



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

456 Fulton St. Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

Greg Menold, CHAIRMAN

(Chuck Nagel, Camille Coates, Russ Crawford, Rita Ali, Autum Jones, John Kahl, and Danny Phelan)

Monday, February 10, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
TCRPC Conference Room

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Meeting ID: 295 460 668 316
Passcode: 6QP2mw23

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Input
4. **Motion to approve November 18, 2024, minutes**
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
6. Executive Director report
7. Discussion regarding probable requests from local jurisdictions requesting financial assistance in support of high priority projects
 - a. City of Chillicothe- IL29 BNSF viaduct
 - b. City of Peoria Passenger Rail
8. Other
9. Adjournment



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John Kahl, and Danny Phelan)**

Monday, November 18, 2024

9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Chairman Greg Menold called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Present: Greg Menold, Chuck Nagel, Russ Crawford, John Kahl, Autum Jones and Danny Phelan. Also present were Eric Miller, Ray Lees, Debbi La Rue, Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Aker, and Lori Reynolds from TCRPC.

3. Public Input: None

4. Motion to approve July 15, 2024, minutes

Russ Crawford moved to approve the July 15, 2024, minutes and John Kahl seconded.

Motion carried.

5. Executive Director report

- a. Eric Miller presented that he is going to Chicago today with Mayor Ali and Peoria City Manager Patrick Urich to discuss passenger rail service. Before moving to the next phase of the passenger rail project, Tri-County must obtain a passenger rail provider partnership, either with Metra or Amtrak. The service development plan is the next phase, and every project must be listed – every rail crossing, bridge, etc. This could potentially take 10 years. Tri-County received a \$500,000 grant to develop that scope of work, and it is imperative that it is brought under contract hopefully by the end of the year. With the new administration coming in, it is not clear what kind of cuts will be made, so this funding must be locked in.
- b. The Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Prioritization Committee has met and developed a recommendation to the Technical Committee who will hear it

this Wednesday, and they will make a subsequent recommendation to the Executive Board at the December meeting. This process involves programming \$11 million of federal funds. Tri-County took four different calls for projects and combined them into one, and staff were able to achieve a lot of efficiencies.

- c. Another project is Water Supply Planning. Tri-County is looking at staffing requirements for that and will probably hire an intern. The project covers a seven-county region that includes Peoria and Woodford counties. This is TCRPC's third contract with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), and it produces a bit of revenue, so Tri-County is happy to do the work.
 - d. A fourth project, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessments, is in the consultant procurement mode, with 11 submissions. Tri-County plans on selecting two consultants and letting them do the work.
6. **Motion to release a Request for Qualifications for professional services to perform FY 25 Financial Audit.**

John Kahl moved to release a Request for Qualifications for professional services to perform FY 25 Financial Audit. Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Eric Miller presented that although Tri-County is very happy with MH, he recommends putting out an RFQ for other bids, while allowing MH to bid but with a promise that they would change the lead auditor for a fresh pair of eyes.

Motion carried.

7. **Update Regional Transportation Priority List**

Debbi La Rue presented the following report on regional prioritization.

- a. With the last report to the Commission, Tri-County had just begun interviewing municipalities, and staff is happy to say that all are completed but one. Staff will be talking to Pekin tomorrow, after which Tri-County will have an internal conversation to finalize the short list of projects that will come before the Commission.
- b. This has been a difficult two-year process, asking the municipalities what goals they'd like to achieve in the next 25 years. In the last year, staff decided to pair this with the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) to conduct a robust regional prioritization process, since Michael was already asking a lot of the same questions for the LRTP.
- c. Tri-County is really going after federal discretionary grants. Staff decided to emphasize projects that are strong candidates and competitive with key themes of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

- d. Staff has been asking the following questions as part of the analysis: Is the project regionally significant, as a stand-alone or as a bundle? Does it have a strong narrative for safety, multi-modality, carbon reduction, environmental justice, environmental resilience, or economic development?
- e. The Regional Prioritization Subcommittee will convene after the Commission meeting on December 4 to go through the proposed list to make sure that the Commission is supportive of it. After that time, staff will submit narratives and other materials to a graphic designer, and they will develop visually appealing two-page layouts that will be incorporated into the LRTP. There will also be stand-alone documents that Commissioners and community partners can give to constituents, public works departments, elected officials, politicians, and anyone who controls budgets.
- f. The final list will go with the Tri-County LRTP in early 2025.

8. Recommendation of Contract with Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Water Supply Planning (Resolution 25-27)

John Kahl moved to approve Recommendation of Contract with Illinois Department of Natural Resources for Water Supply Planning (Resolution 25-27), and Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Debbi La Rue presented a status update of the Water Supply Planning project with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

- a. Reema Abi-Akar led the last two planning projects, but Debbi will be project manager for this one and will work closely with Else Hayes, Planner I, with a degree in Environmental Science, and Isaish Hageman, GIS Specialist II, with a background in Geospatial Environmental Analysis.
- b. This is a \$72,000 contract to be paid to Tri-County over the course of two years. It will be spread over three fiscal years, to start in January with completion by December 2026.
- c. IDNR requested that staff integrate drought planning, so TCRPC will develop a framework for that. Staff expect this process will lead to other opportunities including grant writing and building out this section of Tri-County's planning capacity.

Motion carried.

9. CY 25 TCRPC Meeting Schedule

Michael Bruner presented the TCRPC meeting schedule for the upcoming calendar year. This schedule will be published in the newspaper per the Open Meeting Act requirements.

10. IDOT FY26 Planning Marks

Michael Bruner presented an update on the IDOT FY26 Planning Marks.

- a. For the federal formula funding program, Tri-County will be receiving \$841,856. IDOT has planned to give provisional amounts to all MPOs for four years because they had unspent funds. Last year was the first of the four years, so this will be year two.
- b. This will mean an additional \$132,249 in provisional federal funds for Tri-County, so that will require the local match to be \$243,526, for a grand MPO budget of \$1,217,632. As TCRPC has done in the past, staff will request that the state help match the \$243,526, then Tri-County will use the local jurisdictions' funding to help match additional grants that Tri-County receives.

11. Other:

- a. Russ Crawford suggested to put out an RFQ for legal services; he feels Tri-County is overpaying. He would like to add this to a future agenda for the Executive Board.
 - i. John Kahl countered that with attorneys charging lower fees, you often end up paying more because they may not work as quickly.
- b. Ray Lees reported that staff have been working on a preliminary salary review of similar organizations in the state. Staff anticipates presenting this information to the Personnel Committee in December. Chairman Greg Menold agreed this would be a good idea for the Personnel Committee rather than the Executive Board.

12. Adjournment

John Kahl moved to adjourn, and Autum Jones seconded. Motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Submitted by:

Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded and transcribed by: Lori Reynolds

To: Members of the Commission
 From Eric W. Miller, Executive Director
 Date: February 6, 2025
 Subject: Executive Director Report for February, 2025

Project	Activity	Status
Administrative		
Headlines		
	Monitored Presidential Executive Orders regarding Federal Transportation Bill Funding	Ongoing
	Coordination with IDOT regarding Federal Funding Issues	Ongoing
	Ongoing meetings with Rail leadership and FRA regarding Peoria Passenger Rail	Ongoing
	Development of LRTP	Ongoing
	Ongoing discussion with Stakeholder regarding funding and implementation of Peoria Lakes projects	Ongoing
	Attended and discussed Regional Prioritization with Commission Members	Ongoing
	EPA Brownfields Consultant Selection nearly complete	Ongoing
	Safe Streets for All Plan- Public Meeting	Ongoing
	Issued RFP for Auditors	Ongoing
	CDBG administration discussion with GPEDC	Ongoing
Personnel		
	Semi-annual staff reviews ongoing	Complete
	Internal update to Salary and benefits study	Ongoing
	Updates to Employee Handbook as a result for input from Personnel Committee	Ongoing
Website		
	Content review of website.	Ongoing
Planning Issues		
Illinois River Issues		
	Started Discussion regarding Regional Strategic Planning Session on the Environment	
		Ongoing
HUD Healthy Homes	Work Ongoing	Ongoing
Water Supply Planning		
	Received NOSA from State	Ongoing
Watershed Planning		
	Kickapoo Creek Watershed Plan, work is ongoing	Ongoing
	USACE study of Blue Creek	
EPA Brownfield Assessment		
	Consultant Procurement, Contract Negotiation	Ongoing
GIS Projects/ Asset Management		
Village of Elmwood	Dunlap	Ongoing
Washburn	Peoria Heights	Ongoing
Minonk	Village of North Pekin	Ongoing
Delavan	Village of Washburn	Ongoing
North Pekin	Peoria Park District	Ongoing
El Paso	Tremont	Ongoing
Hollis Park District	Hanna City	Ongoing
Chillicothe	Creve Coeur	Ongoing
Logan County GIS technical assistance	Technical Assistance as needed	Ongoing
MPO/Transportation		
Technical Committee	Prepare agenda for and coordination for Technical Meetings	ongoing
Transportation Improvement Program		
	FY 25 Transportation Improvement Program is adopted	Ongoing
	Creation of web based TIP document application	Ongoing
2045 Long Range Transportation Plan Update		
	Internal planning and data collection underway - March 2025 Adoption	Ongoing
	Scheduled Online public involvement event	
Highway Safety Improvement Program Guardrails	Engineering phase underway	Ongoing
Active Transportation Planning	Work with various Stakeholders, coordination of planning efforts	ongoing
Safe Streets for All SS4A plan		
	Project is underway, coordinating with consultant	Ongoing
		Ongoing
Special Transportation Studies		
FY24		
IL29 Viaduct CBA	Project Completed	Complete
Germantown Hills Trail feasibility Study	Project Completed	Complete
Peoria Heights Active Transportation Plan	Project Completed	Complete
Waverly Ave Traffic Study	Project Completed	Complete
FY25		
Bartonville Active Transportation plan	Consultant procurement	Ongoing
City of Peoria Bike Plan update	Consultant procurement	Ongoing
City of East Peoria Storm Sewer Inv.	Consultant procurement	Ongoing
Peoria Heights Parking Study	Consultant procurement	Ongoing
State Planning and Research projects		
FY 23 State Planning and Research Funding		
Heart of Illinois Regional Port District Master Planning	Project Ongoing	Ongoing

Regional Community Planning	Consultant selection / project underway	Ongoing
East Peoria	Project Underway	Ongoing
Bartonville	Plan adopted by Village	Complete
Creve Coeur	Project Underway	Ongoing
Germantown Hills	Project Underway	Ongoing
Village of Brimfield	Project Initiated	Ongoing
FY 24 State Planning and Research Funding	Bike and Ped counting equipment and consultant for Traffic Signal data collection-	Ongoing
	Consultant selection complete/ Negotiating Contract Scope, Equipment acquired	
FY25 State Planning and Research Funding	Awarded 300k for multimodal study on IL 29, 260K Fed 40 State, Scope Development	Ongoing
HSTP/Transportation		
5310 program Grant	Issued Call for projects	Ongoing
HSTP Plan	Commission Adopted Plan	Ongoing
HSTP meetings		Ongoing