

## MINUTES

### McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, November 5, 2025, 4:00 P.M.

115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 404 and Virtual

#### Members Present:

Carl Teichman, Chairperson; John Burrill; Katie Ruder; Amy Roser; Mark Wylie; Ron Lesser\*; Anne Barrow\*

#### Members Absent:

Carl Olson; Bart Bittner; Jim Fruin; Fred Grieder

#### Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Jennifer Sicks; Thomas Valencia; Luke Talavera; Anthony Baumann; Jake Crevoiserat; Calista Mackey; Katie McShane\*

Others – Nora Harrison, Bloomington-Normal Economic Development Council; Mark Bennett, TYLin; Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal\*; Phil Dick, McLean County Building & Zoning\*

\*Attended Virtually

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#### 1. Call To Order:

Mr. Teichman called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and noted the absence of a quorum.

#### 2. Attendance:

See above

Mr. Teichman noted there were two Commissioners on virtually, Ms. Barrow and Mr. Lesser. They could not vote due to the lack of in-person quorum to vote on allowing them to participate.

#### 3. Public Comment:

None

#### 4. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the September 24, 2025, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

No vote could happen due to the lack of a quorum.

#### 5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

**6. Items for Information or Discussion:**

a. Presentation – Update on the Child Care Survey: (Nora Harrison, BNEDC)

Ms. Harrison presented a PowerPoint Presentation on an update to the Child Care Survey.  
[PowerPoint available for review at the office]

Q & A Followed Presentation:

Q - How does Michigan come up with the money for the Tri-Share Program?

A - It's not only Michigan, but other states also have the program as well. These states are prioritizing childcare, so they are coming up with ways to fund it, such as taxes from cannabis sales or lottery. Could use tax dollars from County or State. Grants are available for non-profits or other tax incentives. Companies could also add a childcare reimbursement like they do for tuition.

Q - Is this a law in the other states or is it voluntary?

A - No, it is voluntary. Companies could get a tax break on taxes paid to the state if they offer a program like this.

Q - Are there any companies in our community that offer a childcare program?

A - Heartland Community College offers a program to teachers and students. Normal West offers a program, unsure if it's for learning or to assist staff and students.

Q - Did local companies have a preference in a program that wanted to offer?

A - That specific question was not asked; companies were asked if they were interested in a solution and continuing conversations on these programs. Many companies did say yes that they were interested in continuing the conversations to look for solutions.

Q- At what point is this termed a crisis?

A- It already is a crisis.

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

Mr. Lai explained that staff is still waiting for a contract from DCEO for execution.

Ms. Roser asked if the delay would cause any issues with the expectations of the grant. Mr. Lai answered that there is some flexibility in this grant award and if necessary, we could ask for an extension

c. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Staff posted the new white paper titled "Housing, Population, and Socioeconomic Trends in McLean County" on our website. Staff submitted both CDBG reports for City and Town. Staff has attended several meetings for the Housing Coalition, Unhoused Taskforce, and

Housing Staff Committee. The November Housing Staff Committee meeting was rescheduled to December due to the holiday.

The Unhoused Taskforce discussed the Cold Weather Response Plan that was activated on November 3. Matt Burgess, CEO of Home Sweet Home Ministries announced that The Bridge opening will be delayed until January. The Bridge is the non-congregate shelter for the homeless project that is underway near Main Street and Oakland Avenue.

d. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks stated staff is analyzing data received from a survey that was distributed to participants in the joint regional committee. Mr. Valencia created a dashboard that is now available on MCRPC website. This dashboard will be used as a resource for committee members, but also members of the public. Staff is still waiting on public confirmation of the new public service provider for Livingston County. Staff is preparing for the next quarterly meeting that is scheduled in December.

e. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai introduced Mark Bennett, Project Manager from TYLin, consultant for this project. Mr. Bennett spoke about the status of the planning process and public engagement efforts of the project. He stated that the planning process is about 75% completed. Mr. Lai spoke about the public open houses coming up, including one tonight at the Bloomington Public Library. There will also be a virtual public open house on November 12, the zoom link is available on MCRPC website. The project is anticipated to be completed by September 2026.

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

Mr. Baumann explained that the second round of public review and comment of the SLUP ended on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two additional open houses were held during the second round of public review at Heartland Community College and the Downs Fire Department. There were roughly 20 people at each of those open house. Staff has received 16 additional online comments and two email responses. Mr. Baumann spoke about the potential loss of agricultural land with the proposed land use plan, which was an on-going topic in the public comments. He explained the total potential land loss for agriculture is only 3% in Bloomington-Normal and within the 1.5 mile radius of Extra-Territorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) around their corporate limits. The final document is currently being worked on and will be made public on our website when completed. Once completed, the City, Town, and County may choose to consider adoption of the plan.

There were further discussions on the type of comments received this time around and the decision of not showing the Eastside Highway. Mr. Baumann explained that the comments during the second round of public review were more positive. He also noted that City, Town, and County staff met to discuss the Eastside Highway being shown on the maps and

it was determined to just show the interchanges in Towanda and Downs. An additional planning process will have to take place before those interchanges will happen.

Mr. Lai emphasized that MCRPC will not adopt the plan, they will only accept the plan for filing and publishing. City, Town and County can adopt the plan for their needs if they so desire.

Ms. Ruder asked about the status of the McLean County Regional Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Lai answered that work is being worked on behind the scenes, once the SLUP is done more time will be available for staff to continue the work on the Comprehensive Plan.

g. That Which May Arise

Mr. Lai provided an updated on the public outreach efforts at public events to promote transportation safety over the last few months and thanked Assistant Planner Jake Crevoiserat for the coordination. Over 1,500 people were reached at all the events, including about 600 at the two most recent events.

Mr. Lai advised the Commission that MCRPC has hired a new IWU intern, Hirat Rahi.

**7. Adjournment:**

There was no quorum for a vote so the meeting ended at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie McShane  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant