

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 24, 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; Fred Grieder; Katie Ruder; Ron Lesser; Carl Olson; Amy Roser; Bart Bittner*

Members Absent:

Mark Wylie; Anne Barrow

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Jennifer Sicks; Thomas Valencia; Luke Talavera; Calista Mackey; Katie McShane*

Others – Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal; Phil Dick, McLean County Building & Zoning*

*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 September 3, 2025, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

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

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

b. Consideration of Adoption: McLean County Go:Safe Action Plan Update 2025 and Vision Zero Goal

Mr. Lai advised this was a federal grant funded project. The planning process included public engagement and a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that included many local organizations and municipalities. He explained the plan, how it was updated and more on the planning process. The goal of this plan is to bring traffic related deaths or serious injuries to zero by 2035. He explained that there will be a Go:Safe task force created with staff from MCRPC, Town of Normal, Connect Transit, and City of Bloomington and possibly others organizations.

Mr. Grieder discussed his concerns including who will pay for the recommendations outlined in the plan, availability of staff time to work on these recommendations, limited MCRPC staff available, and recommendation number 8 listed in the plan to pursue safe vehicle fleet policies. Mr. Grieder advised it is a mandate to add this equipment, and he has concerns about the fact the plan did not identify this as a problem. Mr. Lai addressed his concerns, saying the Go:Safe task force and staff will continue to work together to seek out funding sources for the recommendations. MCRPC will rely on our local partners who are also part of the task force to assist with Go:Safe recommendations outlined in the plan. He also advised that staff continue to prioritize their work so they will be available to work with the task force. Mr. Teichman advised that these recommendations will have to go through the City, Town and County to be implemented, not MCRPC. MCRPC is not obligated to address these concerns. The City, Town and County will be responsible for funding their own recommendations they choose to implement. Mr. Grieder asked who came up with these recommendations. Mr. Lai advised that it was the consultant along with the input received from public engagement, as well as the PSC. Ms. Sicks explained that the hope would be to align with existing projects so that during the planning process of existing projects the City, Town or County staff would do so with these safety recommendations in mind. The existence of this plan could help getting additional implementation funding from the federal government.

Ms. Roser asked for clarification on the term "road diet" that was included in the plan. If this phrase meant the reduction of the number of traffic lanes. Mr. Lai advised yes, that is what it means. Ms. Roser asked about the plans for a "road diet" for College and Vernon avenues in Normal, both roads are significant East/West roadways. Mr. Lai advised in those planning processes there was public engagement input being sought. Ms. Ferraro, Town of Normal Planner in the audience, advised she is familiar with the "road diet" suggested for Vernon Ave. That project went through the whole planning process which included public engagement and PSC meetings. She is unfamiliar about any planning process for a road reduction on College Ave.

Mr. Burrill asked about the engagement from the rural communities and what their feedback was. Mr. Lai advised that they were invited to all public outreach events and efforts to provide their feedback.

Mr. Teichman called for a motion to consider the adoption of the resolution of the Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan Update 2025. Mr. Olson moved for approval. Mr. Burrill seconded the motion, which was passed with the members present except one opposition by Mr. Grieder.

6. Items for Information or Discussion:

a. Housing Coordinator – RISE Implementation grant update: (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai explained that this grant was awarded by DCEO. Staff accepted the Notice of State Award (NOSA) today. Now that the NOSA has been accepted, staff is waiting for the agreement from the State which may start in November.

b. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera explained that staff facilitated the September Affordable and Supportive Housing meeting and attended the Housing Coalition meeting last week. Staff also drafted a new white paper called "Housing, Population, and Socioeconomic Trends in McLean County." This white paper looked at changes in population, households, housing units, median household income, and employment from 2019-2023. Main takeaway is median household income and employment outpaced the rate of increase of housing units in the county.

c. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks provided an update on the Region 6 Technical and Policy meeting. The Committee met on September 5th for their quarterly meeting. Many new County Board members were present from other counties. MCRPC Staff provided a presentation on the HSTP dashboard that will be on MCRPC website. There have been discussions on how to spread the word about the dashboard. Staff will need the County Board Members help in getting to publicize the dashboard.

Ms. Sicks also advised that Livingston and Iroquois Counties have cancelled their SHOWBUS contract because SHOWBUS has not met some of the guidelines and grant requirements of their agreements. They are working on obtaining an alternate rural public transit provider.

Mr. Teichman asked why those counties cancelled their contract. Ms. Sicks advised their reasoning was that SHOWBUS was not in compliance with some guidelines in their contract. Since this is so new, Ms. Sicks has not had time to get more information from SHOWBUS CEO, Laura Dick.

d. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai provided an update on the on-going Veterans Parkway plan. He advised that there will be open houses for the community to attend in person on November 4 and 5 to provide feedback. There will also be Business Community meeting with stakeholders on November 4 so that businesses along the corridor can provide feedback. A virtual public open house will be held on November 12.

e. Strategic Land Use Plan (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai advised the first draft had an extended public comment period that ended on September 1st. Since that time staff has been reviewing all comments to make any changes needed to the first draft plan. Staff has also been working with the City, Town and County to make the necessary adjustments to their portions of the SLUP maps. He advised that the second draft of the Strategic Land Use Plan (SLUP) is out for public review. The public will have a month to get any additional feedback in, by October 22. Two public open houses will be on October 14 and 16, in Downs and at Heartland Community College, respectfully. Also, staff will publicize those open house in all Mclean County libraries.

Ms. Ruder asked for clarification on the dates listed for the open houses. She saw different dates listed for the public open houses. Mr. Lai advised that these dates were just set last week so he does not believe they were posted incorrectly somewhere. He will make sure they aren't listed incorrectly somewhere. He will work with Ms. Ruder later to identify the reason for discrepancy. [It was subsequently learnt that the County Board recently initiated a Strategic Plan process, which may be confusing to the SLUP process being publicized.]

Mr. Fruin asked about the feedback received from the first set of comments. Mr. Lai advised that there were about 70 comments or feedback received from the public comment form plus the feedback received from the 5 initial public open houses and additionally special group meetings. He advised that the major issues were the proposed Eastside Highway being shown on the maps and certain Southeast Bloomington areas being proposed for industrial. He advised that staff will work with the City about how the parcels should be shown and scaled down on industrial there. After discussing with our local partners, the Eastside Highway has mostly been removed from the plan except for the connections shown near Downs and Towanda on Towanda Barnes Road. Mr. Lai explained that there is difference between the proposed land use and Zoning.

f. 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. Fruin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant