



Draft Meeting Minutes
Transportation Advisory Committee
Wednesday, August 14, 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 2:03 pm.

2. Attendance

In Person: Jennifer Sicks, Thomas Valencia, and Tania Barreto (MCRPC).

Virtual: Raymond Lai MCRPC, Laura Dick (SHOW BUS); Janet Hood (MCCA).

3. Public Comment

No public comments have been received.

4. Approval of Minutes June 17 and August 14, 2024

This item will be addressed at the next meeting as there was no quorum.

Items for Discussion

5. IDOT HSTP Program Status Report

There is no new information on delivery status for vehicles or additional contracting, and IDOT staff were unable to be present today.

6. HSTP Region 6 Committees and Regional Plan Update

MCRPC met with the Region 6 Policy Committee in Pontiac on Monday, July 17th.

The updated Region 6 Human Services Transportation Plan was submitted for approval during the July meeting, and was approved by the Policy Committee. One of the objectives of the plan is to ensure there is representation from each county for each of the committees.

7. Urban Area Provider Program Status

a. Connect Transit

No representative for Connect Transit was present.

b. Other Organizations

No other representatives were present, including those for Lifelong Access, Faith in Action and Homes of Hope. Ms. Sicks will contact their representatives to inquire as to updates.

8. Disability/Housing/Aging/Rural Transportation

a. LIFE-CIL

No representative for LIFE-CIL was present.

b. Mid Central Community Action

Ms. Hood noted that there were currently limits on facilitating placements, as the state was delayed in distributing funds. There were many requests for housing assistance. Ms. Hood

noted that she has been in her position for slightly over a year and has seen 266 persons. Her work involves people seeking housing, but also assistance on several related issues. Affordable housing is a key demand.

Ms. Hood inquired of Ms. Dick as to whether SHOW BUS provided transportation to Heyworth, where there is a new housing development about to open. Demand for these units is high, particularly in comparison to similar housing in Bloomington-Normal which has much higher costs. Ms. Dick described the access to Heyworth provided by SHOW BUS, noting that it is not a daily service. Ms. Hood and Ms. Dick will discuss the possibilities outside this meeting.

c. East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging

No representative for ECIAAA was present.

d. SHOW BUS

Ms. Dick noted that she is dealing with the fallout from McLean County's decision to withdraw from the 6-county cooperative agreement to provide rural public transit to adjoining county. Based on discussions with IDOT staff, counties previously served through McLean County will now have to conduct a process to establish new rural public transit services for state fiscal year 2026 (which begins on July 1, 2025.) IDOT has asked to have budgets for funding requests by the end of September, so that IDOT can evaluate and process them by the end of December.

Ms. Dick has also learned that there may be a substantial reduction of the grants, by as much as 50%, for counties coming into the grants system. For some counties, the possible level of service under those conditions could not address demand. It will likely also lead to social service and similar agencies to cease providing transportation.

e. Chestnut Health Systems

No representative for Chestnut Health Systems was present.

9. Next Meeting – Wednesday, September 11, 2024.

10. Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 pm.

Minutes prepared by
Jennifer Sicks, AICP
Senior Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission