

MINUTES
Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Technical Committee

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. CT
 456 Fulton St, Suite 420
 Peoria, IL 61602

1. Call to Order

In the absence of Chairman Conrad Moore, Vice-Chair Jeff Gilles presided over the meeting as Chair Pro Tempore, and called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Member	Present	Absent	Member	Present	Absent
Amy McLaren Peoria County		X	Dennis Carr City of Washington	X	
Jeff Gilles – VICE CHAIR Peoria County	X		Jon Oliphant* City of Washington	X	
Cale Thompson* Peoria County		X	Patrick Meyer Village of Bartonville	X	
Paul Augspurger Tazewell County		X	Dan Corp IDOT-D4	X	
Dan Parr Tazewell County		X	Karen Dvorsky* IDOT-D4		X
Conrad Moore - CHAIR Woodford County		X	Kinga Krider City of West Peoria	X	
Andrea Klopfenstein City of Peoria		X	Charles Hess* City of West Peoria		X
Paola Mendez City of Peoria		X	Craig Loudermilk Village of Morton	X	
Sie Maroon City of Peoria		X	Josh Harken City of Chillicothe	X	
Cindy Loos* City of Peoria	X		LD Chaney Village of Creve Coeur		X
Simon Grimm City of Pekin		X	Kofi Kisseh CityLink		X
Josh Wray* City of Pekin		X	ShamRA Robinson* CityLink		X
Ty Livingston City of East Peoria	X		Eric Miller TCRPC	X	
Bret Tucker* City of East Peoria		X	Ann Doubet Village of Germantown Hills	X	
Mark Lee Village of Peoria Heights	X		Gene Olson, Ex-officio MAAP		X
Dustin Sutton* Village of Peoria Heights		X			

* = **Alternate**

Also in attendance:

TCRPC Staff: Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Else Hayes, Gavin Hunt, Isaiah Hageman, Adam Crutcher, and Lori Reynolds.

IDOT: Doug DeLille, Jacob Weck, Dominga Lopez, Zain Khan.

Ciorba Group: Steve Kotecki.

Members of the public: Jeff Council.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2026

Patrick Mayer made a motion to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes. Kinga Krider seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

5. Release of the Spring 2026 Combined Call for Projects Criteria – Handout

Michael Bruner reported on the following:

- a. Tri-County is releasing its 2026 Call for Projects today which combines multiple funding sources into a single coordinated application process.
- b. Funding available through this call is as follows:
 - 1. Carbon Reduction Program: \$630,405
 - 2. Section 5310: \$365,286
 - 3. Surface Transportation Block Grant – Pavement Preservation Set-Aside: \$811,669
 - 4. Surface Transportation Block Grant – Traditional (Recon. / New Const.): \$3,246,678
 - 5. Transportation Alternative Set-Aside: \$873,963
- c. Anticipated Schedule

Date	Action
April 15	Call for Projects issued, and application released
May 20	Project Review Subcommittee established at the Technical Committee meeting and divided into Review Panels
May 29	Applications due to TCRPC staff by 4:30 p.m.
June 1-5	TCRPC staff reviews applications
June 5	Project Review Subcommittee receives application packets for review
June 8-19	Project Review Subcommittee reviews and scores projects independently
June 22 - July 3	The four Review Panels meet separately to review their assigned projects and provide a recommendation for the full Project Review Subcommittee to consider
July 7	The full Project Review Subcommittee meets to review the results and recommendations for the four Review Panels and makes a recommendation to the Technical Committee
July 15	Technical considers Subcommittee’s recommendation and makes recommendations to Commission
August 5	Commission considers recommendations and program funding

- d. Project Review Subcommittee
 - i. To keep the process on schedule, TCRPC will establish the Project Review Subcommittee at the May 20 Technical Committee meeting
 - ii. To ensure a fair, unbiased review, staff will contact all MPO member jurisdictions in advance of the May 20 Technical Committee meeting to determine:
 - 1. Whether they are submitting projects, and
 - 2. Which funding programs they are applying to
 - iii. Jurisdictions not submitting projects to a given funding stream will be eligible to serve as reviewers for the program.
 - iv. The structure of the Project Review Subcommittee will include
 - 1. The Human Services Transportation Plan Urban Subcommittee for transit projects, and
 - 2. Representatives from MPO member jurisdictions not submitting projects to specific funding programs
 - v. The Subcommittee will be divided into four Review Panels:
 - 1. Enhancement (CRP & TA)
 - 2. Transit (Section 5310)
 - 3. Pavement Preservation
 - 4. Reconstruction / New Construction
 - vi. Each Review Panel will consist of approximately 2 to 3 members
 - 1. Panel members first score projects independently
 - 2. Panels then meet to discuss, average scores, and develop recommendations
 - 3. Recommendations are forwarded to the full Project Review Subcommittee
 - 4. The Subcommittee finalizes a recommendation to the Technical Committee, which then advances it to the Commission for approval

6. Discussion of Draft Certification Review Report

https://tricityrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/TriCountyCertificationReport_DRAFT.pdf

Michael Bruner reported on the following:

- a. The Certification Review was conducted jointly by FHWA and FTA on March 10

The review evaluates whether the MPO's transportation planning process complies with federal requirements. The review included a desk review of MPO documents, a web-based public comment period, and an on-side meeting with TCRPC, IDOT, and CityLink staff.

