

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2026, 4:00 P.M.

115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Katie Ruder, Chairperson; Amy Roser, Vice-Chairperson; Anne Barrow; Ruth Burke; Carl Olson; Carl Teichman; Mark Wylie

Members Absent:

John Burrill; Ron Lesser; Bart Bittner; Fred Grieder

Others Present:

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

Others – Mayor Spencer Johansen, Mayor of Lexington; Mayor Cathy Weber, Mayor of Cooksville; Tricia Braid, Community Member; Jay Spader, Community Member; Tessa Ferraro, Town of Normal*; Mercy Davison, Town of Normal*; Andrew Greenlee, Greenlee Consulting LLC*

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Ms. Ruder called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

Mr. Lai introduced Hirat Rahi of IWU, MCRPC intern. Mr. Rahi introduced himself to the Commission.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the January 7, 2026, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Teichman moved for approval. Mr. Olson seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

b. Authorization to execute a Professional Consulting Agreement by MCRPC Chairperson for Population Projection Services for the McLean County Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2055 Project (MTP)

Ms. Ruder provided specific details about the agreement, including scope and contract amount. Mr. Lai introduced the MTP project, explaining population projections are an important part of the MTP. He also stated that Dr. Greenlee was also the consultant used in the last Metropolitan Long Range Transportation Plan (MLRTP) project in 2022.

Ms. Roser asked what the difference and similarities are between the different ways to study population, for example the differences between this population study, Unit 5 population study and the land use study. Mr. Lai answered, stating that it depends on the focus of the specific project. Dr. Greenlee agreed with Mr. Lai, stating the main difference is looking at the different focal points and demographics. For example, with Unit 5 Study, the focus would be age cohorts, focusing on people in the age group that might be having children and eventually enrolling them in that school district.

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to approve the Professional Consulting Agreement for Population Projection Services for the MTP. Mr. Teichman moved for approval. Ms. Roser seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Items for Information or Discussion:

a. Presentation – McLean County Mayors Association (Chairman – Mayor Spencer Johansen, City of Lexington)

Mayor Johansen provided details about the Mayors Association and how the association benefits Bloomington-Normal and McLean County as whole.

Ms. Ruder asked how Commission members can help with the idea that there is an urban community verse rural community competition. Mr. Johansen stating having rural Mayors on different committees will help in unifying the two communities.

Mr. Teichman asked what other issues the rural communities see beside housing issues. Mr. Johansen stated increased costs, including salary of newer employees.

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

Mr. Lai advised that staff submitted the first quarterly report which covers October – December 2025 time period. Staff are also finalizing the RFP for the Housing Coordinator position to be published.

c. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera provided a housing initiative update. Staff have attended meetings and submitted the quarterly reports due for the CDBG grants. The 2024 ACS 5-year data is now available. Staff will update the AMI White Paper and the McLean County Housing Dashboard with the updated information. At the end of February, staff will attend the Illinois Affordable Housing Forum hosted by the Illinois Housing Council (IHC) in Chicago.

Staff attended the January Housing Coalition and the Unhoused Taskforce Meetings and learned that people started moving into The Bridge in January. All units are occupied except for one unit that's having a heating issue. On January 29, Central Illinois Continuum of Care (CICOC) held the 2026 Point-in-Time Count. This counts the number of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness in a single night. Around 50 volunteers participated.

d. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks explained that Iroquois County still does not have a rural public transit agency. Staff have been busy working on updating the Human Services Transportation Plan, with updating information such as provider changes, using the newly released ACS data in the demographics section and updated information about new providers. Staff are working on updating the Region 6 By-Laws.

Mr. Olson asked about how the specifics work to updating a replacement for Iroquois County. Ms. Sicks stated that it can be a complicated process, several agreements would need to be put in place between IDOT and Iroquois County, IDOT and the potential provider and the potential provider and Iroquois County.

Mr. Teichman asked if CRIS was terminated or quit operations. Ms. Sicks stated IDOT has some concerns about CRIS status and performance and require specific financial information from CRIS. CRIS had concerns about not being able to meet IDOT's demands about financials and the CRIS board determined to end operations.

e. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Mr. Lai explained that two reports have been put on the website for review, including Phase 3 Engagement Report and the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report. The project is currently in Phase 4 of the timeline, which is the last phase. The project is currently on track to meet the deadline in September and is on budget.

Ms. Barrow asked what does the last phase include. Mr. Lai explained the last phase includes recommending a preferred alternative out of the multiple alternatives that are included in the Preliminary Alternatives Analysis Report. The consultants will then put a draft report together to be reviewed and commented on by members of the public, Project Steering Committee and the MCRPC. Then, a final report will be voted on by the Commission.

f. Regional Comprehensive Plan update (Raymond Lai/Anthony Baumann)

Mr. Lai stated that staff met with County Administration to discuss the proposed project process and proposed timeline and staff is waiting for feedback from Administration. Commission had a brief discussion on the timeline, what staff are prioritizing in the plan and the differences that the community can expect to see between the Regional Comprehensive Plan and the Strategic Land Use Plan.

g. That Which May Arise

Ms. Roser provided an update on the Unit 5 Study. There was a short discussion on upcoming February 19 School Board meeting to discuss the Study and what will be done with the proposals from the consultant.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Burke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant