



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

MINUTES

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Committee

Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. CT
 456 Fulton St, Suite 420
 Peoria, IL 61602

1. Call to Order

- a. Vice-Chairperson Conrad Moore called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent	Member	Present	Absent
Amy McLaren Peoria County	X		Dustin Sutton* Peoria Heights		X
Jeff Gilles Peoria County	X		Dennis Carr City of Washington	X	
Mark Gilles* Peoria County	X		Jon Oliphant* City of Washington	X	
Paul Augspurger Tazewell County	X		Patrick Meyer Village of Bartonville	X	
Dan Parr Tazewell County	X		Dan Corp IDOT-D4	X	
Conrad Moore Woodford County	X		Karen Dvorsky* IDOT-D4		X
Andrea Klopfenstein City of Peoria	X		Kinga Krider City of West Peoria		X
Paola Mendez City of Peoria	X		Charles Hess* City of West Peoria		X
Sie Maroon City of Peoria		X	Craig Loudermilk Village of Morton	X	
Cindy Loos* City of Peoria	V		David Horton City of Chillicothe	X	
Tina Hauk City of Pekin	V		LD Chaney Village of Creve Coeur		X
Josh Wray* City of Pekin		X	Kofi Kisseh CityLink		X
Ric Semonski City of East Peoria	X		ShamRA Robinson* CityLink		X
Ty Livingston* City of East Peoria	X		Eric Miller TCRPC	X	
Chris Chandler Village of Peoria Heights		X	Ann Doubet Village of Germantown Hills	X	
Wayne Aldrich* Village of Peoria Heights		X	Gene Olson , Ex-officio MAAP		X

V = Virtual

Also in attendance: Doug DeLille, Al Barrae Shebib, Jacob Weck – IDOT

Staff: Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Debbi La Rue, Ray Lees, Else Hayes, Isaiah Hageman, Logan Chapman, Adam Crutcher, and Lori Reynolds.

Virtual attendees: Cindy Loos – City of Peoria, Tina Hauk – City of Pekin, Brandon Geber – IDOT

New people introduced. Amy McLaren introduced Cale Thompson from Peoria County. Ric Semonski introduced Bret Tucker will be taking his place after he retires in May. Tina Hauk introduced herself, the new representative from Pekin.

3. Public Comment - None

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2025

Ric Semonski moved to approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes and Jeff Gilles seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Meeting: Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) Region 5 2025 Update

Amy McLaren motioned to hold a Public Meeting, seconded by Paola Mendez.

Reema Abi-Akar introduced the Human Services Transportation Plan, which Tri-County has been involved with since 2007. Reema presented the updated document, which focuses on transportation needs for seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income populations, veterans, and other transit-dependent groups. The plan includes updated demographic maps and charts based on the latest census data, highlighting the concentration of transit-dependent populations in the region, as well as survey data, and a 30-day public comment period. Hard copies are available at 20 local libraries, five public transit agencies, and Tri-County’s office. A legal notice was printed in the newspaper, and the plan is also accessible on the Tri-County Website for review and feedback at <https://tricountyrpc.org/draft-hstp-update/>

Ann Doubet motioned to close the Public Meeting, seconded by Patrick Meyer.

6. Discussion of FY 2026 Unified Planning and Work Program

Michael Bruner presented the following:

As an MPO, Tri-County is federally required to develop and maintain a Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which is one of the core MPO planning documents that is updated annually. It serves as the work plan for the metropolitan transportation planning process by directing the programs, projects, and products that the Commission will undertake and accomplish during the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) with a corresponding budget.

Staff has developed the FY 2026 budget and completed the corresponding draft UPWP document. As presented at a previous meeting, the Commission is receiving the following apportionment for FY 2026:

1. Federal Formula: \$841,856.20,
2. Federal Provisional: \$132,249.35
3. Match Requirement: \$243,526.39

FY 2026’s budget is relatively the same as FY 2025. The Joint Funding Agreement will be similar for FY 2026. The actual joint funding amounts have been calculated and are displayed on page 7 of the draft UPWP.

The following is the remainder of the UPWP schedule listed in the memo in your packet:

1. Feb. 19: Staff presents draft UPWP to Technical Committee
2. March 5: Staff presents draft UPWP to Commission
3. March 19: Technical Committee recommends UPWP to the Commission for approval
4. April 2: Commission approves final UPWP and staff submits document to IDOT
5. July 1: IDOT accepts UPWP, work begins

Between now and next month's Technical Committee meeting, we ask that you review the draft document and let us know if you have any comments or suggestions for additional MPO work tasks.

7. Updates

a. Long-Range Transportation Plan 2050 Update

Michael Bruner reported that staff have been actively working on the LRTP, and it is very close to being completed. We are reviewing some guidelines from USDOT and IDOT to make sure we have everything squared away from that perspective. We anticipate finalizing the draft before the March 5th Commission meeting. Then, we will have a 30-day public comment period just like for the HSTP document.

b. SS4A – Safety Action Plan Public Meeting Debrief

Reema Abi-Akar reported that a Public Open House was held at the Lincoln Library on February 6 – thank you to everyone who joined us. The Open House was well attended. All the exhibits displayed at the meeting are available on the project website for those who couldn't participate in the event. <https://www.tricountysafety.org/public-meeting>

We received valuable comments from the participants at the Open House. We have also updated the regional transportation network map, where local residents identified key transportation safety issues. Tomorrow is the last day to submit a comment on that site to be part of the public hearing record. Tri-County and Lochmueller are grateful to you for your continued support. The next steps will be integrating these comments into the process to be one step closer to the plan completion. This project is set to end in Summer 2025.

c. IDOT

i. Local Roads

Al Barrae Shebib from IDOT stated that there is a 2-day special projects conference coming up.

ii. Central Office

Doug DeLille stated that there have been a lot of changes recently due to the federal layoffs. He will keep the Commission informed of any changes as he becomes aware. A potential pause to federal funding shouldn't impact anything that is already under obligation. IDOT is still processing things as if everything is normal. Some things seem to be targeted, like NEVI formula funding, carbon reduction, and the green energy bill.

Brandon Geber reported on an email that was sent out from the Secretary that stated FHWA is business as usual. There are no restrictions on CRP; IDOT is still getting approvals on that. Anything discretionary or formula-based is what would be paused.

Doug reported that staff at FHWA is getting thin, and it's getting hard to get information.

Eric Miller stated that he follows the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC), Transportation for America, and the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMPO) to get accurate information but considers news from IDOT the official word.

Brandon reported that there is a pot of money that needs to be spent down, so he is looking for locals that need work done. He is looking for submissions from Call for Projects that were either not funded or underfunded; the projects need to be in a disadvantaged area. These include roadways, trails, and anything infrastructure-related. Another option is inflation causing bids to be much higher than expected. This option doesn't have to be within disadvantaged areas, but it would include projects that have already been started but now need more money due to inflation. Brandon says that he needs a list from MPO staff by the end of the day today. The funding amount started with \$400 million, but the state has taken a chunk. Brandon advises to submit projects for any amount. He also requests to CC Al Barrae Shebib on email submissions.

Staff requested that ideas for this money be sent to funding@tricityrpc.org, and staff will put together a list to submit.

d. FHWA

No report.

8. Other

- a. Michael Bruner discussed Open Meetings Act Training
<https://illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/open-and-honest-government/pac/pac-training/>
All Technical Committee Members are required to complete OMA training. Please complete and submit a PDF of the certification of completion to Lori. If you have already completed this training in the last few years, please find and submit the certification of completion to Lori.
- b. Reema Abi-Akar announced an upcoming public meeting for the Kickapoo Creek Watershed study on March 19 at the Peoria County Farm Bureau building. The meeting will include a presentation and an open comment session.
- c. Amy McLaren informed the group that the APWA conference, usually held in May, will be moved to November 6 this year, and the conference will now be held annually in early November.

9. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Ric Semonski and seconded by Jeff Gilles. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Submitted by:

Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded by:

Michael Bruner

Transcribed by:
Lori Reynolds

DRAFT