fair were drivers for fixed-route, CityLift, and CountyLink vehicles.

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

Kraig Boynton reported that they are currently looking for a transit shop foreman and part-time fixed route and paratransit drivers, as well as dispatchers. They also completed an RFP for a transit study for Knox County, and they are waiting on IDOT's approval to move forward to perform the transit study. Currently, Kraig is working on an RFP to get new dispatcher software.

### ***MSW Projects***

Traci Dowell reported that they will be losing two drivers. St Margret's has closed their medical facilities, and because of this closure, they are having more travel to Ottawa and Pontiac. This increased transport demand is impacting the number of rides that they offer in a day.

### ***Fulton County Rural Transit (FCRT)***

Shelly Entrekin had no updates.

### ***AARP***

Mary Patton reported that they received money for adult day service transportation. They are currently working on the intervening Illinois Commerce Commission cases for Ameren and People's Gas. AARP is hosting a hearing for People's Gas.

### ***Snyder Village***

Adrianna Tuszynski reported that Jared Arthur is replacing Audrey Barrett at Snyder Village. Snyder Village went through their 5310 review. They were successful in finding a person to work on their vehicle lifts.

### ***IVCIL***

Marie Argubright had no updates.

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

David Lueders had no updates.

### ***Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)***

Melissa Ohrwall reported that IDOT is currently out for bid for vehicle manufacturers. IDOT is anticipating that within the next couple months, they will be able to provide notices to agencies on the kinds of vehicles that they can award.

### ***Central Illinois Friends***

Chris McLaurin had no updates.

### ***Tazewell County Resource Centers (TCRC)***

Greg Cassidy reported that they had their 5310 review.

### ***Express Employment Professionals***

Kylie reported that she is having trouble getting her qualified employees to their jobs due a lack of reliable transportation.

### ***TransDev (CityLift/CountyLink)***

Angel Marinich reported that they are continuing to recruit drivers and are in need of utility workers and dispatchers. They are continuing to work on their on-time service and have increased their consumer reviews.

### ***Washington Township***

Jim Bremner reported that ridership is up, and the Township is currently looking to expand ridership. They will have a brainstorming session to think of innovative ways to get the word out and make people aware of the service.

## **7. HSTP Coordinator Report**

Reema gave an update about TCRPC's attendance at the ADA WOW event. TCRPC used this event as an opportunity to gain information for their Active Transportation Plan. Reema conducted several 5310 reviews and will follow up with agencies. There will be some changes to the committee, as some people will be shifting over or leaving the committee. Reema also made an announcement about the availability for 5310 funds, which will be coming up soon.

## **8. Other**

Reema shared that the next HSTP meeting needs to be rescheduled due to her schedule, and the group suggested creating an online poll to determine the new date. Angel Marinich mentioned that CountyLink is hiring.

## **9. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:09 p.m.