

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2026, 4:00 P.M.
115 E Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois
Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

Katie Ruder, Chairperson; Amy Roser, Vice- Chairperson; Carl Teichman; Anne Barrow; Bruce Tompkins; Fred Grieder; Mark Wylie; Ruth Burke

Members Absent:

Carl Olson; Bart Bittner; Jeffrey "Jay" Spader

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Thomas Valencia; Luke Talavera; Anthony Baumann; Hirat Rahi; Jennifer Sicks; Jake Crevoiserat*
Others –Tricia Braid, Community Member`

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Ms. Ruder called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

There was one member of the public present to provide comments:

1. Tricia Braid commented on the Regional Comprehensive Plan's Project Steering Committee (PSC) and whether it is subject to the Open Meetings Act.

[The public comment may be reviewed on MCRPC's YouTube page.]

4. Consent Agenda:

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

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

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

6. Items for Information or Discussion:

a. Regional Housing Initiatives update (Luke Talavera)

Staff chaired the April Housing Staff Meeting, submitted the Town of Normal CDBG Q4 Report and will be submitting the City of Bloomington CDBG Q4 Report. The McLean County Housing Dashboard's updated version is now available on MCRPC website.

Staff have been working with the City of Bloomington regarding data request for a Housing Rehabilitation project. Staff are also providing assistance to the Housing Coalition by drafting a survey to gather input from partner agencies on what data can be used for regular reporting and grant writing needs. According to William Bessler with the City of Bloomington over 200 people attended the Housing Resource Fair that was hosted by City of Bloomington, Town of Normal and Mid-Illinois Realtors Association (MIRA). Over 30 local organizations offered information and services. Staff will attend the Home Illinois Summit in Springfield. There is an upcoming McLean County Care Fair on May 21 from 11am – 1 pm at Eastview Community Center where agencies will be providing showers, haircuts, care packages, health screenings, and meals to those in need.

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

The RFP is being finalized and will be sent to our legal team for review. Once approved by our legal team, the RFP will be posted.

c. Human Services Transportation Plan update (Jennifer Sicks)

The FY2026 tasks are ending and will be presented as action items at the June 15 Region 6 Joint Technical/Policy Committee meeting. These action items are updating the bylaws and the HSTP Amendment updating the rural transit providers. Mr. Valencia is keeping the website up to date with new rural transit providers.

d. Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan update (Raymond Lai)

Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan is currently in its last phase, with a completion date of September 2026. The consultants are on budget and on time with their process. The next PSC meeting will be on Friday, May 8. The last meeting covered a past study in 2021 for the intersection of Route 9 and Veterans Parkway, discussing the alternatives that were present to IDOT. The consultants are working through the preferred alternative and assessing other roadway improvements and safety options.

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

Mr. Lai distributed a list of PSC members and a meeting summary of the April 14 PSC meeting. Mr. Baumann provided a summary of what staff has been working on since the last PSC meeting, including the Regional Comprehensive Plan website, an outreach survey and other promotional materials. The PSC will meet monthly. The survey is specifically designed to create a vision statement for the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Additional outreach and surveys will come later in the planning process.

Mr. Grieder asked if the PSC members list is the final list of members. Mr. Baumann answered yes, although staff are still waiting on a couple of organizations to provide a member to represent on the committee. Mr. Lai explained that PSC members wear multiple hats, they don't just represent their organization but also as residents of McLean County. Each member brings their own expertise and opinions to the committee. These members were invited by staff to serve on this committee for their individual perspectives.

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

The MTP is a requirement from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to be completed by October 2027. It will go through the Transportation Technical and Policy committees for approval in September 2027. The last plan was completed in 2022. This updated plan will focus on transportation changes and fill in any gaps that need addressed. Staff are currently working on the introduction, the existing conditions report, population projections and finalizing the PSC.

g. That Which May Arise

Mr. Lai stated that Mr. Crevoiserat is coordinating with WGLT for a traffic safety campaign to come soon, along with some additional summer outreach events.

Ms. Burke asked about MCRPC bylaws listing an "Citizen Advisory Committee" and if the PSC for the Comprehensive Plan is a Citizen Advisory Committee because MCRPC members would be required to vote on the PSC members if it were. Ms. Ruder explained that in her notes from previous meetings staff discussed that no formalized vote was necessary for this type of working group. Mr. Lai explained that the Comprehensive Plan PSC is just like all the other PSCs that staff have worked with, such as MTP PSC and Veterans Parkway Corridor Plan PSC. These working groups are part of the planning process, allowing staff to collaborate with other organizations to help formulate ideas and use their different expertise to make sure the best plan is created by staff. Ms. Burke asked what the difference was between the Citizen Advisory Committee and the PSC. Mr. Lai explained that the PSC is an informal group to brainstorm ideas and provide feedback to staff for projects, while the Citizen Advisory Committee is a formal committee to discuss major issues. Mr. Tompkins explained the PSC is not recommending adoption to MCRPC, staff are still the creators of the plan and will recommend approval by the correct Council or Board. Ms. Roser explained that the roles of the members listed on the PSC are not the same as the Citizen Advisory Committee. The roles associated with the PSC is just to assist in the

brainstorming process of the planning process. The PSC members will not be writing and creating the plan, they will only be assisting in what should be included in the plan.

There were additional discussions about policy changes verses adoption of the plan. Ms. Burke explained she was uncomfortable with no involvement in approving the PSC members and formalizing the members because the policy changes associated with the Comprehensive Plan could affect her and where she lives. Ms. Burke asked if MCRPC could receive the meeting minutes from the PSC meetings. There was a discussion related to the meeting minutes or summary not being required. Mr. Baumann explained that summaries from these meetings will be made available for the public.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Ruder called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wylie moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Tompkins seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant