

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting
WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025, 4:00 P.M.
115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois
Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Carl Teichman, Chairperson; Jim Fruin, Vice-Chairperson; John Burrill; Mark Wylie; Rory Roberge; Katie Ruder; Bart Bittner; Fred Grieder; Amy Roser

Members Absent:

Ron Lesser; Carl Olson

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Thomas Valencia; Jennifer Sicks; Luke Talavera; Anthony Baumann; Jake Crevoiserat; Alec Mudra; Katie McShane*

Others –Heidi Thomas; Lochmueller Group; Kathryn Swinford, Lochmueller Group*; Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal*; Phil Dick, McLean County*

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Mr. Teichman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the February 5, 2025, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Wylie advised that he spoke to Mr. Lai about the minutes referencing him as “Dr”, he is not a doctor. The minutes will be updated.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bittner moved for approval. Mr. Roberge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

- a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

b. Authorization to execute a contract by MCRPC Chairperson for consulting services regarding the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant

Mr. Lai provided background information regarding the grant award to update the Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan adopted in 2021, the grant's overall deliverables, the local funding contributions, and the proposed contract. He explained the purpose of the grant for McLean County and how the project will help promote safety in transportation.

Ms. Ruder asked if the cost of this grant was mentioned in the 2021 Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan. Mr. Lai explained that no dollar amount was mentioned in the original plan, but search for funding opportunities was mentioned in the plan. All SS4A grant expenses are reflected in the grant budget.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to authorize the contract for consulting services for the SS4A grant. Mr. Fruin moved for approval. Mr. Roberge seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Items for Information or Discussion:

a. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera advised that MCRPC Staff will be hosting the Affordable and Supportive Housing (ASH) Committee meeting on March 17. There will be a guest speaker from the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Garrett Riou. There used to be a LISC Central Illinois in Peoria, but they recently merged with LISC Chicago to expand and serve the whole state. Regarding the update on Consolidated Plan in progress, the Town has approved all revisions in the Analysis of Impediments chapter and is currently waiting for the public comment period to begin. The City's public comment period ended on February 23, with no public comments received.

Staff attended the screening of WGLT's documentary "Frozen and Forgotten". The documentary explores the experience of the unhoused population in Bloomington-Normal during the winter months. WGLT had to do a second screening of the documentary that same night because there was so much interest, showing the importance of the issues of homelessness in our community. The documentary can be viewed on the WGLT website.

b. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks advised that the Region 6 Technical and Policy Committees are meeting in Pontiac on Monday, March 17. The 3 Counties, Iroquois, Ford, and Livingston, have entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement. At a recent IDOT conference, IDOT announced that Connect Transit will provide rural transit for McLean County. Connect Transit Board of Trustees will consider the matter at their upcoming meeting.

c. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai advised that the RAISE survey closed on February 28 and over 930 surveys were received. The consultant has submitted a draft Phase 2 Opportunities and Needs Report and a draft Engagement Report to MCRPC Staff for review and edit. The reports have been given to the Project Steering Committee members for review also. The draft Engagement Report includes survey results and other outreach efforts. Phase 3 is getting started which will be the longest of the 4 phases, lasting many months. Although the survey is complete, there is still more opportunities for public engagement in later phases.

Mr. Bittner asked if the RAISE grant and SS4A grants have any overlap. Mr. Lai explained that the RAISE grant is just for the 10 miles stretch of Veterans Parkway and the SS4A grant is an overall transportation safety plan for the County. The two grants are related but have different focus areas.

Ms. Ruder asked if crash data has been provided. Mr. Lai explained that the consultant has the crash data and is analyzing the data already. He explained any infrastructure changes to the intersections must be analyzed.

Mr. Bittner asked if there is a possible disconnect between the Administration and the County Board regarding the RAISE grant project. He mentioned that a County Board member reached out to him regarding the grant after Mr. Lai made a presentation to the Board about the RAISE grant Veterans Parkway Project recently. Mr. Lai provided to the Commission background information about how MCRPC proceeded to apply for the grant that resulted in the grant award. He explained that when the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) was published by the federal government, staff from the Town, City, County, and other partner agencies all met to discuss project options. The group eventually decided to pursue a plan to reinvent the Veterans Parkway. After Mr. Lai's response, a brief discussion occurred regarding communication between County Administration and the County Board, and raising funds for local matches for the grant budget.

Mr. Burrill asked if the funding for this grant is already secured. Mr. Lai explained yes that the federal portion of this grant was \$100,000 and has already been spent and reimbursed.

d. That Which May Arise

None

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant