

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

**Grey Area Mobility Enhancement and Expansion Study Virtual
Community Workshop**

Occurring October 21 at Noon and 6 PM

Tri-County Regional Planning is seeking input from the public on how to improve and expand mobility solutions for residents in the “Grey Area”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 26, 2020

**Join us for an interactive virtual meeting to learn about the Grey Area
Mobility Enhancement and Expansion Study!**

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission (TCPRC) is hosting a virtual community workshop as part of the planning process to develop a Mobility Enhancement and Expansion Study for underserved communities in the urbanized area. Within the Peoria-Pekin Urbanized Area there are seventeen municipalities—of which three municipalities belong to the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District and only two other communities contract with GPMTD to provide fixed route and complementary paratransit service for their citizens. As a result, twelve municipalities and over 87,000 people do not have reliable access to public transportation service. This large unserved area is termed as the Grey Area. The Grey Area Mobility Enhancement and Expansion Study will outline mobility for need-based service expansions and funding analysis to prioritize limited transit operations funding.

Originally anticipated as in-person events, the workshop has been reimagined in a virtual format for the safety of all attendees and staff. There are two opportunities to participate:

Wednesday October 21

Lunchtime Workshop

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/123390499305>

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Wednesday October 21

Evening Workshop

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/123391219459>

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

“The Community Workshop is a key component in developing an effective solution for the Grey Area, and everyone is invited and encouraged to attend,” said Greater Peoria Mass Transit District’s Director of Mobility, Andrew Dwyer. The virtual meeting will provide an interactive opportunity for participants to guide discussions about the Grey Area’s mobility

needs, review early study findings, and identify transportation opportunities in Peoria's Grey Area.

Both lunchtime and evening presentations will be recorded and posted to the Tri-County's website <https://tricityrpc.org/tranit> for those who are unable to attend live. You are encouraged to submit questions and provide your thoughts on how our regional transportation system can be improved in the future by contacting Reema Abi-Akar at [309-673-9330](tel:309-673-9330) or rabiakar@tricityrpc.org. Comments by mail can be sent to the Grey Area, 456 Fulton St, Suite 401, Peoria, IL, 61602.

Mobility refers to having quality transportation options. A quality transportation option would be reliable, sustainable, affordable, safe, and secure. The study is focused on fulfilling the following objectives:

- Identifying the extent of unmet mobility demand in the Grey Area.
- Conducting an intense and meaningful stakeholder and public engagements.
- Comprehensive evaluation of federal, state, and other funding opportunities to improve mobility options.
- Recommending the most appropriate mobility solutions for the Grey Area based on need analysis, public engagements, and possible funding opportunities.

For more information about the Grey Area Mobility Enhancement and Expansion Study, visit <https://tricityrpc.org/tranit>.

Media coverage is welcome.

For more information about the Virtual Community Workshop, please contact Senior Planner Katy Shackelford 540-835-7542 or kshackelford@lochgroup.com.