



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
 456 FULTON STREET, SUITE 420
 PEORIA, IL 61602
 Phone: 309-673-9330
www.tricountyrpc.org

Full Commission/Executive Board (in lieu of Lack of Quorum): March 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
Amanda Beadles Chillicothe	X		Leon Ricca Bartonville	X	
Rita Ali City of Peoria	X		Nate Parrott Morton	X	
Patrick Urich City of Peoria	X		Autum Jones Woodford Co.	X	
Rick Powers City of Peoria	X		Chuck Nagel Woodford Co.		X
Terry Keogel Creve Coeur	X		Camille Coates Peoria Co.	X	
John Kahl East Peoria	X		Danny Phelan Peoria Co.	X	
Karl Figg Germantown Hills	X		Russ Crawford Tazewell Co.	X	
Mike Phelan Peoria Heights		X	Greg Menold Tazewell Co.	X	
Mary Burress City of Pekin	X		Don Knox CityLink	~X	
Gary Manier Washington	x		Karen Dvorsky IDOT		X
James Dillon West Peoria	X				

~ = Virtual participant

Also Present: Ray Lees, Rebecca Eisele, Eric Miller, 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; Don Knox, CityLink, attended virtually.

3. Public Comment

Eric Miller welcomed Cheryl Budzinski from the League of Women Voters, and introduced new Commissioners Karl Figg, Mayor of Germantown Hills, and Amanda Beadles, Economic Development Director of Chillicothe.

4. Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2025

Rick Powers moved to approve the February 5, 2025 meeting minutes, seconded by Nate Parrott. Motion carried.

5. Chairman Report

None

6. Executive Director report

a. Eric Miller reported on the following:

- TCRPC is continuing to monitor executive orders coming from Washington to see how they apply to Tri-County.
- The EPA Brownfield project consultant is now under contract. The project will mainly deal with the City of Peoria, as well as some parts of Peoria County and Bartonville.
- Tri-County staff are working on the FY26 budget; we will present a draft next month.
- Tri-County will provide a recommendation for an auditor next month.

7. Public Meeting for Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050 Update

Russ Crawford motioned to open a public meeting to review the LRTP 2050 Update, and the motion was seconded by Leon Ricca. Motion carried.

Michael Bruner shared an overview of the LRTP document, which is federally required (49 US Code 5303) for communities with 50,000 or more residents. Local officials are called upon to cooperate with states and public transportation providers in undertaking a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative (3C) multimodal transportation planning process. The work includes developing a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), engaging the public with a Public Participation Plan (PPP), preparing and maintaining a Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and developing a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Debbie La Rue shared information about MPO Project Funding and Prioritization, which includes reviewing the Commission's Special Transportation Studies program, outlining the MPO federal transportation programming process, using the combined call for projects as an example, and lastly, summarizing the regional prioritization process, which resulted in the compilation of 12 regionwide project priorities.

Michael then went over the sections on financial planning and travel demand modeling for the next 25 years.

Adam Crutcher presented information on the Fixed Route Transit Audit, which involved 2 staff members physically riding every CityLink bus route to identify positive and negative aspects to identify which aspects need funding to improve services.

Michael stated that the document is now in public review at 20 libraries in the tri-county area until April 1. Staff will review again next month to prepare for adoption.

Rick Powers engaged the group in a discussion of the need for more attention to the ADA requirements and requiring better services to meet the needs of the disabled. Eric remarked that Tri-County is a good resource to find funding to help communities meet their ADA requirements. IDOT offers assistance in this as well. Eric requested the Commission members to contact Tri-County if they do not have a plan to become compliant with ADA requirements.

Russ Crawford motioned to close the public meeting, seconded by Autum Jones. Motion carried.

8. Ways and Means Report

a. **Motion to approve the January 2025 Financial Statements and Billings (Resolution 25-39)**

Camille Coates moved to approve the January 2025 Financial Statements and Billings (Resolution 25-39); Leon Ricca seconded the motion. Rebecca Eisele reported on the January 2025 financial statements:

- Total Operating Cash at the end of the month was approximately \$845k. Operating cash decreased by \$162k in January, compared to December.
- Total Accounts Receivable balance at the end of the month was \$369k. Of the A/R balance, \$299k was federal funds, \$53k was state funds, and \$17k was local funds.
- Accounts Payable balance at the end of the month was \$23k, and of that amount there was \$21k in unpaid pass-through expenses as of the end of January. The remaining \$2k Accounts Payable balance at the end of January was for regular bills.
- Total Revenue for January was \$119k.
- Total Expenses for January were \$107k.
- January ended with a surplus of approximately \$12.5k.
- Approximately \$31k of local TCRPC funds have been used in FY25 for local matching funds for grants.
- Fiscal Year 2025 has a surplus of approximately \$196k.

Motion carried.

b. **Discussion- Federal Grant Funding Contingency Plan**

Eric Miller reported that the Commission has not yet been impacted, but there have been two threats that were fortunately rescinded. As discussed in the Ways & Means meeting, the Commission has 11 months of unrestricted funds saved if necessary to continue doing our work if an executive order would stop our funding. Our work is 80% federally funded, so we are keeping a close eye on DC.

Doug DeLille from IDOT reported that there is a large group working together to tell the feds what the impact of the cuts is, unless the orders are rescinded. FHWA had 34 staff members; now they have 19. Todd Schmidt is the new contact there. Doug stated that TIPs are being approved, and the state is operating as usual. Anything new coming in might get hung up. New discretionary programs are questionable. NEVI and any green projects are at risk.

c. **Amendment to the capitalization policy to update the capitalization threshold (Resolution 25-40)**

John Kahl moved to approve the Amendment to the capitalization policy to update the capitalization threshold (Resolution 25-40). Terry Keogel seconded the motion.

Rebecca Eisele reported that most of this is already in our capitalization policy, but the auditor suggested increasing the amount at the last audit since everything is getting more expensive. The amount was previously set at \$2,500, but we are increasing it to \$5,000, and anything over that will need to be depreciated. We recently had to start tracking subscription-based information technology arrangements. This needs to be amortized over the life of the contract. We only need to track if it's over \$5,000 over 12 months.

Motion carried.

9. Administration

a. **Motion to amend the purchase for maintenance of GIS software from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) (Resolution 25-41)**

Nate Parrott motioned to amend the purchase for maintenance of GIS software from Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) (Resolution 25-41). John Kahl seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that through a change of staff there was a bit of a mix-up with the invoice, so we owe \$11,000 more than what was approved in July. It is in the budget; we're just looking for approval to pay. It had previously been software license-based, but is now service-based, which is more costly. Staff is developing a plan for communities that don't pay into this that they will have a fee plan that will directly contribute to this.

Motion carried.

b. **Motion to approve the Executive Director entering into a contract with Logan County for GIS Services (Resolution 25-42)**

Autum Jones motioned to approve the Executive Director entering into a contract with Logan County for GIS Services (Resolution 25-42). Russ Crawford seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that we've provided GIS technical services with Logan County for several years, so this \$45,000 contract would just be renewing that plan.

Motion carried.

10. Transportation

a. **Motion to approve the Executive Director entering into a contract with the City of Chillicothe and Hanson Professional Services to execute additional Benefit-Cost Analysis Studies (Resolution 25-43)**

Karl Figg motioned to approve the Executive Director entering into a contract with the City of Chillicothe and Hanson Professional Services to execute additional Benefit-Cost Analysis Studies (Resolution 25-43). John Kahl seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this project is in our LRTP, which includes a list of regional priorities. We are here to advance regional priorities as much as possible. We recently wrapped up a Benefit-Cost Analysis for Chillicothe related to the IL-29 BNSF viaduct. We've identified several scope items that we would like the consultant to work on that would advance the project and hopefully produce future funding. This would allow Chillicothe to develop a strategic plan to work with the railroads and IDOT to advance this to a federal discretionary fund application. Tri-County needs to present all the stakeholders with a well thought-out plan. IDOT has agreed to include engineering for the road portion in the next state transportation plan, which is a positive move forward. Chillicothe has approved 50% of the work, and we'd like to approve the other 50% in the amount not to exceed \$50,000.

Russ Crawford pointed out that this is not just a Chillicothe project; it is a regional project. IL-29 is an important route to the north.

Motion carried.

b. **Motion to approve the Commission entering into a Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Peoria in support of Passenger Rail Service and Financial Participation in the Development of a Service Development Plan for the Federal Rail Administration's Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program (Resolution 25-44)**

Rita Ali motioned to approve the Commission entering into a Cost Sharing Agreement with the City of Peoria in support of Passenger Rail Service and Financial Participation in the Development of a Service

Development Plan for the Federal Rail Administration's Rail Corridor Identification and Development Program (Resolution 25-44). Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this would extend the agreement for 2 years by adding \$50,000 of local funds. Passenger rail has been on our priority list for a number of years, but it has been difficult to get anyone's attention at the state and federal levels. Mayor Ali has been able to bring about the program where it needs to be to get funded.

Mayor Rita Ali reported that this has been a collaborative, non-partisan project for 3 years, with the help of former Secretary Ray LaHood, IDOT, businesses, industries, Congressmen LaHood and Sorensen, and state representatives from Peoria all the way to Chicago. It was a local project but turned into a state project when it was accepted into the state rail plan, and now it's a federal project because it's part of the Federal Rail Administration's corridor identification plan. It's a 3-step process, and we're ready to move from Step 1 – the scope – which was originally thought to be \$2 million but that has doubled to \$4 million. Partners are all pitching in from the city, county, and all along the corridor, including Tri-County. So, we're asking for additional funding since the cost has doubled. Amtrak came last week to visit potential sites. We only have to get to Joliet, then Amtrak will take it the rest of the way to Union Station in Chicago. This will be an economic driver not just for Peoria but for the whole region through Joliet. Once Step 2, the service delivery plan, is completed, with a 10% match, then Step 3 is engineering and environmental, and that requires a 20% match.

City Manager Patrick Ulrich reported that the 10% match of \$400,000 requires our partners up north to put in \$65,000; Peoria County will be asked for \$50,000; we'll reach out to IDOT; plus, there is \$53,000 unspent from the application process, so that will get us to the \$400,000 we need.

There was a brief discussion of the history of the project and support from different areas and groups.

c. Discussion of FY 2026 Unified Planning Work Program

Michael Bruner shared the UPWP Draft document, which has been to the Technical Committee for their review, and asked the Commissioners to supply comments prior to the Technical Committee meeting this month on the 19th. Please provide any comments to Michael or Eric prior to the 19th. At that time, they will recommend it for approval at the April Commission meeting.

d. Discussion regarding IDOT funding requests follow-ups

Michael Bruner shared that at the end of the workday February 18th, IDOT requested a list of local projects to apply under program funding. Eligible projects were unfunded or underfunded projects from a recent local call for projects that lie within a disadvantaged community. Staff compiled a list of projects we believe meet IDOT's criteria from the call for projects from FY20 and FY22 STBG, or call for projects from the FY23 TAP funding, and our most recent FY24 combined call for projects, which totaled 38 projects. IDOT's initial review cut the list down to 31 projects. Staff will keep the Commission updated.

11. Updates

a. IDOT

Doug DeLille had no additional updates.

b. FHWA

No updates.

12. 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. Economic Interest Statements are due to Peoria County by May 1, then fines start being applied.
- c. Next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

13. Adjournment

Mayor Rita Ali moved to adjourn the meeting, and Nate Parrott seconded. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Submitted by: Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded by: Michael Brunner

Transcribed by: Lori Reynolds