



**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
**Wednesday, April 10, 2024; 2:00 p.m.**

MCRPC, Suite M-103, Government Center  
115 East Washington St., Bloomington, Illinois  
Hybrid In-Person and Virtual Meeting

**1. Call To order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

**2. Attendance**

*In Person:* Jennifer Sicks, Tania Barreto, Francesca Lewis (McLean County RPC); Erik Zdansky (Lifelong Access).

*Virtual:* Laura Dick, (SHOWBUS); Kathryn Johnson (East Central Illinois Agency on Aging); Betsy Kurtenbach (Homes of Home); Janet Hood (Mid Central Community Action).

**3. Public Comment**

No public Comments to report

**4. Approval of minutes February 10, 2024**

Will be done by next meeting

**Items for Discussion**

**5. IDOT HSTP Program Status Report**

- There will not be a CVP round this year. It looks like IDOT will wait until next year to do another round. Some organizations are still catching up with the 2022 round.

**6. HSTP Region 6 Committees and Regional Plan Update**

- We had a meeting with Region 6 joint committee last month (March 18<sup>th</sup>). It was not as well attended as hoped, however there were several people involved.
  - David Schafer from IDOT attended the meeting and explained how the HSTP region 6 program is to be managed.
- MCRPC staff is working on the final stages of the HSTP plan update. The plan will be sent to all members of this committee for review as they have been part of this process and their organizations offer similar services.
- The HSTP Plan will be up for discussion and approval during the June meeting.

## 7. Urban Area Provider Program Status

### a. Lifelong Access

- Town of Normal has been doing construction on a Connect Transit bus stop to make it more accessible and a shelter from the weather.
- Lifelong Access was awarded a CVP grant to obtain four more vehicles. Currently they are working on the process to obtain those vehicles.
- In general, things are going smoothly getting people from their homes to appointments and to different activities.
  - However, they feel they still need more vehicles specially for the high school transition program. They are hoping to apply for a grant to obtain a larger vehicle (10-15 passengers) for the high school transition program.
- *Comment Jennifer Sicks:* IDOT has not yet made announcements on the larger vehicles from the last round. They are looking for an alternative process to manage those grants. In terms of application, there might be an option to apply in 2025. Note that larger vehicles need a driver with a Commercial Driver's License.

### b. Homes of Hope

- Everything is going well.
- Recently completed the Audit with Jennifer Sicks.
- Found out they were awarded a new Van, they are hoping to receive the Van at the end of this year or early 2025.

## 8. Disability/Housing/Aging Issues/ Rural Transportation:

### a. Mid Central Community Action

- Since the beginning of January, they have had an intake of 102 individuals and housed 12 of those families, several with children.
- They will reach out to connect transit to get a bus schedule as there are new apartment building opening on Veterans Parkway, would be good to put on the welcome packet.
- About the Flex bus: does it go to the other part of the interstate? Because there are people living in trailer parks in south Bloomington by State Farm that cannot get to jobs and other places.
  - *Comment Jen Sicks:* The Flex Bus is a pilot project at this stage and there is only one zone – west of Main St. There are plans to expand and create new zones.

**b. East Central Illinois Agency on Aging**

- Wrapping up their planning process. Will have a public hearing at the end of this month. They advocate for people to stay in their communities as long as possible and avoid institutionalization.
- The plan includes 16 counties (including Ford, Iroquois, Livingston, and McLean), public transportation is considered an issue. They advocate for transportation needs specially for the older community (60+).
  - Currently they do not provide funding for transportation as they used to, but they do advocate and support groups such as this and Faith in Action.

**c. SHOWBUS**

- Were able to recruit two new drivers, but they are still lacking drivers for the south area and for McLean County.
  - If someone knows a person that has a CDL and is retired, they can work for SHOWBUS which is a non-for-profit.
- SHOWBUS is talking to Heartland College about their HALO program in Pontiac and arranging transportation for it. Discussions lead to questioning transportation for the B-N campus also. SHOWBUS would be happy to start building a route to service B-N based on rural areas and perhaps they can do a link for the Livingston County students that need to get to campus.
- There has been an extension of the year of Managed Care Organization (MCOs) Contracts. We should look at those contracts and how the service is provided.
  - MCOs only need to show that they serve 85% of their population successfully, they can do that by showing service in the Chicago area and ignore what is happening in the southern more rural areas.
  - Help encouraging the state to look at the impact in downstate IL would be helpful. There are reports of people saying their transportation providers are not showing up.
- There is still lack of parts for buses, SHOWBUS has a bus-graveyard of buses. If someone needs parts, SHOWBUS can help find them (even windows).

**9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, May 8th, 2024.**

**10. Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.**