



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Human Service Transportation Plan (HSTP)**  
**Region 6 Joint Technical & Policy Committee**  
**McLean County Regional Planning Commission**

**Monday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025; 10:30 A.M. CST.**  
Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
112 W. Madison Street, Pontiac, IL 61764  
Hybrid (In-Person & Virtual Meeting)

**Participating Committee Representatives** (\*=Virtual Attendance, ^=Policy Committee Member)

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Brandon Miles*   | McLean County – Connect Transit (Connect GO), Rural Service Coordinator       |
| Melissa Johnson* | McLean County – LIFE CIL, Community Living Advocate                           |
| Kathryn Johnson* | McLean County – East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging, Community Liaison |
| Donna Crow^*     | Iroquois County, County Board Member  |
| Craig Monson^    | Livingston County, County Board Member  |
| Alina Hartley    | Livingston County – Administration, Executive Director                        |
| Torin Mettile    | Livingston County – Futures Connections, Director of Transportation           |
| Adeana Fox       | Livingston County – Futures Unlimited, Assistant Executive Director           |
| Ben Wilson       | Kankakee County – KATS, Transportation & Economic Development Coordinator     |

**Coordinating Agency Staff**

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Jennifer Sicks, AICP  | MCRPC, Senior Transportation Planner/Region 6 Coordinator |
| Raymond Lai, AICP     | MCRPC, Executive Director                                 |
| Thomas Valencia, AICP | MCRPC, Assistant Planner                                  |

**Others Present**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Carson Cross*    | McLean County – LIFE CIL, Independent Living Advocate                 |
| Patty Fountain*  | McLean County – Brightpoint, Case Manager                             |
| Gerald Earing    | Livingston County, County Board Member                                |
| Jodi Martin*     | Livingston County – Boys & Girls Club, Chief Executive Officer        |
| Steven Kretz     | Kankakee County – KATS, Planner                                       |
| Leah Bohlmann    | Office of U.S. Congressman Darin LaHood, Constituent Services         |
| Jason Bunting    | Illinois General Assembly – House District 106, State Representative  |
| Melissa Ohrwall* | Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Transit Project Manager |

---

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. CST.

**2. Attendance**

Attendance by Committee representatives was determined and is listed above. A quorum for the Policy Committee was NOT present in-person. All attendees introduced themselves.

### **3. Public Comments**

Ms. Sicks advised that no request for public comment has been received and that no one is present to offer comment.

### **4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 2025 Meeting**

Ms. Sicks advised that minutes for the September 2025 meeting are available for review. Ms. Sicks asked Committee members if they had any proposed changes to the minutes. No Committee member provided any changes.

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to approve the September 2025 meeting minutes and was seconded by Mr. Monson. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **5. Items for Action by the Policy Committee Members**

Ms. Sicks advised that there are no items for action to be considered for the members of the Policy Committee.

---

### **Items for Discussion**

#### **6. IDOT – Planned FY 2026 CVP Round & Other Issues**

Ms. Ohrwall advised the Committee that Andrew Davis has joined IDOT as the Northern Section Program Manager for Transit Operations. The role involves him leading the HSTP program for northern Illinois and will take over some of the duties currently performed by Ms. Ohrwall. She stated that he is currently on vacation and that she is standing in for him for this meeting but he does plan to attend future Region 6 meetings.

Ms. Ohrwall advised the Committee that a regional maintenance workshop was held at the Springfield Mass Transit District (SMTD) bus garage at the end of last October and that information about preservation of vehicles was shared. Some topics included vehicle frame rust corrosion, roof sealing, and preventing wet floors. She encouraged agencies that don't have their own garages to reach out to SMTD to see if they can use theirs.

Ms. Ohrwall advised that Committee that IDOT is looking at a spring release of the next round of CVP applications, although a specific month has not been determined. Trainings for filling out the application will be held. She informed agencies that IDOT won't have CVP application rounds every year, so proper vehicle planning for the next couple years is recommended.

#### **7. Region 6 Plan Implementation Status**

Ms. Sicks advised the Committee that MCRPC staff are working towards updating the existing Region 6 Plan that was adopted in June 2024 to note some changes that have been made in the Region since that time. One of the primary changes includes the arrival of new providers. She expects that draft changes will be presented to Committee members in June 2026 to review. She encouraged Committee members to look at the existing plan document and to give her a call if they have specific questions. The plan is available to view on the MCRPC website.

Ms. Sicks advised the Committee that the statuses of both the Technical and Policy Committees are being reviewed. She provided history on the current set-up and emphasized that it has not always worked out in practice. She stated that it is much preferred if one county board member per county populated the Policy Committee, however, understands that due to schedules and expertise, county board members may instead appoint a designee. The Managing Director of Connect Transit, David Braun, was supposed to be the designee for the McLean County Board but has recently taken a leave of absence and it is unclear who will take his spot. Ms. Sicks stated that participation of high-level officials on the Policy Committee is crucial in order to take votes on items such as plan adoption and revisions to the bylaws. For the Technical Committee, Ms. Sicks stated that it is usually populated by Section 5310 providers but is open to having other social service agencies join. Participation from Section 5311 providers is also desired, but they would serve in a more advisory role.

Ms. Sicks advised the Committee that a document known as "HSTP 101" will be prepared by MCRPC staff and it will outline all the functions of the HSTP program within Region 6. It is currently a draft, and a final version will be shared to Committee members soon.

## **8. Region 6 Committee Membership – Appointments & Responsibilities**

- a. This intended discussion item was delayed until a future meeting.

## **9. County Transportation Representatives Status Updates**

- a. **Ford County** – No representative was present to provide an update.
- b. **Iroquois County** – Ms. Crow advised the Committee that Iroquois County selected CRIS RMTD as their public transportation service provider, but that concerns have been raised since that selection. She wasn't sure if the Committee was the correct forum to raise these concerns. She informed the Committee that Melissa Walters recently resigned as Director of CRIS RMTD and that service would continue at a much lower rate. IDOT informed that Vermillion County, the home base for CRIS RMTD, needs to hire a Program Compliance Oversight Monitor (PCOM). Ms. Sicks responded to Ms. Crow stating that she can potentially assist with understanding some of the issues Iroquois County is having with IDOT and CRIS RMTD. Ms. Sicks asked Ms. Crow if CRIS RMTD is planning to pull out from Iroquois County and she responded saying that there is no indication at this time that it will occur, although not all of the services are not being provided with only one route running. Mr. Lai asked Ms. Orhwall if she could provide any insight into the issues in Iroquois County and she said that she doesn't have any information and deferred to Mr. David Schafer.
- c. **Kankakee County** – Mr. Wilson advised that Committee that Kankakee County is preparing for the next round of solicitation for vendors and that letters will be sent out the first week of January to receive feedback on what is available. He stated Kankakee County will continue to work with Ms. Laura Dick of SHOW BUS. Several closings of employment centers in the community of Momence have resulted in the loss of around 1,500 to 1,800 jobs, putting in question the functionality of SHOW BUS' commuter route from Kanakee to Momence. Service continues to run hourly, although some midday trips have few to no riders. He stressed the importance of keeping hourly service in order to provide flexibility for riders who have sudden changes in plans. He informed the Committee that he received a call from River Valley Mass Transit District in which they informed him that they selected a vendor to undertake a study focusing on micro-transit and system efficiencies. IDOT provided funding for the study and

underwent three rounds of issuing a Request-For-Proposals (RFP). A kickoff meeting was held and he has proposed the idea of collaboration between the rural and urban systems in regards to efficiencies. Ms. Fountain asked Mr. Wilson if the workers who lost their jobs live in other counties such as Livingston and McLean. He responded saying that, while there is no official data, anecdotally speaking most of the workers are local to Kankakee County.

- d. **Livingston County** – No updates were provided beyond that provided by Futures Connections, below.
- e. **McLean County** – No updates were provided beyond the that provided by Connect Transit (Connect GO), below.

## **10. Regional Public Transportation Provider Updates**

- a. **CRIS Rural Mass Transit District** – No representative was present to provide an update.
- b. **Futures Connections** – Mr. Mettile advised the Committee that Futures Connections has hired a new member to their team to start the new in-town Pontiac loop route, which is expected to run from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM every day. Another candidate is ready to start a route in the Dwight area, although further details have not been established. 1,600 to 2,200 clients have been served so far, and most have been appointments made via phone calls. Some vans need repairs, but the remaining fleet is doing well. A Frontier phone number has not been acquired yet but there is hope it will be soon, and information will be sent out to the public accordingly. Ms. Sicks advised the Committee that the number will be posted to the HSTP Information Hub once it is ready. Ms. Martin informed Mr. Mettile that parents from the Boy's and Girl's Club are seeking new transportation options since SHOW BUS ended service in the County and asked if similar services can be provided through Futures Connections. Mr. Mettile stated that, while it is something to investigate, there is some concern regarding liabilities with transporting unaccompanied minors. Ms. Sicks advised Ms. Martin and Mr. Mettile to speak with Ms. Laura Dick of SHOW BUS to see if this type of service was ever discussed with the Boy's and Girl's Club, and that she can assist with that if needed.
- c. **Connect Transit (Connect GO)** – Mr. Miles advised the Committee that fare collection for Connect GO services has been pushed back from January 2026 to July 2026 due to internal leadership changes and new ideas being brought up. Ridership was seeming to increase month-by-month, but that December so far has seen a decline with only 108 rides. There have been many cancellations on days of extreme cold. Ms. Sicks inquired regarding Connect GO vehicles and Mr. Miles stated everything is okay now.
- d. **SHOW BUS** – No representative was present to provide an update.

## **11. Next Meeting – TBD; Participant Discussion Regarding Preferred Quarterly Sequence**

Ms. Sicks advised the Committee that feedback was received regarding the scheduling sequences of future HSTP Region 6 Committee meetings. There was a desire to move meetings to Monday afternoons, but there are some conflicts that MCRPC staff have with that time. Mr. Wilson stated that he prefers meetings to continue with the same sequence due to staff time limitations. Ms. Crow also stated that Iroquois County prefers the current sequence. Ms. Martin offered meeting space at Boy's and Girl's Club facilities in Pontiac and Fairbury, although most members prefer the present space at the Historic Livingston County Courthouse. No additional Committee members provided feedback and Ms. Sicks advised the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarterly meeting will be held on the third Monday of March 2026 at 10:30 AM

## **12. Adjourn**

Mr. Wilson offered a motion to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Ms. Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

---

### **Respectfully Submitted:**

**Thomas Valencia, AICP**

Assistant Planner

McLean County Regional Planning Commission