



**TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION**

456 FULTON STREET, SUITE 420

PEORIA, IL 61602

Phone: 309-673-9330

[www.tricountyrpc.org](http://www.tricountyrpc.org)

**Ways & Means Committee: February 5, 2025, 8:00 a.m. - canceled**

**Full Commission/Executive Board (in lieu of Lack of Quorum): February 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m.**

**1. Call to Order, Welcome, Recognition of Audience**

Chairman Greg Menold called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**2. Roll Call**

Commissioner	Present	Absent	Commissioner	Present	Absent
<b>Don White</b> Chillicothe	X		<b>Leon Ricca</b> Bartonville		X
<b>Rita Ali</b> City of Peoria		X	<b>Nate Parrott</b> Morton	X	
<b>Patrick Ulrich</b> City of Peoria	X		<b>Autum Jones</b> Woodford Co.	X	
<b>Rick Powers</b> City of Peoria	X		<b>Chuck Nagel</b> Woodford Co.	X	
<b>Terry Keogel</b> Creve Coeur		X	<b>Camille Coates</b> Peoria Co.	X	
<b>John Kahl</b> East Peoria	X		<b>Danny Phelan</b> Peoria Co.	X	
<b>Ann Doubet</b> Germantown Hills	X		<b>Russ Crawford</b> Tazewell Co.	X	
<b>Mike Phelan</b> Peoria Heights		X	<b>Greg Menold</b> Tazewell Co.	X	
<b>Mary Burress</b> City of Pekin	X		<b>Don Knox</b> CityLink	~X	
<b>Gary Manier</b> Washington		X	<b>Karen Dvorsky</b> IDOT	X	
<b>James Dillon</b> West Peoria	X				

~ = Virtual participant

Also Present: Ray Lees, Rebecca Eisele, Eric Miller, Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner, Debbi La Rue, Else Hayes, Isaiah Hageman, Logan Chapman, Adam Crutcher, and Lori Reynolds, TCRPC; Doug DeLille, IDOT; Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women Voters; Amanda Beadles, Chillicothe. Don Knox, CityLink, attended virtually.

**3. Public Comment**

Amanda Beadles, Economic Development Director from Chillicothe, praised Tri-County staff for finding grant money to help reduce Chillicothe’s expense for their comprehensive plan. She said that Debbi La Rue and Else Hayes were exceptional in going through the 140 objectives and strategies. Ann Doubet agreed, saying that they were equally helpful with Germantown Hills’ plan.

**4. Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes of December 4, 2024**

Don White moved to approve the December 4, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by John Kahl. Motion carried.

**5. Chairman Report**

None

**6. Executive Director report**

a. Eric Miller reported on the following:

- Monitoring executive orders coming from Washington to see how they apply to Tri-County. Patience is the key.
- No current grants coming from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), so no work for us in that area, but there will be in the next cycle.
- Passenger rail Phase I is almost complete, still being funded and on schedule. Phase II is to be 90% paid by the federal government.
- Chillicothe viaduct benefit cost analysis shows we need more cooperation, coordination and collaboration from the railroad. Working to leverage Congressman LaHood’s office to get railroad to the table.
- Tri-County’s comprehensive planning submission to IDOT’s State Planning and Research Grant was turned down last year due to its lack of link to transportation, so we need to make sure there is a strong link to transportation. Contact our staff for assistance.

**7. Public Meeting for Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Update**

Russ Crawford motioned to open a public meeting to review the HSTP updated document, and the motion was seconded by Danny Phalen. Motion carried.

Reema Abi-Akar presented the updated document, which focuses on transportation needs for seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income populations, veterans, and other transit-dependent groups. The plan includes updated demographic maps and charts based on the latest census data, highlighting the concentration of transit-dependent populations in the region, as well as survey data, and a 30-day public comment period. Hard copies are available at local libraries, public transit agencies, and Tri-County’s office. A legal notice was printed in the newspaper, and a digital version of the plan is accessible on the Tri-County Website for review and feedback.

Cheryl Budzinski requested that The Community Word be added to the distribution list for public notice.

Russ Crawford motioned to close the public meeting, which was seconded by James Dillon. The motion carried.

**8. Ways and Means Report**

a. **Motion to approve the December 2024 Financial Statements and Billings (Resolution 25-34)**

Camille Coates moved to approve the December 2024 Financial Statements and Billings (Resolution 25-34); Don White seconded the motion. Rebecca Eisele reported on the December 2024 financial statements:

- Total Operating Cash at the end of the month was \$1,007,938. Operating cash increased by \$48,369 in December, compared to November.
- Total Accounts Receivable balance at the end of the month was \$366,539. Of the A/R balance, \$299,161 was federal funds, \$52,587 was state funds, and \$14,791 was local funds.
- Accounts Payable balance at the end of December was \$140,351. Of that amount, \$137,437 was unpaid pass-through expenses as of the end of December. The remaining Accounts Payable balance of \$2,914 was regular monthly bills unpaid on the last day of the month.
- Total Revenue for December was \$158,399.
- Total Expenses for December were \$181,794.
- December ended with a deficit of \$23,395.

Motion carried.

**b. Discussion- Development of a financial contingency plan related to state or federal funding interruptions**

Eric Miller reported on President Trump's Executive Orders from the previous week that paused all transportation funding, including Tri-County's funding for a brief time. After calls to Chairman Coates and to Rebecca, Tri-County's accountant, it was determined that the Ways & Means Committee will need to develop a contingency plan should a pause in State and/or Federal funding becomes a reality. They will recommend to the Executive Committee, then to the Full Commission.

Doug DeLille from IDOT reported that there is still some uncertainty, but if there is a signed agreement, the State is obligated to follow through. IDOT is working fast to get projects under agreement so they can get started before funds may be cut.

**9. Administration**

**a. Motion to approve Employee Health Insurance Renewal (Resolution 25-32)**

John Kahl motioned to approve the Employee Health Insurance Renewal (Resolution 25-32), and Nate Parrot seconded the motion. Eric Miller stated the overall increase was about 7%, which was considered favorable. Motion carried.

**b. Motion to approve General Liability Insurance Renewal (Resolution 25-33)**

Patrick Urich motioned to approve General Liability Insurance Renewal (Resolution 25-33), and Don White seconded the motion. Eric Miller stated the overall increase is a modest \$400. Motion carried.

**c. Motion to approve Promotion in Place for selected Commission Employees (Resolution 25-35)**

John Kahl motioned to approve Promotion in Place for selected Commission Employees (Resolution 25-35), and Camille Coates seconded the motion. Eric Miller reported that Logan Chapman has made valuable contributions to the GIS team and the overall Commission over the last 3 ½ years, and recommended promotion from GIS Specialist I to GIS Specialist II, with a corresponding salary adjustment. Motion carried.

**d. Motion to approve Out of State Travel (Resolution 25-38)**

Russ Crawford motioned to approve Out of State Travel (Resolution 25-38), which was seconded by Mary Burress. Eric Miller reported that there are two Planners who would like to attend the National Planning Conference in Denver, CO, with the budget being covered by the UPWP. Motion carried.

**10. Transportation**

**a. Motion to approve the Following Amendments to the FY 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Resolution 25-36)**

John Kahl motioned to approve the Following Amendments to the FY 2025-28 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) (Resolution 25-36) and Nate Parrott seconded the motion.

Reema Abi-Akar presented the following descriptions of each project amendment:

- i. Project W-25-01 Washington Safe Routes to School Phase II
- ii. Project W-24-04 Washington Safe Routes to School Phase I and II
  1. These two TIP amendments are connected. Project W-25-01 will merge with Project W-24-04, making them one project under TIP number W-24-04.
  2. This amendment will update the project location description, action, and funding breakdown.

Motion carried.

**b. Discussion of FY 2026-29 Transportation Improvement Plan**

Debbi La Rue discussed the update process for the 2026-2029 Transportation Improvement Program, requesting local jurisdictions to review and ensure the accuracy of the project information.

**c. Discussion of FY 2026 Unified Planning and Work Program**

Reema Abi-Akar provided an update on the development of the FY26 UPWP, including the budget and schedule for submission and approval. The Commission is receiving approximately \$1.2 million in federal and state funding for the program.

**11. GIS**

**a. Motion to approve the Executive Director to enter into and implement a contract with IT Unified for Hosting the Commission's GIS Server (Resolution 25-37)**

Patrick Urich motioned to approve the Executive Director to enter into and implement a contract with IT Unified for Hosting the Commission's GIS Server (Resolution 25-37), and Russ Crawford seconded the motion.

Isaiah Hageman stated the contract will include redundant internet connection, power, server management, firewall management, and VPN connections. The previous contract expired January 30, 2025. The contract with IT Unified will keep all IT administration and data hosting under one vendor, streamlining the Commission's IT needs and services.

Motion carried.

**12. Updates**

**a. Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050**

Reema Abi-Akar stated that staff have been actively working on the LRTP, and it is very close to being completed. We are reviewing some guidelines from USDOT and IDOT to make sure we have everything squared away from that perspective.

- i. We anticipate finalizing the draft by next month's Commission meeting.
- ii. Then, we will have a 30-day public comment period just like for the HSTP document.

**b. IDOT**

Doug DeLille had no updates.

**c. FHWA**

No updates.

**13. Other**

- a. Eric Miller reminded the Commission members to complete the Open Meetings Act training and submit their certificates to Lori for record-keeping.
- b. Next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

**14. Adjournment**

Autum Jones moved to adjourn the meeting, and Patrick Urich seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Submitted by: Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded and transcribed by: Lori Reynolds, Office Administrator