

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, May 7, 2025, 4:00 P.M.

115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Carl Teichman, Chairperson; Jim Fruin, Vice-Chairperson; Katie Ruder; Ron Lesser; Amy Roser; John Burrill; Mark Wylie; Carl Olson

Members Absent:

Bart Bittner; Rory Roberge; Fred Grieder

Others Present:

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

Others – Mark Adams, DCEO*; Phil Dick, McLean County*

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Mr. Teichman called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

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

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

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

6. Items for Information or Discussion:

- a. Discussion: Housing Coordinator – Term Position funded by DCEO grant award:
(Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai explained that staff was awarded the RISE Implementation grant from DCEO, to help implement the Regional Housing Recovery Plan. The grant will fund a temporary position for MCRPC called Housing Coordinator. He explained the grant agreement process has already begun by DCEO and hopefully will be completed by July. Staff has already begun creating a job description to be posted for the position. The position is a 2-year term position that will end in April 2027. A Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be created to help monitor the position's progress and keep the grant expectations moving forward.

Q & A Followed the Presentation:

Q- What organization will house this position and how will funding for the position after April 2027 work?

A- Many organizations will work together to help monitor the position. The person will be housed under MCRPC, and answer to the Implementation Committee that will be created. Their responsibilities will be based off the Housing Recovery Plan. The position will work with partners and stakeholders mostly and need to be available to travel to meet partners and stakeholders. MCRPC is the grantee and will report all progress to the state. The position is a 2-year position. As part of the process, we will continue to explore funding sources to cover the salary of the position past the 2 years if needed.

Q- Does this position have the authority to make sure housing partners are aligning together or is the position just helping the partners align together?

A- This position will not have that authority but will just be helping.

Q- When will this Committee be forming?

A- Sometime in July.

There was a brief conversation on how to obtain funding for the position after April 2027, including making certain there are proper matrix and tasks in place to help the position be successful. The first task is to prioritize a detailed matrix. It was pointed out the Regional Housing Recovery Plan includes many elements for the matrix.

A brief conversation was about the committee, who will be on the committee, when will it be formed and the importance of MCRPC members being on the committee since it's our name on the grant. Mr. Lai explained that based on discussions with the administrations of the County, City and Town, keeping the core committee smaller will be more effective and efficient. Subject matter experts as a resource will be invited to brief and work with the committee.

b. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera explained that staff has facilitated the Housing Staff Meeting and Housing Staff Committee Meeting. Staff has been working on the CDBG Q4 reports for the City and Town. The Town's report has been submitted and the City's report will be submitted later this month. Staff is currently working on the 2024-2025 Regional Housing Initiative Annual Report. For the 2025-2029 Consolidated Plan, the public comment period ended for the Town on April 21 and the plan was approved by their Council that night. Both City and Town are waiting on HUD before they can move forward.

Staff attended the Unhoused Taskforce Meeting and a public forum for the proposed shelter village development by Home Sweet Home Ministries near downtown Bloomington.

There was a brief discussion about the maintenance of the homeless village and about a local article that was posted regarding a homeless encampment on Main Street.

c. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks advised that the joint committees will meet again on June 16th in Pontiac to discuss procedural and policy issues that the committees need to be involved with. Staff has received a new contract notice from IDOT for HSTP, all needed forms were completed by staff and sent back to IDOT for review. MCRPC staff has purchased a cell phone for the public to be able to call and get rural transit information if needed. The number will be available on MCRPC website. Staff is participating in conversations with Connect Transit to assist in helping them get the rural transit routes up and running by July 1.

Mr. Olson asked where the rural route boundaries will be now. Ms. Sicks stated Connect Transit will now cover the whole county once this is fully approved. Mr. Olson also asked who will be running the dispatch. Ms. Sicks said Connect Transit will be, they will be realigning their resources and staff.

d. GO:Safe McLean County Action Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks explained the Safe Streets and Roads for all (SS4A) grant project is now underway. The consultant agreement has been completed and approved. The consultant held its first PSC meeting on April 25. During this meeting there was a lot of engagement from the PSC members. Ms. Sicks discussed the short timeline for this grant, the final report will need to be completed by September 10, 2025, by the consultant. The SS4A PSC will meet again in May to discuss a Vision Zero Commitment Statement.

Ms. Roser mentioned that Unit 5 bus routes reach a lot of the rural communities because the district is so big. There could be some potential collaboration between Connect Transit and the school to assist with Connect Transit rural service. Ms. Sicks advised she would pass that information along to Connect Transit. A brief discussion continued about the rules and regulations that Connect Transit must abide by for this rural service change, such as all buses must be equipped with accessible capabilities.

e. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai advised the next PSC meeting will be this Friday, May 9th. The meeting agenda will consist of the consultants showing the PSC members a few roadways change options. The April meeting was cancelled to give the consultants more time to wrap up on the Public Engagement report, Existing Conditions report and the Needs and Opportunity report. He also explained the PSC meeting scheduled for June will be an in-person workshop meeting with the consultants and committee members.

f. Strategic Land Use Plan (Raymond Lai/Anthony Baumann)

Mr. Lai provided a background of what the Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) is and how it relates to the Regional Comprehensive Plan update. He advised that the goal is to have the SLUP completed by July 2025 and concurrently work on the update to the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Baumann presented a short PowerPoint presentation on the next steps of the SLUP including maps and data collection. [PowerPoint available for review at the office]

Mr. Teichman asked if this was the first step in working on the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Lai advised that staff has completed some background research for the Regional Comprehensive Plan update, but this step is a major and more pressing component of the Comprehensive Plan update. Mr. Baumann explained that the Comprehensive Plan update has several chapters, such as Education, Transportation, Infrastructure, and Land Use, Land Use is one of the major plan elements, so staff completed that section first.

There was a discussion about the Education chapter in the Comprehensive Plan update and how it relates to the current school districts.

g. That Which May Arise

None

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Lesser moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant