



# TRI-COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

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

May 6, 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 |
|---|---------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <b>Amanda Beadles</b><br>Chillicothe    | X       |        | <b>Leon Ricca</b><br>Bartonville     | X       |        |
| <b>Rita Ali</b><br>City of Peoria       |         | X      | <b>Nate Parrott</b><br>Morton        |         | X      |
| <b>Patrick Urich</b><br>City of Peoria  | X       |        | <b>Autum Jones</b><br>Woodford Co.   | X       |        |
| <b>Rick Powers</b><br>City of Peoria    |         | X      | <b>Chuck Nagel</b><br>Woodford Co.   | X       |        |
| <b>Terry Keogel</b><br>Creve Coeur      |         | X      | <b>Camille Coates</b><br>Peoria Co.  |         | X      |
| <b>John Kahl</b><br>East Peoria         | X       |        | <b>Danny Phelan</b><br>Peoria Co.    | X       |        |
| <b>Karl Figg</b><br>Germantown Hills    | X       |        | <b>Russ Crawford</b><br>Tazewell Co. | X       |        |
| <b>Matt Wigginton</b><br>Peoria Heights | V       |        | <b>Cathryn Stump</b><br>Tazewell Co. | X       |        |
| <b>Mary Burress</b><br>City of Pekin    | X       |        | <b>Don Knox</b><br>CityLink          | V       |        |
| <b>Lilija Stevens</b><br>Washington     | X       |        | <b>Karen Dvorsky</b><br>IDOT         |         | X      |
| <b>James Dillon</b><br>West Peoria      | X       |        |                                      |         |        |

V = Virtual participant

Also Present: Rebecca Eisele, Eric Miller, Michael Bruner, Reema Abi-Akar, Isaiah Hageman, Adam Crutcher, Else Hayes, and Lori Reynolds. TCRPC; Doug DeLille, IDOT.

Virtual: Cheryl Budzinski, League of Women Voters.

### **3. Public Comment**

None

### **4. Motion to Approve the Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026**

Amanda Beadles made a motion to approve the Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2026, and John Kahl seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

### **5. Chairman Report**

No report.

### **6. Executive Director Report**

Eric Miller reported on the following:

- TCRPC has been advertising for the two open positions – Planner I/II/III and Planning Program Manager.
  - Danny Phelan asked how many applicants have applied. Eric replied, 50 submissions were received from all over the United States for the Planner position, and they were narrowed down to four for interviews to start next week. Approximately 25 applicants were received for the Program Manager position, also from all over the United States.
- TCRPC will have two interns starting on May 18<sup>th</sup> to help staff complete some work
  - Karl Figg asked if the interns are college students. Eric responded that yes, they are current or recently graduated planning students and will be fulfilling their 12-week internships.
- Peoria County has taken leadership of the Chillicothe viaduct project, and IDOT will work on Phase I engineering.
- There will be a webinar tomorrow hosted by Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity (DCEO) on Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). They have asked TCRPC to take the lead on this because Greater Peoria Economic Development Council (GPEDC) will no longer be administering it. It will cover infrastructure, housing rehab, and new area of community revitalization. Contact staff if you need assistance.
  - Amanda Beadles asked if there will be someone on staff available to help fill out the form. Michael stated that staff will be available to help.
  - Patrick Ulrich gave a reminder that Peoria and Pekin cannot apply because they get money directly from HUD.
  - Eric gave a shout out to Adam Crutcher for setting up a presentation on data center facts in coordination with the GPEDC, with some statewide subject matter experts.

### **7. Ways and Means Report**

#### **a. Motion to approve the March 2026 Financial Statements and Billings (Res. 26-53)**

John Kahl made a motion to approve the March 2026 Financial Statements and Billings, and Leon Ricca seconded the motion.

Rebecca Eisele reported on the following:

- Total Operating Cash at the end of March was approximately \$870k. Operating cash decreased by \$2k in March, compared to February.

- Total Accounts Receivable balance at the end of the month was \$367k. Of the A/R balance, \$248k was federal funds, \$42k was state funds, and \$77k was local funds.
- Accounts Payable balance at the end of the month was \$100k, and of that amount there was \$93k in unpaid pass-through expenses as of the end of March. The remaining \$7k Accounts Payable balance at the end of March was for regular bills and legal fees.
- Total Revenue for March was \$144k.
- Total Expenses for March were \$148k.
- March ended with a deficit of approximately \$4k.
- Approximately \$83k of local TCRPC funds have been used for local matching funds so far in FY26.
- Fiscal Year 2026 has a surplus of approximately \$120k as of the end of March.

Motion carried.

**b. Motion to approve the proposal and contract with the firm of MJH CPA, LLC to complete the financial and compliance audit for FY2026 (Resolution 26-50)**

Autum Jones made a motion to approve the proposal and contract with the firm of MJH CPA, LLC to complete the financial and compliance audit for FY2026. Mary Burrese seconded the motion.

Eric Miller stated that the fee this year will be \$29,650, which will be reimbursed through IDOT. Chuck Nagel stated that even though the same firm has done the audit for the last several years, they always send a different team of auditors each time, so it is always a different set of eyes.

**c. Discussion and Review of FY27 Draft Budget**

Eric Miller reported that the final budget will be ready for approval at next month's meeting. This is a positive healthy budget with a surplus of \$380,000. An estimate of \$120,000 from the FY26 IDOT budget will be moved forward. Regarding UPWP FY27 funding, this will be the last year of the provisional funds from IDOT, so that will not be available going forward. TCRPC has put that into Special Studies so members could use it. So, the Special Studies money will be going down after this.

