

**MINUTES OF THE  
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, July 22, 2009, 3:30 p.m.  
Scott County Administration Building  
Sixth Floor Conference Room  
600 West Fourth Street  
Davenport, Iowa

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Welvaert – Chair, Austin, Barnes, Becker, Gary Brown, Dean, Eccher, Freemire, Gallin, Gluba, Goodwin, Harris, Heninger, Hillman, Malvik, McDaniel, Meeker, Minard, O’Brien, Ripperger, Shoultz, Stoermer, Sunderbruch, Tank, Thodos, Volz, Washburn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Bohnsack, Nathan Brown, Lawrence, Pauley, Rangel, Rockwell, Sherwin, Tossell, Williams

**OTHERS PRESENT:** William Fox, Mayor, City of Silvis

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Connors, Hunt, Miller, Moritz, Waterman

Chair Welvaert called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Chair Welvaert introduced new Commission Bill Stoermer.

1. Approval of the June 24, 2009 Minutes. Ms. Dean moved approval of the minutes of June 24, 2009 as presented. Mayor Freemire seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer's Report. Ms. Ripperger presented the Treasurer's Report for the month ending June 30, 2009, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$621,977.90. Ms. Ripperger moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor O’Brien seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mr. Malvik presented the bills totaling \$72,126.91, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated July 22, 2009:

*Bills List*

Illinois Association of Regional Councils, 7/1/09-6/30/10 membership dues	\$ 1,600.00
Iowa Association of Regional Councils, 7/1/09-6/30/10 membership dues	2,300.00
Louise A. Kerr. Treasurer	5,922.73
8/09 Rent	\$4,165.96
8/09 Internet Access	88.00
06/09 Printing	562.24
06/09 Supplies	173.14
06/09 Postage	852.80
07/09 Cell Phone	80.59

National Association of Development Organizations, 8/1/09-7/31/10 membership dues	2,000.00
National Association of Workforce Boards, 7/1/09-6/30/10 membership dues (cost reimbursed by Workforce Development Board)	1,500.00
Rock Island County GIS, colored copies	663.45
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	2,835.00

Addendum

Bancard Center, VISA charge card expenses related to Chief Elected & Administrative Officials (Cost reimbursed by participants); Iowa DOT MPO meeting; one staff attending the Public Transit Association Training Conference & Annual Meeting; office supplies	932.93
Basile Baumann Prost Cole & Associates, Inc. short range economic development project	6,825.00
Chapin Concepts, Inc., Logistics Industry Sector Study	40,000.00
McClure Engineering Associates, Inc., East West Gateway Corridor Study	6,781.50
OfficeMax Inc., office supplies	766.30

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the bills totaling \$72,126.91 as presented above.

Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2009 Program Budget as of June 30, 2009.

Mr. Malvik explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in the agenda packet. The Commission is 100% through the fiscal year with 95.9% expended and within budget.

4. Consideration of the following Contracts. Ms. Bulat reviewed the following items which require Commission approval:

- Contract with Rock Island County for a Tactical Interoperable Communication Plan. The contract is in the amount of \$32,350 for the period 8/1/09 - 6/30/10.

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the contract as presented above. Ms. Dean seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Contract with Scott County for the Area Sustainability Plan. The contract is in the amount of \$25,000 for the period 8/1/09 - 12/31/09.

Mr. Austin moved approval of the contracts/grant as presented above. Mr. Harris seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

- Contract with Muscatine County for FEMA Buyout Administration. The contract is in an amount up to \$70,000 for the period 8/1/09 - 6/30/12.

Mayor Thodos moved approval of the contracts/grant as presented above. Mr. Minard seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Update on Transit Development Program. Ms. Chelsey Waterman, Planner, provided an update on transit planning activities in the Bi-State Region. Ms. Waterman explained that a major component of regional transit planning is the annual update of a Transit Development Plan, or

TDP. The TDP is a locally developed, coordinated, human services transportation plan and is mandated by the most recent Federal Transportation Act (SAFETEA-LU).

The document provides a four-year program of future mobility options within Henry, Mercer, Muscatine, Rock Island, Scott, and Whiteside Counties. Coordination strategies within the plan are aimed at providing transit services to seniors, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals, and the general public. In order to identify area transit needs, Bi-State staff obtains plan input from transit operators, local governments, human service agencies, and the general public.

Ms. Waterman informed Commissioners of several coordination activities ongoing in the Bi-State Region. In early 2009, Bettendorf Transit received funding from the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program (ICAAP) to move forward with a Quad Cities Circulator transit route. The route is a collaborative effort of Bettendorf Transit, Davenport CitiBus, and Metro, and will provide a seamless trip between the downtown areas of Moline, Rock Island, Davenport, and Bettendorf. In addition, Metro has partnered with a Quad Cities affiliate of the Independent Transportation Network (ITN), a senior rides program which uses volunteer-drivers. By partnering with Metro, ITN Quad Cities was able to obtain New Freedom funding and hopes to initiate service in the next several months.

In the rural areas, Project NOW and Arc of Rock Island County are working together to initiate public transit service in rural Rock Island and Mercer Counties. Project NOW will be the lead operator of the system, and expects to initiate service in September 2009. Although funding has not yet been identified, River Bend Transit (RBT) is also seeking partnerships with area agencies and Iowa City Hospitals to provide more frequent trips to Iowa City. RBT is proposing 2-4 daily trips between the Iowa Quad Cities and Iowa City along the I-80 corridor, and may apply for ICAAP funding during the next application cycle.

6. Report on Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium and approval of Contract with Genesis Occupational Health. Ms. Chelsey Waterman, Planner, provided Commissioners with an overview of the Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium as well as details on a three-year testing services contract with Genesis Occupational Health.

According to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), employees in regulated transportation industries must be part of an employer-based drug and alcohol testing program. Since 1995, Bi-State Regional Commission has staffed a Bi-State Drug and Alcohol Testing Consortium to assist local governments, transit operators, school districts, and non-profit agencies in reducing the cost of USDOT testing. Eligible employees are those performing safety-sensitive functions with a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) or for a Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded program. At the present time, the Consortium consists of 65 employers and approximately 945 employees throughout the Bi-State Region.

A request for bid proposals for a 2010 testing contract was published in April 2009, and three bids were submitted. A three-year testing services contract with Genesis Occupational Health was recommended by the Consortium. The new contract will provide testing services at a lower cost, provide additional testing locations, and will ensure that administrative services for the Consortium are conducted locally.

The costs for testing are as follows:

Urine Drug Testing Rate	\$39.00 Year 1
	\$40.00 Year 2
	\$41.00 Year 3
Breath Alcohol Testing Rate	\$31.00 Year 1
	\$32.00 Year 2
	\$33.00 Year 3

Due to the reduced cost and added benefits of a Genesis contract, it was recommended to begin October 1, 2009. A 60-day notice of termination of contract will be provided to the Concentra.

Mr. Malvik moved approval of the contract with Genesis Occupational Health and termination of the contract with Concentra as presented above. Mayor Gluba seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

7. Broadband Grant Opportunities Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Mark Hunt, Bi-State Regional Commission, Economic Development Project Manager, provided Commissioners with an overview of the federal programs for funding of broadband under the recently passed American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The act funded \$787 billion in economic development initiatives through several federal programs.

Within the act, \$7.2 billion was set aside for broadband funding through the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC). The USDA is authorized to provide grants and loans totaling \$2.5 billion for broadband infrastructure in rural areas. The USDOC is authorized to provide \$4.7 billion in grants for broadband initiatives that support unserved and underserved areas. In general, broadband grants under ARRA require 20% local match.

Three funding rounds are expected to fully obligate the broadband funds authorized under ARRA. The first round opened July 14, 2009 and closes August 14, 2009. All funds are to be obligated by September 30, 2010.

Following are several key terms related to broadband funding under ARRA:

**Broadband** – Two-way data transmission with advertised speeds of at least 768 kilobits per second downstream and at least 200 kilobits per second upstream.

**Rural** – Any area not located within a city or town or incorporated area that has a population of greater than 20,000; or an urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000.

**Underserved** – One or more contiguous census blocks that has at least one of the following factors: 1) no more than 50% of the households in the area have access to broadband service greater than 768 kilobits per second downstream and 200 kbps upstream; 2) no fixed or mobile broadband service provider advertises transmission speeds of at least three megabits per second downstream;  
3) the rate of broadband subscription service is 40% of households or less.

**Unserved** – One or more contiguous census blocks, where at least 90% of households lack access to broadband at 768 kilobits per second downstream or greater and 200 kbps upstream or greater.

8. Questions and Comments by Commissioners. There were no other questions or comments.
9. Other Business. Chair Welvaert reminded Commissioners to complete the Urban Transportation Survey.
10. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Minard  
Secretary