

MINUTES

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission Regional Transportation Safety Committee

Thursday, June 11, 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, Gavin Hunt and Lori Reynolds.

Tim Gillespie attended in place of Jeff Lower, Tazewell County Sheriff's Office.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of March 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Ben Brewer made a motion to approve March 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Jason Marks.

Motion carried.

5. Officer Nomination and Election

- a. Floor Nominations – Michael Bruner stated he is hopeful that the committee could determine a Chair and Vice-Chair, and described their duties. Gavin Hunt didn't receive any nominations prior to the meeting, so looking for nominations now. Jason Marks volunteered for Chair. Jeff Ekena volunteered for Vice Chair.
- b. Voting – Amy McLaren motioned to approve, which was seconded by Cindy Loos. Motion carried. Jason and Mark will coordinate with Gavin.

6. Safe Routes to School Grant Outcome

Gavin Hunt reported on the grant. Brief background of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) – It is a national initiative focused on safe, accessible walking, biking, and rolling to school. The program not only funds infrastructure improvements, but also education, encouragement, and engagement data and evaluation. Tri-County's grant application purpose was to build long-term regional capacity for SRTS planning.

- a. Key components
 - i. Utilize this committee for ongoing coordination and guidance
 - ii. Develop a safety project identification tool for identifying and prioritization of projects
 - iii. Develop an education and outreach program to promote safe walking and biking to school
 - iv. Develop a system to conduct student travel surveys so schools and communities can be ready once the grant is released.
- b. While the application was not awarded funding this time around, the needs and priorities identified remain important.

Discussion covered the need to be more competitive, schools not receiving the information automatically – didn't know about it, and didn't know they have to go to IDOT's website and look for it. Schools not being used to working with TCRPC so were hesitant to respond.

Gavin stated the data needs to be collected throughout the year so it's ready when requested.

Michael stated data collection needs to be done on an annual basis. It's a daunting task for schools to undertake in order to get funding, so we have to help them get started on collecting the data on an annual ongoing basis throughout the year so we can help them so we can help them get funding.

Cindy Loos stated schools could be holding a Bike to School Day to bring the issue to light and get feedback.

7. Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application Submittal

Michael reported that staff just applied for this grant, as a demonstration project at a corridor level to see how to improve. An engineering consultant will analyze data before and during, to develop an

actual implementation plan. They will then present it to the public to get feedback. Referenced TCRPC website: <https://tricountyrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Tri-County-Safety-Action-Plan-2025.pdf>

The top ten corridors in the region are included, as well as the top ten in each county. Woodford County is not included in the corridor study because of the much smaller population, but there is a top ten list specifically for Woodford County. There is an inventory of items available to use to set up demonstrations that can be reused for other future projects. The hope is to have results in the winter time frame.

8. Future Work Plan Discussion

Gavin Hunt presented questions on screen with a QR code so participants could answer questions. A discussion ensued consisting of a variety of safety-related topics. Some points of discussion:

- Ben Brewer asked why are there so many construction projects going on at the same time? People are being forced to use one route to get to multiple locations because so many roads are under construction, traffic is backed up causing people to be angry and speeding.
- Amy McLaren responded that there are different jurisdictions throughout the area (city/county), the work is seasonal and funding comes through in similar time frames. This year there happens to be a 'perfect storm' with so many projects having been approved and being worked on. Not sure if there is a way to coordinate the timing of projects.
- Jason Marks stated that his concern is about emergency responders not being able to get to where they need to go when traffic is backed up due to construction.
- Jeff Counsil stated that driver behavior/habits is a large part of safety concerns.
- Jason Marks stated that the roads weren't built for the ways we drive and vehicles we drive today, and now every kid that turns 16 gets a car so there are so many more drivers than there were when the roads were initially planned.
- Amy McLaren stated that IDOT gets its funding from Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and there will be another round coming up in a couple weeks, so it's a good time to apply for some of these projects.
- Jeff Counsil stated that intersection crashes are often a result of speeding and driver behavior.
- Amy McLaren agreed, and stated that speeding, distracted driving, and bad decisions cause accidents. Should be able to lean more on law enforcement.
- Eric Miller suggested focusing more on young people, and law enforcement not enforcing traffic laws.
- Tim Gillespie stated that lower speed limits often cause more crashes. Law enforcement is low on funding for manpower. If they get a complaint, they can put a speed trailer out and start writing tickets, but officers use their discretion. You can catch some people but not all. Many are distracted or using drugs/alcohol.
- From an insurance perspective, Phil Evans stated fatalities are up, insurance costs are up. Legislation helps, as it did with seat belt laws.

- Dan Parr suggested doing demonstrations of impact and the dangers. He stated there are five levels of roads – township roads were made for horses and wagons, and they don't fit today's vehicles.
- Eric Miller stated there have also been poor land use decisions – putting in new subdivisions on rural roads made 30 years ago without allowing for current number and size of vehicles.

Discussions will be picked up at next meeting.

9. Other

- a. OMA Certification Reminder – Michael reminded the group to turn in their OMA training certificates if they haven't already done so.
- b. Next meeting scheduled for September 10, 2026

10. Adjournment at 10:31 a.m.

Recorded, transcribed and submitted by Lori Reynolds.