

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 1, 2026, 4:00 P.M.

115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Katie Ruder, Chairperson; Bart Bittner; Bruce Tompkins; Fred Grieder; Mark Wylie; Jeffrey "Jay" Spader; Ruth Burke*

Members Absent:

Carl Olson; Amy Roser; Carl Teichman; Anne Barrow

Others Present:

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

Others –Tricia Braid, Community Member*

*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

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to approve Ms. Burke's virtual attendance due to work schedule. Mr. Bittner moved for approval. Mr. Grieder seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Ms. Ruder introduced new Commissioner, Bruce Tompkins. Mr. Tompkins introduced himself.

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

1. Minutes of the March 4, 2026, Commission meeting
2. Financial Reports
3. MCRPC Staff Report

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

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

b. Adoption of the updated MCRPC Public Comment Policy

Ms. Ruder explained that staff had taken the Commissions comments, questions and concerns from last meeting and updated the policy. Ms. Ruder went over several of the major changes. Mr. Lai explained the updated policy aligns closely with the County policy and stays within Open Meetings Act guidelines. The Commission had a brief discussion about the updates to the policy.

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to adopt the updated MCRPC Public Comment Policy Amendment. Mr. Grieder moved for approval. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

7. Items for Information or Discussion:

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

Mr. Lai advised that due to heavy workload with other projects this month, the RFP is not completed but will be completed soon for publication.

b. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Mr. Talavera followed up with the Commission on a question that was asked last month about the median gross rent number. Staff posted the 2025 Area Median Income white paper on the website. Staff worked to update the Housing Dashboard that is published on MCRPC website. Staff learned at the March Housing Coalition and Unhoused Taskforce meetings that the Emergency Winter Shelter is shutting down which could cause 25 people to return to the streets according to The Salvation Army. Eastview Christian Church is donating the community center located at Main Street and MacArthur to Home Sweet Home Ministries which will provide shelter, showers, health screens and meals.

c. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

Staff are working on combining the two Committees into one Committee. Thomas is still maintaining current information on the HSTP website, hosted by MCRPC website. During the last Region 6 Committee meeting in March, Iroquois announced their rural transit provider will be Futures Connections. So now, three Counties will have Futures Connections, Iroquois, Ford and Livingston. McLean County is still using ConnectGo through Connect Transit and Kankakee is using SHOWBUS.

Mr. Bittner asked how ConnectGo was going. Ms. Sicks advised it's been up and running since July and ridership numbers are increasing. There are conversations between the 5 Counties about riders who are traveling from county to county and how that will be handled hasn't been completely decided on yet. Mr. Grieder asked if ConnectGo has plans

to purchase more equipment. Ms. Sicks answered no that Connect Transit uses it's mobility vehicles when needed.

d. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

The Project Steering Committee (PSC) met March 13 in a workshop format to go over preferred alternative options. Next meeting will be held on April 10.

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

Ms. Ruder announced that Ms. Barrow will be the Commission member representing MCRPC on the PSC. Mr. Baumann explained the PSC kick-off meeting will be held on April 14 at the Bloomington Public Library at 4:00PM. He stated staff have completed promotional materials and completed the website for the PSC's review and approval.

Ms. Burke asked how many people will serve on the PSC. Mr. Baumann answered that currently 17 people, staff are waiting for one organization to respond. Ms. Burke advised she would like to see citizens on the PSC who don't represent an organization to represent the community. There was a brief discussion on a citizen being present on the PSC.

f. Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update (Jennifer Sicks)

Ms. Sicks handed out a map of the Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) to show the area that the MTP covers. The MTP is due October of 2027 to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This plan is a requirement of FHWA because we are the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the County. We must follow the Federal requirements for this plan. This plan covers the MPA only with some rural areas included. She explained that staff will publish a survey for the public outreach, The survey will be published after the Comprehensive Plan's survey to avoid confusion.

Mr. Grieder asked when the last MTP was completed. Ms. Sicks answered in 2022, right after COVID. This plan will focus on safety.

g. That Which May Arise

None

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant