



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, March 16, 2026 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order**

Chairman Chuck Nagel called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

2. **Roll Call**

Present: Chuck Nagel, John Kahl, Danny Phelan, Autum Jones, Camille Coates, Greg Menold, Patrick Urich. Russ Crawford joined virtually.

Also present were Eric Miller, Reema Abi-Akar, Michael Bruner and Lori Reynolds from TCRPC.

3. **Public Input**

None.

4. **Motion to approve January 19, 2026 minutes**

Greg Menold made a motion to approve January 19, 2026 minutes and John Kahl seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

5. **Motion to Retain as Confidential or Release to Public the following Executive Session minutes:**

- August 17, 2014
- February 23, 2015
- March 2, 2015
- March 11, 2015
- March 16, 2015
- June 20, 2016
- October 15, 2018

John Kahl made a motion to retain the above-listed Executive Session minutes and Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

6. Executive Director report

Eric Miller shared the following:

- a. Staff are in the beginning stages of developing the FY27 budget
 - b. Transportation section of UPWP submitted to IDOT, draft will be shared at next month's meeting
 - c. Staff are interviewing interns for this summer
 - d. Federal MPO certification was last week. Eric shared a list of the many accomplishments of staff over the last four years that impacted many communities. Kudos to staff for all their hard work over the years and for a successful certification.
 - e. Chillicothe board is reluctant to accept \$1 million to lead the viaduct plan, and Peoria County is also reluctant. It's a state highway and a railroad, not really a city issue.
 - i. Russ Crawford asked if there was a grant that would help Chillicothe change their mind? Eric said the county board was willing to pay half of the cost, but it would be considered 'enabling' the Chillicothe board when they may not support the project. It would be a multi-jurisdictional, regional link to the IL-29 business park that the county has in the works.
 - ii. Russ additionally asked if the Chillicothe public knows what's going on. Eric responded that about 25 people turned up for an open house. Can't get it to a Council vote.
 - iii. Danny Phelan doesn't see Peoria County giving much with the other projects in the works.
- 7. Discussion of FY 26 Financial Audit, option to request letter of engagement from incumbent auditor MH Accounting or seek proposals from qualified firms.**

After a brief discussion, the Executive Board agreed to engage MH.

8. Discussion and recommendation to move forward to full Commission a Resolution of Support for State Rail Planning Act (HB 4279)

Eric Miller referred to the information in the packet. The plan for passenger rail frequencies is every two hours, which seems excessive. Patrick Urich agreed that it is excessive and will probably be modified over time. Eric will write a carefully worded resolution that doesn't commit to every two hours.

9. Discussion of and recommendation to move forward a Resolution of Support to full Commission HB 7437, the BASICS (Bridges And Safety Infrastructure for Community Success) Act) Resolution 26-44

Eric Miller reported that this Resolution of Support would cause the Federal government to rewrite how monies are allocated, and redirect some authority to the MPOs, taking some authority away from IDOT.

Patrick Urich stated that he would support the MPO's getting more authority.

Danny Phelan stated that he would like more time to consider the issue.

Eric stated that the Commission could sign onto the BASICS Act but also ask for a rewritten formula, making it two different issues.

A decision was not made, and will be discussed further at the next meeting of the Executive Board.

10. Executive Session

Executive Session began at 9:39 a.m. to discuss personnel matters, and returned to open session at 9:52 a.m.

11. Other

- a. Next Meeting will be April 20, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

12. Adjournment

Patrick Urich made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Camille Coates, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Submitted by: Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded and transcribed by: Lori Reynolds