



TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

EST. 1958

TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
 456 FULTON STREET, SUITE 420
 PEORIA, IL 61602
 Phone: 309-673-9330
www.tricountyrpc.org

Full Commission/Executive Board (in lieu of Lack of Quorum):

February 4, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Recognition of Audience

Chairman Chuck Nagel called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioner	Present	Absent	Commissioner	Present	Absent
Amanda Beadles Chillicothe	X		Leon Ricca Bartonville	X	
Rita Ali City of Peoria		X	Nate Parrott Morton		X
Patrick Urich City of Peoria	X		Autum Jones Woodford Co.	X	
Rick Powers City of Peoria	X		Chuck Nagel Woodford Co.	X	
Terry Keogel Creve Coeur		X	Camille Coates Peoria Co.	X	
John Kahl East Peoria		X	Danny Phelan Peoria Co.	X	
Karl Figg Germantown Hills	X		Russ Crawford Tazewell Co.	X	
Matt Wigginton Peoria Heights	X		Greg Menold Tazewell Co.	X	
Mary Burress City of Pekin		X	Don Knox CityLink		X
Lilija Stevens Washington	X		Karen Dvorsky IDOT	X	
James Dillon West Peoria	X				

~ = Virtual participant

Also Present: Ray Lees, Rebecca Eisele, Eric Miller, Debbi La Rue, Michael Bruner, Isaiah Hageman, Adam Crutcher, Else Hayes, Gavin Hunt, Reema Abi-Akar, and Lori Reynolds, TCRPC; Doug DeLille, IDOT; Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women Voters; Wayne Aldrich, public.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Motion to Approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025

Danny Phelan made a motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes of December 3, 2025, and Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

5. Motion to Approve Joint Resolution of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee Recognizing the Service and Professional Contributions of Wayne Aldrich (Resolution 26-31)

Matt Wigginton made a motion to approve a Joint Resolution of the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Committee Recognizing the Service and Professional Contributions of Wayne Aldrich, and Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Danny Phelan introduced Wayne Aldrich, stated that he had served on Tri-County's Technical Committee and played a vital role in Peoria Heights, secured substantial funding, had a vision and a plan for Peoria Heights, despite living outside of the Peoria area. Danny wished Wayne the best for a well-deserved retirement.

Wayne Aldrich expressed his appreciation to Tri-County and stated that it has been a pleasure working with the organization, thanked Mayor Wigginton, the Board of Trustees, former Mayor Mike Phelan, and Danny Phelan.

Mayor Wigginton stated that Wayne is a wealth of knowledge, and much progress has been made in Peoria Heights that would not be happening without Wayne's expertise.

Motion carried.

6. Chairman Report

None

7. Executive Director Report

Eric Miller reported on the following:

- Tri-County is due for a federal certification review of all MPO activities. Federal staff have indicated that this review will be done virtually, most likely it will take only one day, and it is expected to be less taxing on staff. It is scheduled for March 10 and will be reported on at a future Commission meeting.
- The online IDOT MPO meeting was yesterday, and it was helpful to understand the status of other MPOs. This is the last year of the provisional budget allocation.
- There will be no external call for SPR projects, which Tri-County utilized for several different projects in the region, and that has all been spent down too. As a result, there will be no more such funding from IDOT, so Eric has told staff to focus on some projects to generate revenue, and there are three of those for the Commission to consider today.

8. Ways and Means Report

a. Motion to approve the November and December 2025 Financial Statements and Billings (Resolution 26-35)

Autum Jones made a motion to approve the November and December 2025 Financial Statements and Billings, and Greg Menold seconded the motion.

Rebecca Eisele reported on the following:

- Total Operating Cash at the end of December was approximately \$1,087k. Operating cash increased by \$41k in December, compared to November.
- Total Accounts Receivable balance at the end of the month was \$379k. Of the A/R balance, \$248k was federal funds, \$47k was state funds, and \$84k was local funds.
- Accounts Payable balance at the end of the month was \$82k, and of that amount, there was \$79k in unpaid pass-through expenses as of the end of December. The remaining \$3k Accounts Payable balance at the end of December was for regular bills.
- Total Revenue for December was \$165k.
- Total Expenses for December were \$121k.
- December ended with a surplus of approximately \$44k.
- Approximately \$49k of local TCRPC funds have been used for local matching funds so far in FY26.
- Fiscal Year 2026 has a surplus of approximately \$172k as of the end of December.

Russ Crawford stated that he has watched Rebecca's fiscal reports every month, and they grow and become more comprehensive and detailed. He said that she has raised it to a level that he does not remember seeing before. This takes a lot of work, and Tri-County appreciates it.

Motion carried.

9. Consent Agenda (due to lack of quorum on December 3, 2025)

Patrick Urich made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda from December 3, 2025, and James Dillon seconded the motion.

- a. Motion to appoint members to the Regional Transportation Safety Committee for a two-year term from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2027 (Resolution 26-23) – Handout
- b. Motion to approve the Tri-County 2026 Safety Targets (Resolution 26-27)
- c. Motion to approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (Resolution 26-28)
 - i. PC-27-02 Sheridan Road
 - ii. PC-27-03 Intersection Safety Improvements
 - iii. PEO-27-01 Wisconsin Ave
 - iv. TZ-26-01 Broadway Road Resurfacing

Motion carried.

10. Administrative

a. Motion to approve Health Insurance Contract renewal (Resolution 26-32)

Camille Coates made a motion to approve Health Insurance Contract renewal, and Rick Powers seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this year's group health insurance increase is 16.4%. The combined group dental, vision and life increase is 7.5%. The Personnel committee has reviewed and recommended approval, and the Executive Committee reviewed but did not have a quorum so could not take action on it. Eric recommended approval.

Motion carried.

b. Motion to approve General Liability Insurance Contract renewal (Resolution 26-33)

Leon Ricca made a motion to approve the General Liability Insurance Contract renewal, and Greg Menold seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this contract includes a 1% increase over last year at a cost of \$10,666. Again, the Executive committee did not have a quorum, but he recommended approval.

Motion carried.

c. Motion to approve IMRF Resolution for Military Leave Service Credit (Resolution 26-34)

Matt Wigginton made a motion to approve IMRF Resolution for Military Leave Service Credit, and Greg Menold seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that this resolution is a requirement of IMRF to have a staff member's credit moved over to our plan. IMRF requires a resolution for each instance. It is difficult to estimate the cost because it is a percentage, but it is a negligible amount over a period of time, and he recommends approval.

Motion carried.

d. Creation of Ad Hoc committee for Review of Employee Handbook

Chairman Chuck Nagel reported that this topic was discussed at length at Executive, with discussion revolving around whether to create a standing committee or an ad hoc committee. It was decided that ad hoc would be best, and he stated that he will personally reach out to individuals to set up the committee and set things in motion.

11. Transportation

a. Discussion on FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Michael Bruner reported on the following:

- As a metropolitan planning organization (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 MPO process by directing the programs and projects that the Commission will undertake and accomplish during the fiscal year (July 1 through June 30) with a corresponding budget.
- Staff is in the process of developing the draft FY 2027 UPWP.
- The Commission is receiving the following apportionments for FY 2027:
 - Federal Formula: \$857,816.73
 - Federal Provisional: \$134,498.37
 - Match Requirement: \$248,078.78
- FY 2027's budget is relatively the same as FY 2026. The Joint Funding Agreement will be similar for FY 2027. The actual amounts will be calculated and presented at the February Technical Committee meeting.
- The following is the remainder of the UPWP schedule. Please note that this schedule is a bit more aggressive given some feedback that staff heard at the Statewide MPO meeting yesterday.
 - Feb. 18: Staff presents the draft UPWP to Technical and Technical Committee recommends UPWP to the Commission for approval
 - March 4: Commission approves final UPWP & staff submits document to IDOT
 - July 1: UPWP work begins

b. Discussion and Update on Next Combined Call for Projects

Reema Abi-Akar reported on the following:

- As the MPO, one of the core responsibilities of the Commission is to program federal transportation dollars regionally.
- It has been the practice of the Commission to hold Call for Projects on a biennial basis.
- Tri-County's most recent Call for Projects was released in Spring 2024 and combined all Commission-allocated federal transportation programs into one single consolidated Call:
 - Carbon Reduction Program (CRP)
 - Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities (Section 5310)
 - Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)
 - Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside
- At the January Technical Committee meeting, the group discussed the upcoming Combined Call for Projects, and they made the following recommendations:
 - Include the carryover balances of all federal transportation funds in this year's Call for Projects