Overall results showed the Transportation Planning Process fully certified with no corrective actions, 8 commendations, and 9 recommendations.

- 1. Key commendations included:
 - ii. the effective and responsible use of planning funds,
 - iii. clear and thorough Long-Range Transportation Plan,

- iv. collaborative relationship between TCRPC and CityLink including the development of a Bus Stop Accessibility Plan,
- v. project selection and prioritization via streamlined evaluation and the creation of a Combined Call for Projects,
- vi. Public and Stakeholder Engagement
 - 1. Strategic Transportation Planning Session with nearly 100 participants
 - 2. Resulted in creation of the Regional Prioritization Subcommittee
 - 3. Improved transparency through centralized posting of MPO committee materials online
- vii. Freight and Economic Development
 - 1. Collaboration with the Heart of Illinois Regional Port District and economic development partners
 - 2. Development of a Port District Master Plan and Implementation Strategy
- viii. Safety Planning
 - 1. Completion of the Tri-County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan
 - 2. Establishment of a Regional Safety Committee
 - 3. Successful multi-jurisdictional guardrail safety grant supporting regional improvements
- 2. Recommendations (Opportunities for Improvements)
 - i. Governance and Documentation
 - 1. Continue removing outdated references to PPUATS
 - 2. Update agreements to clearly reflect TCRPC as the MPO
 - 3. Improve organization and labeling of historical documents on the website
 - ii. Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)
 - 1. Better track multi-year and regionally focused planning projects
 - 2. Maintain accurate federal citations within the UPWP
 - 3. Improve coordination with IDOT to allow earlier state and federal review of draft UPWPs
 - iii. Performance-Based Planning
 - 1. Provide clearer documentation of performance target selection and adoption between LRTP updates
 - 2. Use website postings, TIP narratives, or dashboards to display current targets and trends
 - iv. Fiscal Constraint Clarity
 - 1. Enhance LRTP narrative to better explain:
 - a. Over-programming in short- and mid-range periods
 - b. How projects will be realistically delivered

2. Improve transparency in both the LRTP and TIP concerning revenues vs. programmed funds
- v. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
 1. Strengthen explanations of how TIP projects support adopted performance targets
 2. Ensure:
 - a. Required narrative elements are included when using eTIP
 - b. Financial tables only show TIP horizon years
 3. Encourage IDOT coordination to allow advance review of draft TIPs

7. Updates

a. FY 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for all - Attachment

Michael Bruner reported on the following:

- i. Staff would be interested in understanding who might be applying for these funds if any and discuss the possibility of conducting a demonstration project that pilots low-cost / high-impact countermeasures that slow cars down, and includes a data driven public outreach and media marketing campaign focused on behavior-change messaging on cellphone use while driving.
 1. Example of countermeasures could be
 - a. High-visibility crosswalks and advanced stop bars
 - b. LED-embedded stop bars or "Smart" stop bars (select locations)
 - c. Curb extensions using modular materials
 - d. Centerline hardening and daylighting
 - e. Speed feedback signs emphasizing attention and awareness
 - f. Rumble-strip or textured pavement treatments at signals
 - g. Pavement markings or decals: "Eyes Up / Phone Down"
 - h. Pole-mounted reminder signs near signals
 - i. Signal timing adjustments to reduce "rush behavior"
 - j. Dynamic message signs rotating distracted-driving messaging

Cindy Loos reminded the group that a demo project cannot include anything permanent in the ground.

b. IDOT

- i. **Local Roads** – Jacob Weck reported that there is new personnel in central office. A new IDOT staff person has joined as the local program development engineer. Reminder that SPEC is coming up on April 13-14 in Peoria, please RSVP. ITEP cycle is offering \$157million statewide at \$5million per project and there will be match assistance for that. National Work Zone Awareness is April 20-24.
- ii. **Central Office** – Doug DeLille – Nothing to report

c. FHWA – no report

8. Other

- a. Eric Miller shared information on a letter that was received from Rockford MPO commenting on the way STBG dollars are distributed is not the way Congress had intended. Some counties could see a significant increase, but there is no additional money, it would come from other counties being shorted. Rockford wants other MPOs to sign on to have the process reviewed.

After some discussion, it was determined that it would be a good idea to look at the formula. Eric Miller stated it wouldn't be a quick review, many people would have to look at it and it might have unintended consequences.

- b. Reema Abi-Akar received information about Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities (BRIC) that deals with hazard mitigation. Just came out and is due Jun 26. Reema will send the information to everyone via email.
- c. Jeff Gilles asked if the UPWP on the website could be updated to no longer say "Draft."
- d. Next meeting scheduled for May 20, 2026

9. Adjournment

Patrick Meyer made a motion to adjourn. Cindy Loos seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:46 a.m.