

MINUTES

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Regional Transportation Safety Committee

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. CT
456 Fulton St, Suite 420
Peoria, IL 61602

1. Call to Order

- a. Executive Director Eric Miller called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m., welcomed and thanked the members for agreeing to be on the committee. Since transportation safety is an important issue, it was determined to have an actual planning committee rather than an ad hoc committee.

2. Roll Call

Committee Member	Present	Absent	Committee Member	Present	Absent
Matt Bartolo Laborers Local 165	X		Cindy Loos City of Peo Public Works		X
Ben Brewer Peoria Co Coroner Ofc		X	Jeffrey Lower Tazewell Co Sheriff Ofc		X
Joshua Collins Peoria Public Schools		X	Jason Marks Peo Co Emerg Mgmt/Prep	X	
Jeff Council Advocacy/Community		X	Amy McLaren Peo Co Hwy Dept	X	
Ann Doubet Germantown Hills	X		Dan Parr Tazewell Co Hwy Dept	X	
Jeff Ekena PeoTazWood ROE 53	X		Rick Powers City of Peoria		X
Phillip Evans Pekin Insurance	X		ShamRA Robinson GPMTD/CityLink	X	
Lenora Fisher Downtown Adv Comm		X	Jodi Scott Advocates for Access	X	
Amy Fox Tazewell Co Health Dept	X		Al-Barrae Shebib IDOT Dist 4 Local Rds	X	
Heath Gerkin Metamora Ambulance	X		Amy Smith Peoria Co ROE 48	X	
Josh Harris Peoria Fire Dept		X	Jacklynn Workmann Tazewell Co Comm Devel	X	

Also in attendance:

TCRPC Staff: Eric Miller, Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Ray Lees, Gavin Hunt and Lori Reynolds.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Staff and Committee Member Introductions

Michael Bruner stated that a Chairman will need to be chosen for the committee, but not on this first day since everyone is getting to know each other. It will be on the agenda for the next

meeting. He asked anyone that is interested to let him know. Each person in attendance then introduced themselves, stating their employer and title.

5. Overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process

Michael Bruner shared a presentation explaining what Tri-County Regional Planning Commission is and what the organization does.

- a. Established in 1958 as “the steward of the Regional Vision”
- b. Three counties – Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford
- c. Supports 46 communities
- d. 360,248 residents grow, invest in themselves and others to make one unique region
- e. MPO – Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) established in 1976, tasked to conduct transportation planning for the region using federal funding with input from leaders and residents
- f. Core planning efforts are
 - Transportation – 80% of time spent
 - Long-range planning
 - Distribution of funds region-wide
 - Human service and public transportation planning
 - Trails and bike planning
 - Environmental
 - Watershed planning
 - Water supply planning
 - Intersection of planning and the environment
 - Stakeholder coordination
 - Hazard mitigation
 - Land use
 - Community comprehensive plans
 - Counting zoning and site plan reviews
 - Asset management: GIS
- g. Initiatives referencing roadway safety – 37 safety-focused strategies
 - Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)
 - Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP)
 - Active Transportation Plan (ATP)
 - Periodic Safety Performance Measures

6. Overview of the Tri-County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan

<https://tricountyrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Tri-County-Safety-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>

Gavin Hunt presented information on the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)’s Safe Streets 4 All (SS4A) Program.

- a. Part of the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA)
 - \$5 billion in appropriated funds over 5 years – 2022-2026