The Bus Stop study is being done in-house, so that has a positive effect on TCRPC's bottom line. El Paso, Elmwood, and Mackinaw comprehensive plans are two-year projects that staff sought.

Employee costs will go down due to staff leaving, which also results in healthcare and retirement costs decreasing.

**d. Motion to approve increasing credit card limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 (Resolution 26-54)**

John Kahl made a motion to approve increasing the credit card limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. Russ Crawford seconded the motion.

Eric Miller reported that the limit has been at \$5,000 for many years, and he needs to juggle the card limits from month to month in order to allow larger purchases to be made.

Rebecca Eisele stated that the parking company is very quick to shut off the parking passes if they do not apply payments in a timely manner, so in order to avoid having the parking shut off, she would like to set it up to auto-pay via the credit card.

Motion carried.

## **8. Transportation**

### **a. Motion to approve the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with Lochmueller Group for Travel Demand Modeling Support (Resolution 26-55)**

Rick Powers made a motion to approve the Executive Director to enter into an Agreement with Lochmueller Group for Travel Demand Modeling Support. John Kahl seconded the motion.

Michael Bruner presented the following:

- The Commission maintains a regional travel demand model (TDM) for Peoria, Tazewell, and Woodford counties.
  - Staff utilize this tool to calculate the current and projected transportation demand in this region
- Additionally, staff utilizes the tool to help guide potential changes to the regional transportation network by assessing regional value of projects requesting funding from TCRPC's federal funding programs, such as the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG).
- Staff do not have the technical expertise to fully utilize the model for assisting in data requests for regionally significant projects and the programming of STBG funds from the Combined Call for Projects.
- Staff recommends contracting with Lochmueller, who was the consulting firm that developed TCRPC's current TDM for an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Motion carried.

### **b. Motion to support a regional Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application (Resolution 26-56)**

Danny Phelan made a motion to support a regional Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant Application. John Kahl seconded the motion.

Michael Bruner reported the following:

- The United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) issued a Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Fiscal Year 2026 Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) discretionary grant program with a due date of May 26, 2026.
  - The SS4A program provides competitive funding to support planning, demonstration, and implementation activities identified in an adopted Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

- The Commission previously received a Fiscal Year 2022 SS4A grant to develop the Tri-County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan (CSAP), which was adopted on June 4, 2025.
- The proposed project builds on the CSAP and focuses on moving from planning to action by identifying, testing, and preparing safety improvements that can be implemented locally.
- The goal is to reduce fatal and serious injury crashes by conducting the following within a 36-month timeline:
  - Conduct a corridor-level safety diagnosis on priority high-injury roadways:
    - Collect and analyze detailed safety and speed data to refine solutions.
    - Implement temporary, low-cost demonstration projects (quick-build safety treatments) to test what works before permanent investment.
    - Support education and public communication efforts to improve safety awareness and user behavior.
  - Produce a Safety Implementation & Investment Plan that translates CSAP strategies into:
    - Grant-ready project concepts
    - Preliminary designs and cost estimates
    - Prioritization guidance for implementation
- The project allows this region to reduce risk by testing improvements before permanent construction, generating local support, and accelerating progress towards fewer fatal and serious-injury crashes.

Karl Figg asked for some examples of temporary measures. Michael responded that cones or raised plastic areas could be applied to simulate possible changes.

Russ Crawford asked if this would integrate with the safety committee. Michael responded that yes, this would go hand in hand with the safety committee.

Cathryn Stump asked how this all works. Eric Miller responded that perhaps a city gets repeated calls about a specific intersection that causes a lot of trouble. A study would be done, and engineers would consider different ways a resolution could be reached. The residents would be educated prior to setting up different options to test with the involvement of public works, then the residents would be surveyed afterwards to get their opinions.

Motion carried.

**c. Combined Call for Projects**

Reema Abi-Akar presented the following:

- Tri-County released its 2026 Call for Projects at the April 15 Technical Committee meeting, which combines multiple funding sources into a single coordinated application process.

- Applications are due to TCRPC staff by 4:30 p.m. on May 29, 2026.
- Funding available through this call is as follows:
  - Carbon Reduction Program: \$630,405
  - Section 5310: \$348,247
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant – Pavement Preservation Set-Aside: \$811,669
  - Surface Transportation Block Grant – Traditional (Reconstruction / New Construction): \$3,246,678
  - Transportation Alternative Set-Aside: \$873,963

## 9. Updates

### a. Discussion of Results of USDOT MPO Certification Review

[https://tricityrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/USDOT\\_CertificationReviewReport\\_TCRPC.pdf](https://tricityrpc.org/wp-content/uploads/USDOT_CertificationReviewReport_TCRPC.pdf)

Eric Miller reported the following:

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) have jointly submitted the Federal Certification Review Findings Letter and Report.
- The review, which takes place every four years, found the transportation planning process for the Peoria-Pekin Urban Area has fully implemented all necessary requirements under 23 USC 134 and 49 USC 5303.
  - The process generated zero findings, nine recommendations, and eight commendations.
  - Eric thanked staff for getting all the information together in a timely manner.

### b. IDOT – Doug DeLille had no report

### c. FHWA – no report

## 10. Other

### a. Next meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

### b. Open Meetings Act training

For those who have not already done so, members should send their OMA certificates to Lori as soon as possible.

## 11. Adjournment

James Dillon motioned to adjourn. Autum Jones seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Submitted by Eric Miller, Executive Director

Recorded and transcribed by Lori Reynolds, Office Administrator