

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administration Building
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thodos – Chair, Austin, Baden, Callaway-Thompson, Earnhardt, Gluba, Gradert, Heninger, Holst, Hopkins, Howard, Kelly, Lawrence, Looney, Maranda, Maslanka, Meeker, O’Boyle, Raes, Sherwin, Sunderbruch, Tank, Terry, Volz

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anderson, Gordon, Hillman, Holmes, Liddell, Newton-Butt, Pauley, Schloemer, Stoermer, Washburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Eirka Witzke and Alan Meyers, Cambridge Systematics, Inc.; Dawn Neuses, Dispatch-Argus Newspaper

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Miller, Moritz

Chair Thodos called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

1. Approval of the June 24, 2015 Minutes. Mayor Gluba moved to approve the minutes of June 24, 2015 as presented. Mr. Maranda seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2015, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$590,959.12. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Volz seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mr. Austin presented the bills totaling \$54,420.72, as listed on the following bills listing and addendum dated July 22, 2015:

Bills List

Hurt, Norton & Associates, June 2015 legislative technical service and Professional Media Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	\$ 9,750.00
National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), membership Renewal, general, 8/1/2015 – 7/31/2016; Regional Planning Organization America Subscription, 7/1/2015 – 6/30/2016	2,500.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrative Hearing Officer services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,640.00

Addendum

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary 2015-2016 dues for the Hearing Officer for MUNICES hearings; 1 staff attending the Asset Mapping Training/Local Hazard Mitigation Planning workshop; Iowa Intergov	2,936.75
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meetings (cost reimbursed by participants); Northwest Municipal Golf Outing (cost reimbursed by participants); office supplies	
Cambridge Systematics, Inc., Bi-State Regional Commission Freight Commodity Efficiency Study/Plan	19,682.03
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,795.72
08/2015 Rent	\$4,618.38
08/2015 Internet Access	88.00
06/2015 Postage	946.81
06/2015 Cell Phone	142.53*
*(Partial costs reimbursed by HCEDP/Rural Accelerator Grant)	
Seeger Map Company, printing of Quad Cities folded and wall maps	10,116.22

Mr. Austin moved approval of the bills totaling \$54,420.72 as presented above. Ms. Earnhardt seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2014-15 Program Budget as of June 30, 2015. Mr. Austin explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 100% through the fiscal year with 96.4% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contracts and grant amendment for consideration.
 - Contract with Illinois Department of Transportation for HSTP Region 2 Coordination. The contract is for the amount of \$69,637 and will run from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017.
 - Contract with Illinois Department of Transportation for Freight Commodity Planning & Data Enhancements. The contract is for the amount of \$33,482 and will run from August 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.
 - Approval for amendment to the Quad Cities MPO FY 2016 Transportation Planning Work Program and to approve subcontract with HNTB Corporation to provide modeling development services not to exceed \$100,000 starting August 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016.

Ms. Kelly moved approval of the contracts and grant amendment as presented above, and Mayor Hopkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4. Bi-State Region Freight Study Recommendations. Ms. Witzke and Mr. Meyers presented the status of the Bi-State Region Freight Commodity Efficiency Plan to the Commission. The project was initiated 10-months ago to inventory the freight transportation system in the five-county Bi-State Region, assess needs, analyze commodity flows, report findings, and make recommendations for improving the freight transportation system. As part of the assessment, the consultant team utilized the stakeholders committee, industry interviews and a workshop to solidify study recommendations.

Ms. Witzke and Mr. Meyers identified key freight system needs, issues, and opportunities with a focus on the following themes:

- Economy – Use the Bi-State freight system support the region’s economy
- Infrastructure – Maintain and enhance highway system infrastructure
- Operations – Promote freight rail system operational efficiencies

- Access and Modal Options – Increase accessibility and mobility options for the region
- Resiliency – Work toward system resiliency and reliability

As part of the analysis, the consultants developed a regional freight profile and commodity tool. This tool will be turned over to Bi-State staff to utilize for future freight development needs. Ms. Witzke and Mr. Meyers gave a demonstration and provided a suggested framework, using cost-benefit analysis to evaluate different freight modal projects.

The plan identified over \$310 million in highway projects that will benefit freight movement as identified in the existing Transportation Improvement Program. There are \$101 million identified in the TIP that are shown as unfunded projects. Fourteen new highway projects were identified as part of the planning process. The plan outline plans for an intermodal, transload and/or consolidation facility, as well as rail bridge improvements to accommodate heavier loads and meet federal weight compliance requirements. The consultants suggested a new rail bridge across the Mississippi River, as well as rail spurs and connections from the Iowa Interstate Railroad, along with water port expansion.

Ms. Witzke and Mr. Meyers said that having a freight plan will provide the region with future opportunities to pursue funding. The plan documents all freight recommendations, which will give the ability to monitor implementation regularly and illustrate roles for public and private stakeholders. As follow-up to the planning effort, Bi-State staff plan to continue to build freight relations and foster collaboration with a freight forum and look to building support for plan implementation.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments by Commissioners.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kimberly Callaway-Thompson
Secretary