

Minutes of the Combined Meeting of the

**ILLINOIS REGION 2 TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE &  
BI-STATE DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING CONSORTIUM**

Thursday, September 26, 2019 – 1:00 p.m.  
MetroLINK Centre Station Banquet Room  
1200 River Drive  
Moline, IL

Members Present

Jackie Bennett	Project Now/RIM
Bobbi Draheim	Waste Commission of Scott County
Amy Fortenbacher	Muscatine Transit
Megan Fox	Waste Commission of Scott County
Tina Ganzer	Waste Commission of Scott County
Evelyn Gay	East Moline Community School District
Todd Hoeming	Riverbend Transit
Debbie Johnson	City of Kewanee
Rod Johnson	City of Kewanee
Debbie Kubinsky	HCPT/Abilities Plus
Ed Langdon	Rock Island County Board
Jodi McCaw	Project Now/RIM
Mitch Pannell	MetroLINK
Kathleen Richlen	City of Bettendorf
Stephanie Romagnoli	City of Muscatine
Lyndi Sellers	Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging
John Showalter	City of East Moline
Kim Walker	Abilities Plus
Vanessa Wierman	Scott County, Iowa

Others Present

Tim Brown	University of Iowa
Ginny Clay	TSS
Sarah Gardner	Bi-State Regional Commission
Dave Patton	WIU/RTAC
Tina Zweifel	TSS

1. Welcome and Introductions. Sarah Gardner welcomed all attendees and requested that introductions be made for those who were in attendance.
2. Approval of the Region 2 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes from December 11, 2018, March 19, 2019, and May 14, 2019. The minutes were provided to Committee members' and reviewed/edited in advance of the meeting. Ms. McCaw moved to approve the minutes and place them on file, and Ms. Kubinsky seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Bi-State Consortium Status Report. Ms. Clay of TSS reported the FTA pool for 2019 contains an average of 161 employees. At the end of the third quarter, 62 names had been drawn for random drug testing and 59 had been completed, leaving 22 tests remaining to achieve the 50% testing target of 81 employees. For random alcohol testing, 14 names had been drawn and 14 tests completed, leaving 3 tests remaining to achieve the 10% testing target of 17 employees. Ms. Clay said she believed this pool was on track to meet its testing targets for 2019.

Ms. Clay reported the FMCSA pool for 2019 contains an average of 548 employees. At the end of the third quarter, 104 names had been drawn for random drug testing and 95 tests had been completed, leaving 42 tests remaining to achieve the target of 25% or 137 employees tested. For random alcohol testing, 42 names had been drawn and 31 test completed, leaving 24 tests remaining to achieve the 10% testing target of 55 employees. Ms. Clay said TSS needed assistance from consortium members to come into compliance with testing targets by the end of the year. Copies of a compliance report were made available to attendees.

4. Updates on FTA and FMCSA regulations and upcoming training opportunities. Ms. Clay reminded members that the FTA had increased random drug testing requirements from 25% of the employee pool to 50% for 2019 as a result of an increase in positive drug tests. She also explained that in 2020, the FMCSA Clearinghouse will be launched as a repository of testing results for drivers with a CDL. Future employers will be required to check the Clearinghouse prior to hiring drivers. Ms. Clay also shared that TSS offers a Signs and Symptoms class for supervisors, which is available for a fee. The FTA requires supervisors to take this class at least once. Because drug use patterns change over time, it is recommended but not required that supervisors take the class as a refresher every two years.
5. Questions, comments, and concerns. Ms. Gardner opened the floor for questions, comments, and concerns regarding the Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium. A copy of the questions and responses from TSS is attached to the minutes.
6. Other business. Ms. Gardner recommended December 10 as the tentative date for the next quarterly Region 2 TAC meeting and said she would be contacting members with further details regarding a location and time. As the Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium meets annually, the group would not be convening again in 2019, but Ms. Gardner stated both herself and TSS were available at any time to answer questions or concerns regarding the consortium, and she encouraged members to reach out as needed.
7. Public Comment. There were no public comments given at the meeting.
8. Presentation by Dr. Timothy Brown, Director of Drugged Driving Research, University of Iowa. Dr. Brown shared information about research underway into the effects of cannabis use on driving. Currently, some form of cannabis use (including CBD products) is legal in most of the 50 states, either recreationally or medically. Studies show a clear connection between cannabis use and impaired driving, although a lack of consistent data collection across jurisdictions makes it difficult to know what proportion of fatal crashes involve cannabis use. Impacts include less precise control of vehicle and less peripheral awareness. However, as compared to alcohol, it is more difficult to assign a threshold that can be tested for to legally determine impairment. This is due in part to the many different means of cannabis ingestion, the varying levels of THC present in different forms of cannabis, the way THC is stored in the body, and the ways cannabis effects can be compounded by alcohol or other drug ingestion. There is currently no equivalent to a breathalyzer available to test for cannabis use, and when a driver tests positive, there is no way to determine when cannabis was last ingested or whether it was on or off the clock. This is one of the reasons cannabis use remains barred by the FTA and FMCSA for those operating safety-sensitive equipment, even in states where medical or recreational use have been legalized. Dr. Brown also shared that although research into autonomous vehicles is ongoing, fully autonomous vehicles will not be on the road for many decades yet, and therefore are not yet a potential solution for impaired driving. Ms. Clay added that cannabis use is illegal

on the federal level, and as transit operations receive federal dollars, they must comply with federal regulations. Ms. Gardner said that it is important to be talking to employees ahead of legalization going into effect to stay ahead of the issue. She added that this was true of other substances that might cause impairment, such as prescription medications. Employees should be encouraged to speak with their doctors about prescription alternatives to those that would result in a positive drug screen, and they should be reminded that the lack of regulations on CBD products mean there is no way to know how much THC is present in these products or how long it will remain in the body. She stated she was available to talk at employee meetings about these issues if it would be helpful to members.

9. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.