



Draft Meeting Minutes
Transportation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, May 8, 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: Raymond Lai, Tania Barreto, Francesca Lewis (McLean County RPC).

Virtual: Jennifer Sicks (McLean County RPC), Laura Dick, (SHOWBUS); Kathryn Johnson (East Central Illinois Agency on Aging); Shelly Moss (Connect Transit); Betsy Kurtenbach (Homes of Home).

3. Public Comment

No public Comments to report

4. Approval of minutes April 10, 2024

Will be done by next meeting

Items for Discussion

5. IDOT HSTP Program Status Report

- Betsy K. from homes of Hope was asked if she knows about the performance review from IDOT. It is showing in BlackCat as being signed off. Jen Sicks will check on that and find out what is happening.
- Not much to report, there are no specifics about the vehicle purchase process. Jen Sicks is still waiting on the vehicle timetable, for those who have already been awarded.

6. HSTP Region 6 Committees and Regional Plan Update

- MCRPC started the HSTP Plan public review period. We have advertised through different channels, including the Pantagraph in McLean County and the Public Journal in Kankakee County.
- There will be a public hearing on May 30th to conclude the public review period. Information about this has already been sent to all committee members.

- The next HSTP meeting is on May 20th, more information about the public review process will be talked about on that meeting.
- The plan will be up for discussion and approval during the June 17th Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

7. Urban Area Provider Program Status

a. Connect Transit

- Transitioning from spring to summer service – no evening services. During spring they had to take the peak out because of their service availability.
- The Connect Mobility (Paratransit) service is growing exponentially, there was a 20% increase on this service this year, and it's estimated that it will continue to grow.
- Paratransit services have preference over fixed routes, so perhaps the drivers from the peak services will be allocated to the paratransit service.
 - Population is aging so there is more need for this type of service.
- The Flex program is doing great, they are planning on adjusting the zones where the service is provided based on ridership. Usually there are two buses running during the day and they booked the entire time. After analyzing data perhaps they will decide to increase fixed routes.
- The transfer center is moving along.

b. Homes of Hope

- Everything is going well.
- Current capacity is about 22, but they can have up to 25 if fully staffed.

c. East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

- There is a Planning Grant for rural community innovations. For sub recipients of FTA's Section 5310. Deadline is June 7th, \$35,000 could be awarded. Link:
 - <https://www.nadtc.org/2024-rural-community-innovations-transportation-planning-grant/>

d. SHOWBUS

- Statewide hired a legal firm to investigate Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) and their dropping of transportation funding. The objective is to identify if MCOs are discriminating against people in Medicaid and with disabilities. Users that have a disability and that are also Medicaid recipients are being contacted to give their opinion of how they have been treated.
- There is no deadline, it depends on how quickly the lawyers can get information and tie it to the contracts. This will be a good way to see who in

the state oversees MCO's provision of transportation services to communities in need.

- Perhaps it is now less viable for MCO's to have transportation programs.
- All MCO's contracts have been given another year, until FY 2025.
- Laura is interested in seen if Connect Transit paratransit service has grown because of new Medicaid laws.
- Laura sent an email to Jen Sicks with contact information and context about this issue. Jen Sicks will send information to all people in this committee.
- SHOWBUS is getting more vehicles for parts from IDOT (organizations are giving up their vehicles).
- SHOWBUS hired one more driver but lost another one.

8. Additional update:

- IDOT will kick off the update of the 2026 Statewide Public Transportation Plan "Next Move Illinois", there is a website and a factsheet. There is a change to register to attend to meetings. Link:
 - <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/transportation-management/planning/next-move-illinois.html>

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 12, 2024.

10. Adjourn - Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.