TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
EST. 1958

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
456 Fulton St. Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

CHUCK NAGEL, CHAIRMAN
(Danny Phelan, John Kahl, Greg Menold, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Patrick Urich, Autum Jones)

Monday, August 18, 2025 9:00 a.m.
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**
   Chairman Chuck Nagel called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**
   Present: Chuck Nagel, Danny Phelan, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Patrick Urich, Autum Jones.
   Absent: John Kahl and Greg Menold.
   Also present were Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner, and Lori Reynolds from TCRPC.

3. **Public Input**: None

4. **Motion to approve May 19, 2025, minutes**
   Danny Phelan motioned to approve the May 19, 2025 minutes, and Patrick Urich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **Executive Director Report**
   a. Eric Miller reported that staff worked diligently with Kathie Brown from Greater Peoria Economic Development Council to complete the USDA grant, which will match funds from Peoria County to facilitate housing planning in the region, specifically Peoria and Tazewell Counties. Peoria County hasn't received funds yet, but Tazewell County has agreed to participate. This will be using Energy Transition Funds from the state. We will work with the funding we have to get the project started and look for more money down the road.
      i. Russ Crawford stated that he had attended the executive meeting that Kathie Brown presented at, and she answered a lot of very difficult questions with ease.
   b. Ray Lees and Else Hayes attended Brownfield conference in Chicago last week. Brownfield assessment has started on the first project, the PNC Bank building. Still looking for more projects.
   c. Ray has set up meetings for Heart of Illinois Regional Port District with some consultants. Once they get situated, we will step back. There will be a presentation at the next Commission meeting.
      i. Russ Crawford mentioned to be sure to remind the consultant to keep it to our five-county region of ports, not the whole state.
   d. Eric stated that he has been attending Pekin Chamber of Commerce meetings for three years. The City of Pekin has purchased the Lutticken property which is slated for major economic development, in hopes of merging it with the Veteran's Drive/I-474 engineering plan, so they may be asking for funding to study and support this project. TCRPC will help them in any way we can, as we did with passenger rail and the Chillicothe Viaduct.

6. **Discussion and Recommendation to Full Commission the Formation of a Transportation Safety Committee**

Eric Miller stated at the June Commission meeting, Safe Streets For All (SS4A) was approved and staff were tasked with formalizing a safety committee of multi-faceted, multi-professional individuals. Michael Bruner outlined the current plan for the Transportation Safety Committee.

- During the development of the Tri-County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), a Project Steering Committee was established to provide expert input, review technical materials, and represent key stakeholder perspectives.
    - During the development of the plan, this group proved to be a valuable resource
- To aid in the implementation and monitoring of the Tri-County CSAP, Staff proposes the formation of a Regional Transportation Safety Committee, comprised of similar representation from the Steering Committee, with some minor modifications based on what we learned from the development process.
- Proposed Committee Role
    - Guide implementation efforts such as priority projects, programs, and policies
    - Monitor plan progress and review annual crash data and performance metrics
    - Assist with the annual development and reporting on federally required transportation safety measures.
    - Maintain public dialogue on roadway safety and seek funding to help with public awareness
- Membership
    - 21-member board appointed by the Commission
        - Chair and Vice Chair elected every other year for a two-year term
    - Composition
        - Advocacy and community representation
            - 2 positions
        - Business, Industry, and Media
            - 3 positions
        - Education and training
            - 3 positions
        - First responders & Enforcement
            - 5 positions
        - Human Services
            - 3 positions
        - Transportation and Infrastructure
            - 5 positions

Reema Abi-Akar stated they have a general idea of who could fill the positions.

Danny Phelan suggested adding laborers to the list of participants. The road construction sector has lost several members due to fatal accidents on the job so they need to be involved to provide their input. He has someone in mind. To accommodate this recommendation, one Labor position was added to the Business, Industry, & Media group, and one position was removed from the Human Services group.

Chairman Nagel asked what happens with recommendations made by the Safety Committee. Michael explained that the recommendations would go to the Technical Committee for discussion and potential recommendation to the Full Commission.

Eric stated that opportunities are slipping by due to agencies not having the ability or staff to apply for funding, and now that the State is focusing on safety, we need to have a list of recommendations ready. Need to involve cultural awareness, and reinforce safety through the media, and regionally.

Chairman Nagel stated staff has done excellent work and needs to be sure to choose individuals who are committed to the cause and will attend the meetings. He asked about a timeline. Michael stated there will be a list of names at the next Executive meeting.

Camilla Coates stated that it should be a racially and economically diverse group.

Russ Crawford asked if there is an exit plan if individuals don't show up. Reema stated her HSTP Committee has a plan in their bylaws, she will look it up and work it into the finalized plan.

7. **Executive Session to Discuss Executive Director Review**
   At 9:52 a.m., Chairman Nagel moved to discuss the Executive Director's review in Executive Session, pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

   Executive Session concluded at 9:55 a.m. with no action taken.

8. **Other**
   a. The next meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.; however, Chairman Nagel will consider the availability of members and necessity of meeting, and may cancel with 10 days notice.

9. **Adjournment**
   Autum Jones made a motion to adjourn, which Patrick Urich seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:56 a.m.

Submitted by: Eric Miller, Executive Director
Recorded and transcribed by: Lori Reynolds