

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

Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Scott County Administrative Center
600 West Fourth Street
Davenport, IA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Earnhardt – Chair, Acri, Carroll-Duda, Dawson, Heninger, Kiser, Klipsch, Knobbe, Lack, Lawrence, Maranda, Mather, O’Boyle, Rico, Sauer, Schloemer, Stoermer, Tank, Tompkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Beck, Broderson, Brown, Callaway-Thompson, Condon, Gallagher, Geenen, Gradert, Looney, Mendenhall, Moore, Newton-Butt, Sherwin, Thoms, Terry, Waldron

OTHERS PRESENT: J. Scott Speegle, Passenger Rail & Transit Communications Manager, Illinois Department of Transportation; Kristina Kuehling, Sr. Associate Project Manager, Images, Inc.; KWQC news reporter

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough, Moritz

Chair Earnhardt called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m. and asked for introductions of attendees.

1. Approval of the June 27, 2018 Minutes. Mayor Klipsch moved to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2018 meeting as presented. Mr. Knobbe 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, 2018, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$734,739.35. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$47,512.79, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Chmura, annual license renewal for JobsEQ, August 1, 2018 through July 31, 2019	\$ 5,995.00
Illinois Association of Regional Councils, membership dues for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019	2,000.00
Opportunity Alliance LLC, consulting related to the enterprise zone application, July 2018 services, (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	6,667.00
The Roosevelt Group LLC, June 2018 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00
Thomas A. Skorepa, P.C., Administrator Hearing Officer June 2018 services (cost reimbursed by MUNICES)	3,010.00

Addendum

Center for Community GIS, Quad City Trails Henry County Expansion	3,600.00
Rock Island County Treasurer	6,240.79
08/2018 Rent	\$4,832.58
08/2018 Internet Access	88.00
07/2018 Managed Print Services	323.72
06/2018 Postage	889.63
06/2018 Cell Phone	106.86

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$47,512.79 as presented above. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2017-18 Program Budget as of June 30, 2018. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was mailed in members' packets. The Commission is 100% through the fiscal year with 91.7% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts/grants for consideration. Ms. Bulat reported that three grant applications that were approved at May’s meeting had been successful. Grants were awarded for an Illinois Quad Cities IL-92 Corridor Study, a Mississippi River Rail Bridges Alternatives Study, as well as funds to prepare a Rock Island County Comprehensive Plan for the unincorporated area.
- 4. Chicago-Quad Cities Passenger Rail Update. Mr. Speegle reported that the Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT) is fully committed to seeing the passenger rail project to completion. The DOT is working with the BNSF (Class I) railroad and Iowa Interstate (IAIS) (Class III) railroad along with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to complete key components of the corridor. To this point, there is \$177 million in FRA funds and \$45 million in state funds awarded to the project.

Construction is complete for the Eola Yard near Chicago. This piece of the project allows for trains to move off the main track for travel efficiency. The 110-mile BNSF section of the rails have been upgraded and represents two-thirds of the project. The last third of the project (50 miles) starts with an interconnection at Wyandot where BNSF and IAIS rail lines link. The DOT is in negotiations with IAIS on the scope of the infrastructure improvements. Designs and cost estimates will follow a signed agreement. The 50-mile corridor requires rail upgrades to meet passenger safety standards. An interlocking connection of the BNSF and IAIS at Colona is planned to correct congestions issues at this location. An equipment layover facility will be built at the end of the line in Moline south of River Drive between 2nd and 4th Streets. Construction of a rail station in Geneseo is planned as another component of the project. Mr. Speegle noted the route, once implemented, would have two round-trips per day, and be served by two train sets with 2-3 cars per set, and 75 people per car. Rates may be comparable to the current Quincy route for estimation purposes.

Mr. Speegle noted there are three steps to be completed prior to construction. Currently, refinement of engineering designs and concurrence with IAIS and FRA are needed. This would be followed by DOT and IAIS negotiating construction and maintenance agreements, and completion of preliminary engineering, and an environmental assessment with public participation. Final design would be the last task before the projects could go to construction. No timeline is available at this point, and Mr. Speegle could not speculate on when service would be initiated.

When asked how local officials can aid the advancement of the project, Mr. Speegle responded asking for patience, encouraging IAIS railroad to work out an agreement with the DOT and engage the State of Iowa related to the broader goal of the Midwest Rail Initiative to have rail service to Omaha. He was asked about Amtrak performance. It was noted that BNSF of the three existing routes in the state had best on-time performance, which speaks well for the Chicago-Quad Cities route. Mr. Speegle concluded that DOT would provide updates to Bi-State as they become available.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no further questions or comments by Commissioners.
6. Other Business. There was no other business.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Carroll-Duda
Secretary