



Draft Minutes
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
Transportation Policy Committee
Government Center, Room 400
115 East Washington Street
Bloomington, Illinois 61701

Friday, July 30, 2021
11:30 a.m.

Attendance by Committee Members (In person - Italics indicate representation by proxy)

Mary Kramp	Chair, Transportation Policy Committee and McLean County Regional Planning Commission
Jim Soeldner	Chair, McLean County Board Transportation Committee
<i>Mboka Mwilambwe</i>	Mayor, City of Bloomington, by proxy Kevin Kothe
<i>Chris Koos</i>	Mayor, Town of Normal, by proxy Jason Comfort
<i>Scott Neihart</i>	IDOT District 5, by proxy Bob Nelson

Others Present *attended remotely

Tom Caldwell*	IDOT, OP&P	Jennifer Sicks	MCRPC
Cassy Taylor	McLean County	Shubhangi Rathor*	MCRPC
Raymond Lai*	MCRPC		

1. Call to Order

Ms. Kramp called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

2. Attendance

Attendance by Committee members and proxies was determined and is listed above. A quorum was present in person.

3. Public Comment

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

4. Minutes

Mr. Nelson offered a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2021 meeting, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion was unanimously approved.



Items for Action, as recommended for approval by the Technical Committee

5. Approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Nelson noted that there are four bridges to be painted in the metropolitan planning area, two over railroads and two over I-74 in northwest Normal.

Mr. Soeldner moved for the approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2022-2026 TIP, and was seconded by Mr. Comfort. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Approval of Amendment #2 to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Nelson noted that this is a safety project on I-55 from Sugar Creek to beyond Veterans Parkway. 4-inch striping will be replaced with 6-inch striping for greater visibility.

Mr. Soeldner inquired if this safety improvement is going to be applied statewide or just in the specified section. Mr. Nelson advised that this applied only to the area in the amendment.

Mr. Kothe moved for the approval of Amendment #1 to the FY 2022-2026 TIP, and was seconded by Mr. Comfort. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Approval of Amendment #3 to the FY 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program

Ms. Sicks advised that Amendment #3 to include SHOW BUS capital projects relating to their facility in Chenoa, which combines administrative, maintenance and storage functions, to improve the facility, including storage, facility function and structural changes to improve access in pandemic conditions, and and potential improvements at the Meadows facility to improve security.

Mr. Nelson moved for the approval of Amendment #3 to the FY 2022-2026 TIP, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. The motion carried unanimously.

Items of Information or Discussion

7. That Which May Arise

Ms. Sicks noted that it is staff's current understanding that as of this meeting, MCRPC is moving to in-person meetings. Transportation Committee meetings will be scheduled in Room 404.

Shubhangi Rathor introduced herself as a new MCRPC Assistant Planner, noting that she has recently completed her Master's degree in urban and regional planning at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Mr. Soeldner inquired about the status of the Norfolk Southern track abandonment, noting that the Mayor of Downs has safety concerns about children (and others) crossing and following the line. Ms. Sicks noted that the County Highway Department might have current status information. Mr. Soeldner noted that this 30-40 miles of track had been mentioned in several potential projects.

Mr. Kothe noted that Norfolk Southern continues to reserve rights to the corridor, which is embargoed; the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is involved in discussions and will be important in determining a solution. Meetings on the subject have been taking place during the last two years. Trail advocates wish to ensure that the disposition of the corridor does not drain away the right-of-way to adjacent landowners. Mr. Kothe also noted that Norfolk Southern has removed tracks and ties in the corridor, but seems unwilling to give up control. Embargoed status leaves them the option to sell their stake.

Mr. Soeldner noted that towns along the corridor are interested in uses that create tourist opportunities. Mr. Kothe noted that a solution should be determined sooner rather than later to deter encroachment by adjacent owners, and to provide for ongoing maintenance. Mr. Soeldner noted that trestles should be included in such a solution.

8. Next Meeting

The Committee is next scheduled to meet at 11:30 am on August 27, 2021.

9. Adjournment

Mr. Soeldner moved for adjournment, and was seconded by Mr. Kothe. Ms. Kramp adjourned the meeting at 11:45 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer A. Sicks".

Jennifer A. Sicks
Senior Transportation Planner
McLean County Regional Planning Commission