



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):

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

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Welcome, Recognition of Audience

In the absence of Chairman Chuck Nagel, Vice-Chair Danny Phelan presided over the meeting as Chair Pro Tempore, and 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 Peoria	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, and Lori Reynolds, TCRPC; Doug DeLille, IDOT; Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women Voters. Don Knox from CityLink attended virtually.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2026

Rick Powers made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2026, and John Kahl seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

5. Chairman Report

None

6. Executive Director Report

Eric Miller reported on the following:

- Senior Planner Debbi La Rue has taken the City Planner position with the City of Peoria, so she will be leaving Tri-County in mid-March.
- The Commission received a letter from the High Speed Rail Alliance regarding the Passenger Rail Planning Act, which references the frequency of trips. Just be aware they are asking if the Commission supports the plan or not, so please read, and there will be a resolution on this next month.
- Included in the packet is Guidance for Community Project Funding – letters of support are available if anyone needs one. Applications are due this Friday.

7. Ways and Means Report

a. Motion to approve the January 2026 Financial Statements and Billings (Res. 26-39)

John Kahl made a motion to approve the January 2026 Financial Statements and Billings, and Patrick Ulrich seconded the motion.

Rebecca Eisele reported on the following:

- Total Operating Cash at the end of January was approximately \$881k. Operating cash decreased by \$206k in January, compared to December.
- Total Accounts Receivable balance at the end of the month was \$430k. Of the A/R balance, \$286k was federal funds, \$43k was state funds, and \$100k was local funds.
- Accounts Payable balance at the end of the month was \$139k, and of that amount there was \$136k in unpaid pass-through expenses as of the end of January. The remaining \$3k Accounts Payable balance at the end of January was for regular bills.
- Total Revenue for January was \$172k.
- Total Expenses for January were \$146k.
- January ended with a surplus of approximately \$26k.
- Approximately \$67k of local TCRPC funds have been used for local matching funds so far in FY26.
- Fiscal Year 2026 has a surplus of approximately \$168k as of the end of January.

Motion carried.

8. Administrative

a. **Motion to approve Creation of Ad Hoc committee for Review of Employee Handbook**

Russ Crawford made a motion to approve the creation of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Review of the Employee Handbook. Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Danny Phelan spoke briefly about the review being staff driven and should probably be completed in about six months.

Motion carried.

b. **Motion to Approve Planner Attendance at the APA National Conference (Res. 26-43)**

Greg Menold made a motion to approve a planner's attendance at the APA National Conference. Nate Parrott seconded the motion.

Eric Miller stated that staff have requested Gavin Hunt attend the American Planning Association National Conference in Detroit April 25-28, 2026. The Commission will pay all of his expenses. He can either request an advance or he will be reimbursed for any expenses incurred.

Motion carried.

c. **Report on FOIA request**

Eric Miller stated that this is just an informational report on a company that requested FOIA information and seems to have targeted several communities with the intent to sue them if they don't respond, using FOIA as a money-making scheme, twisting the intent of what FOIA is meant for. Several members of the Commission stated they have received at least one, if not several, of the same FOIA requests from the same company. Russ Crawford stated that the FOIA law already states that this activity is prohibited.

d. **Motion to Retain as Confidential the following Executive Session minutes:**

i. **February 26, 2015**

ii. **March 26, 2015**

Russ Crawford made a motion to retain as Confidential the Executive Session minutes from February 26, 2015 and March 26, 2015. James Dillon seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

9. Transportation

a. **Motion to approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendments (Res. 26-40)**

i. **Project PC-24-03 Radnor Road**

ii. **Project S-26-23 Highway Lighting Maintenance / Replacement**

iii. **Project C-27-01 Sycamore Street Shared Use Path**

John Kahl made a motion to approve Transportation Improvement Program Amendments. Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Michael Bruner presented the following:

i. **Project PC-24-03 Radnor Road**

1. **Phase I Preliminary Engineering for**

a. **Radnor Road from Alta Ln to Willow Knolls Rd**

- b. Willow Knolls Rd from 0.095 Miles east of Radnor Rd to RR bridge west of Radnor Rd
- 2. Moving to the FY 2026 Program and adding additional federal funding source – STBG-Rural

ii. Project S-26-23 Highway Lighting Maintenance / Replacement

- 1. High-Mast Light Tower Foundation Replacement
- 2. Adding to the FY 2026 Program. Currently scheduled for the June 12, 2026 letting.

iii. Project C-27-01 Sycamore Street Shared Use Path

- 1. Engineering, ROW, and Construction of shared-use path along Sycamore Street from 1,300 feet west of Bradley Ave to Benedict Street
- 2. Adding to the FY 2027 Program. Anticipated letting date is March 5, 2027.

Motion carried.

b. Motion to approve FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program (Res. 26-41)

https://tricityrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/Draft_FY27UPWP_TCRPC.pdf

Nate Parrott made a motion to approve the FY 2027 Unified Planning Work Program. Camille Coates seconded the motion.

Michael Bruner presented the following:

- i. As an MPO, Tri-County is federally required to develop and maintain a UPWP, which is a core MPO planning document that is updated annually.
- ii. 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.
- iii. The Commission is receiving the following apportionments for FY 2027:

1. Federal Formula:	\$ 857,816.73	}	\$992,315.10
2. Federal Provisional:	\$ 134,498.37		
3. Match Requirement:	<u>\$ 248,078.78</u>		
4. Total MPO Budget:	\$1,240,393.88		

Karl Figg asked about why the total allotment is different on the spreadsheet compared to the numbers in the resolution. Michael explained that the number in the resolution is this year's total federal fund, and the total on the spreadsheet is last year's total MFT amount.

Matt Wigginton asked why GPMTD has a flat amount rather than a percentage. Eric Miller explained that it is a historical marker since the merger. It was decided that it was not fair for GPMTD to have a percentage, so they were given a flat amount. Russ Crawford stated that it was a policy decision, and we can raise it if the Commission chooses to do so.

Motion carried.

c. Motion to approve FY 2027 Joint Funding Agreement (Res. 26-42)

Greg Menold made a motion to approve the FY 2027 Joint Funding Agreement. Patrick Ulrich seconded the motion.

Michael Bruner presented the following:

- i. Included in the packet is the FY 2027 Joint Funding Agreement
- ii. The FY27 local contributions are similar to the current FY26 agreement.
- iii. After the Commission approves the Joint Funding Agreement, staff will send out a request for signature from those agencies unable to sign at the March 4 Commission Meeting.
- iv. Staff will send out invoices for the Joint Funding Agreement in the July/August timeline.

Motion carried.

10. Updates

a. Federal MPO Certification Review – Attachment

Eric Miller reported that this will be an in-person review. There is an opportunity for public comments on the Commission website. Board members may attend from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 10 in Room 420, or submit comments in writing.

b. Combined Call for Projects Selection Criteria – Attachment

Michael Bruner reported that the attached document is just an update. As recommended by the Technical Committee, staff updated the criteria and removed any redundancies while keeping the original intent. The document has been reviewed by the Technical Committee, and staff ensured that it is consistent with all policies.

Russ Crawford asked if the Commission allows the Technical Committee to make modifications to the criteria. Michael responded that all suggestions are to be approved by the Commission. Doug DeLille stated that the Commission can ignore the suggested changes, but the Technical Committee is an advisory committee. Eric Miller stated that the Commission proceeds with caution because it is important to get everything right because it could have consequences if mistakes are made. All Commissioners are encouraged to speak with their Technical members and bring any concerns back to the Commission.

Lilija Stevens asked if Call for Projects happen every year or every other year. Michael responded that the Combined Call for Projects is every other year, with this being the next one, with a 45- to 60-day turnaround. Eric Miller stated that the process is already beginning, and he encouraged everyone to think about it so they are prepared. Leon Ricca recommended that Commissioners stay in the loop so they can pre-plan.

c. IDOT – no report

d. FHWA – no report

11. Other

a. Next meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

b. Open Meeting Act training reminder

Lori Reynolds stated that she will send out a reminder for those who have not turned in their OMA training certificates yet. She also stated that everyone should have received their Peoria County Statement of Economic Interest instructions by now; be sure to finalize those.

12. Adjournment

Matt Wigginton motioned to adjourn. John Kahl seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Submitted by Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded by Michael Bruner, Senior Planner

Transcribed by Lori Reynolds, Office Administrator