- Funds creation of safety action plans for implementation
- b. Priorities
- Promote safety
 - Low cost, high impact strategies over wide geographic area, urban and rural
 - Evidence based and aligned with USDOT goals
 - Demonstration of public/private engagement
- c. CSAP Timeline
- Fall 2022 – applied for SS4A funds to examine the safety of the entire region
 - Early 2023 – received notice of grant award - \$400,000 federal funds plus \$100,000 match from local membership dues
 - Spring/Summer 2025 – 5-year update for LRTP
 - Region’s first CSAP, paving the way for future funding
- d. Steps in the process of developing a CSAP include using
- US DOT’s Safe System Approach Guideline
 - Safer people, safer vehicles, safer speeds, safer roads, post-crash care
- e. Alarming safety data trends between 2016-2020
- 158 fatalities and 1,798 A-injuries (broken bones, cuts requiring stitches, requiring transportation to emergency care, significantly affects person’s health or physical condition)
 - Fatalities involving pedestrians/bicyclists: 13.3%
 - A-injuries involving pedestrians/bicyclists: 8.4%
 - Tri-county region has 5-year annual fatality average of 31.6, fatality rate of 8.91 per 100,000 residents
 - The regional underserved communities have 5-year annual fatality average of 4.2, fatality rate of 11.26 per 100,000 residents
- f. Listed Top 10 priority corridors – 7 in Peoria, 2 in Pekin, 1 in East Peoria, and 1 in Washington
- Michael Bruner stated that even though the plan is for all three counties, the more urbanized area would dominate as a natural consequence, so staff also made a Top 10 list for each county.
 - High Injury Network – small number of roadways that experience a majority of fatal and serious injury accidents
- g. CSAP Strategies
- Develop guidance for navigating multi-jurisdictional landscapes within communities
 - Develop a ‘road map’ of available data resources
 - Host Equitable Target Area (ETA) and High Injury Network (HIN) information on the TCRPC website

- Enhance the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to better incorporate equity elements
 - Establish Safe Routes to School (SRTS) programs
 - Partner with law enforcement agencies to implement targeted enforcement efforts
 - Utilize transportation educational campaign materials available from USDOT
 - Establish Transportation Safety Committee
 - Implement non-infrastructure capacity building project (SRTS)
- h. SS4A Emphasis Areas
- Complete Streets
 - Promoting walking, biking and transit
 - Advancing racial and health equity
 - Managing speeds for safety
 - Making system changes based on the Safe System Approach
 - Demonstration design and activities

7. Overview of the Commission's Pending Safe Routes to Schools Grant Application

- a. Six E's: evaluation, education, encouragement, engagement, engineering and equity
- b. Objectives
- Establish a Transportation Safety Committee
 - Safety Project Identification Tool
 - Media Distribution and Public Engagement
 - Data Collection and Sharing
- c. IDOT's SRTS program is every other year, next August is the next one
- Improving sidewalks
 - Planning engagement
 - Encourage your local school districts and governments to collaborate
 - Start compiling list of areas that need improvement
 - Surveys – student and parents on annual basis to collect data
 - Geared to different age groups
 - Staff have already made contact with Regional Offices of Education
 - Do as much work ahead as possible, have your plan done - "shovel ready" – makes application more attractive, they are very competitive
- d. TCRPC website, safety page walks through all of this information, with resources available to help with planning and budgeting.
- Crash dashboard is interactive, wide variety of filters to search crash data
 - Data comes from law enforcement, updated annually but always for the previous year because of the time it takes to extract the data from the police reports
 - Eric Miller encouraged committee members to speak up if they have thoughts or ideas.
 - Amy McLaren stated that engineers make the roads, but they need input from other stakeholders
 - Matt Bartolo asked if this is like a clearinghouse to assist area communities, and communities will be competing against each other.
 - Michael stated that Tri-County is here to help move projects forward by collecting data and uses a process to identify safety issues and prioritize, and find funding, give support to multiple jurisdictions
 - Michael stated that the sky is the limit, members just need to speak up

8. Updates

a. MPO Certification Review

- Every four years
- Tri-County just completed it last week, but there is still a public comment period by using link on the website, until April 1

b. IDOT Special Programs Assistance Conference

- IDOT is having a gathering at the North Peoria Library May 13-14, see flyer in the packet
- Al Barrae Shebib suggesting searching ITEP to find the website with more information about the grant. There are 4-5 categories, bring project ideas the second day and talk to IDOT staff to get feedback. The grant is very competitive, but no project is too small

9. Other

a. OMA Certification

- Reminder to turn in OMA training certificates to Michael or Lori

b. Next meeting scheduled for June 11, 2026

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 a.m.