- Pause the programming of funding beyond the current federal transportation authorization
- Direct staff to review the current selection criteria and return with recommended modifications
- These changes will be based on lessons learned from the 2024 Combined Call for Projects and the recently adopted Long-Range Transportation Plan and Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.
- Carryover Balance
- Refer to page 2 of the Memo for a table outline the carryover balance for all four federal transportation programs allocated to the Commission.
- Federal Transportation Bill
- As part of the 2024 Combined Call for Projects, the Commission has already programmed STBG funds through Fiscal Year 2028, with the IIJA set to expire in September 2026.
- All other transportation programs remain within the current IIJA programming schedule.
 - As a result of the Sep. 2026 expiration date, the Technical Committee recommended pausing further programming of new STBG funds beyond the current federal transportation authorization, excluding the current carryover balance. That is just until additional guidance is available regarding a new federal transportation bill or a continuing resolution.
- Selection Criteria
 - The current selection criteria are based on the Commission’s previous Long-Range Transportation Plan and program-specific Calls for Projects.
 - Because the 2024 Call for Projects was the first time Tri-County combined all federal transportation programs into a single call, staff identified several redundancies within the criteria.
 - Additionally, since staff updated both the Long-Range Transportation Plan and adopted Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP) last year, these documents outline new and updated recommendations for the region.
 - Therefore, to reduce duplication and ensure consistency with the LRTP and CSAP, the Technical Committee recommended that staff review the selection criteria and present proposed modifications at their February Technical Committee meeting, so staff will put those together.

Eric Miller stated that Tri-County ends up with a balance because planning involves estimates, and some projects come in under the estimates, so money is left over.

c. Motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement a USDOT Thriving Communities Program subaward agreement for Project Implementation Activities with Abt Global (Resolution 26- 38)

Karl Figg made a motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement a USDOT Thriving Communities Program subaward agreement for Project Implementation Activities with Abt Global, and Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Debbi La Rue reported on the following:

- In November 2023, Tri-County partnered with the City and County of Peoria to apply for, and was subsequently awarded, a FY 2023 USDOT Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Program that provides three years of no-cost assistance supporting the planning and development of transportation infrastructure and related community revitalization activities.
- In 2024, Tri-County was partnered with a consultant team led by Abt Global partners, who were contracted by USDOT to manage the project.
- Staff, together with the City, County, and representatives from a variety of other stakeholder groups, worked with Abt Global to collaboratively develop a scope of work for the technical assistance.
- The scope identified strengthening community relations and designing new approaches for gathering and incorporating resident input as key topics for technical assistance, and the scope was approved by USDOT in early 2025.
- While Tri-County's time administering the technical assistance program cannot be reimbursed, USDOT allocated each team a \$50,000 subaward to support Project Implementation Activities defined in the approved scope.
- In mid-2025, the Commission was notified that it is an eligible recipient of subaward funding, which allows Tri-County to recuperate costs associated with the execution of Project Implementation Activities.
- The resolution before the Commission authorizes the Director to enter into said subaward agreement with Abt Global. It also authorizes the Director to enter into subsequent agreements with other entities that might also perform Project Implementation Activities.
- The subaward is anticipated to support four primary activities:
 1. Early Action Projects installed by the City of Peoria in the Fall of 2025 and in Spring or Summer of this year
 2. Commission Staff time associated with the development of a City of Peoria Public Works Engagement Playbook for Capital Projects
 3. Commission Staff time associated with the implementation and evaluation of the Early Action projects
 4. A technical expert presentation on effective design processes that incorporate Early Action and Complete Streets principles

Motion carried.

12. Planning

- a. **Motion to authorize Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Planning and Zoning Services for Tazewell County (Resolution 26-24)**

Russ Crawford made a motion to authorize Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Planning and Zoning Services for Tazewell County, and Greg Menold seconded the motion.

Adam Crutcher reported on the following:

- Tri-County and Tazewell have had this agreement for over two decades that comes up every year.
- This resolution does not change any services provided by Tri-County, which include reviewing and writing recommendations on rezones and special use cases that go before the Tazewell ZBA.
- The monetary amount has been agreed upon by both parties and is the same number that was used last year.

Danny Phelan questioned whether or not charging the same fee for several years is still covering expenses. Eric Miller said yes. He explained that the work ebbs and flows; some months they do not have any cases; other months they may have three or four. If staff feel like expenses are increasing, Tri-County can perhaps suggest some changes.

Russ Crawford stated that Tazewell County is happy to pay the going rate, and Adam has been doing a great job.

Motion carried.

b. Motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Comprehensive Planning Services with the Village of Elmwood (Resolution 26-36)

Danny Phelan made a motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Comprehensive Planning Services with the Village of Elmwood, and Karl Figg seconded the motion.

Debbi La Rue reported on the following:

- Debbi pointed out the handout that corrects the "lump sum payment" stated in the resolutions enclosed in the packet to state "an amount not to exceed \$50,000." She stated that this applies to both Resolution 26-36 and Resolution 26-38.
- In 2023 and 2024, officials from the villages of Elmwood and Mackinaw approached the Commission with an interest in contracting staff to develop comprehensive plans for their communities.
- Since then, Staff have worked with GPEDC and those communities to identify potential funding sources to help subsidize some of the planning costs.
- In January, both communities were notified that they will receive funds from the Dept. of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) Climate and Equitable Jobs

Act (CEJA) Energy Transition Community Change Grant program funds to support planning activities.

- The plans are expected to cost up to \$50,000 each and will fully cover Commission costs.
- If the Commission chooses to authorize the Director to enter into these agreements, staff will begin developing the scopes of work and timelines.
- As an aside, Commission staff are excited to continue in comprehensive planning. As Commission members likely know, staff have been busy since 2023 developing five in-house comprehensive plans for the villages of Bartonville, Brimfield, Chillicothe, Creve Coeur, and Germantown Hills.
- The Brimfield and Germantown Hills plans are entering their final phases of review.
- Tri-County is proud to report that these plans, while young, are already begetting tangible results for the region, including enterprise zone designations in two communities, two successful bike and pedestrian planning award grants, the creation of two business development districts, expanded code enforcement capacity, parks planning, and the establishment of a Parks Department.

Motion carried.

c. **Motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Comprehensive Planning Services with the Village of Mackinaw (Resolution 26-37)**

Russ Crawford made a motion for the Executive Director to enter into and implement an agreement for Comprehensive Planning Services with the Village of Mackinaw, and Danny Phelan seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

13. Updates

a. Regional Transportation Priorities

Debbi La Rue reported on the following:

- As part of the Long-Range Transportation Plan approval process last spring, the Commission approved 12 Regional Transportation Priority projects.
- Since that time, Staff have been working to finalize two-sided handouts that can be used for marketing and advertising. Those documents are now available for use. There are two sets available to thumb through at this meeting.
- Because these are living documents and staff do not want to end up with a stack of outdated handouts, staff are electing to print materials upon request. Please feel welcome to direct requests for materials to Debbi and Lori.

- Commission staff are now transitioning focus on expanding stakeholder and public awareness of the projects, with the aim of improving their likelihood for extra-regional funding.
- Staff expect to have project-specific webpages ready for public dissemination this month and are beginning to develop presentation materials. Please let staff know if a presentation to a stakeholder group or elected body is requested in a member jurisdiction.

In addition, Eric Miller stated that the federal BUILD grant is now open, and Tri-County staff are happy to support member jurisdictions' efforts with a letter of support or whatever is needed.

b. **IDOT**

Doug DeLille reported that the announcements for Safe Routes to School should be available in the Spring. This year, Transportation Enhancement Program funds will be available. There will be a Call for Projects released in August, and he sent that information to Michael to share. There will be some Special Assistance Programs coming up at the Central Office with guidance on changes to the Enhancement Program and help with the application if anyone is thinking about submitting.

c. **FHWA** – no report.

14. Other

a. **Open Meetings Act** – Lori Reynolds stated that she is missing OMA training certificates for a few Commission members, so she will be getting in touch with them to make sure that they are completed. The training is on the Illinois Attorney General website.

b. **Statement of Economic Interest** – Lori Reynolds informed the group that Peoria County will soon be sending out their annual prompts to go to the County website to complete these statements, confirming that Commission members do not have any personal financial interest in the decisions being made by the Commission.

c. **Next meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.**

15. Adjournment

Autum Jones motioned to adjourn. Matt Wigginton seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Submitted by Eric Miller, Executive Director
 Recorded by Michael Bruner, Senior Planner
 Transcribed by Lori Reynolds, Office Administrator