

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

Wednesday, July 22, 2020, 3:30 p.m.
Teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maranda – Chair, Acri, Beck, Broderson, Brunk, Dawson, Deppe, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Gradert, Heninger, Jones, Kiser, Knobbe, Lack, Lawrence, Matson, Mendenhall, Newton-Butt, O’Boyle, Peacock, Saucedo, Schloemer, Sherwin, Stoermer, Tank, Waldron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kinzer, G. Moore, R. Moore, Parker, Sorensen, Thoms

OTHERS PRESENT: Rebecca Marruffo and Mahmoud Etemadi, Illinois Department of Transportation, District 2

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

Chair Maranda called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

1. Approval of the June 24, 2020 Minutes. Mr. Beck moved to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 meeting as presented. Mayor Dawson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Jones presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending June 30, 2020, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$736,673.45. Mr. Jones moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Matson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$33,255.61, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Grants Managements Systems, Inc. (GMS), training and support of the financial software for April 2020	\$ 5,535.00
Illinois Association of Regional Councils, membership dues for July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021	2,000.00
The Roosevelt Group LLC, June 2020 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00

Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer		5,720.61
08/2020	Rent	4,689.58
08/2020	Internet Access	88.00
07/2020	Managed Print Services	326.96
06/2020	Postage	588.14
06/2020	Cell Phone	27.93

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$33,255.61 as presented above. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2019-20 Program Budget as of June 30, 2020. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was included in members’ packets. The Commission is 100.0% through the fiscal year with 87.0% expended and within budget.
 - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts/grants for consideration.
4. Update on Centennial Bridge Maintenance Schedule and I-80 Bridge Planning and Environmental Linkages Study. Ms. Marruffo and Mr. Etemdi shared the status of current bridge efforts. The I-80 Planning and Environmental Linkages Study is a process used to look at a variety of factors and establish working relationships early in the project planning process and inform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The I-80 Bridge at the Mississippi River opened in 1966 and is one of three major interstate bridges in the Quad Cities. After repairs and rehabilitations over the years, the structure is reaching the end of its useful life. Its roadway features are outdated, and traffic congestion is increasing with associated increases in truck and automobile traffic and crashes on the bridge.

The PEL study began in late 2018 using Parsons Transportation Group as the consultant to examine the need for replacing the I-80 Bridge at the Mississippi River. Preliminary data collection and evaluation efforts are underway to analyze traffic, traffic projections, environmental data, and crash information. In April 2020, a virtual public meeting was held with over 500 participants. There is significant interest in the project both from the public and private sector. A project website has been established to monitor the process and provide input: www.i80mississippibridge.com. The PEL study is expected to be completed by late 2020 with a presentation of Purpose and Need in September, and to begin evaluation of build and no build alternatives. The ILDOT is currently preparing for the next engineering phase and consultant selection.

Ms. Marruffo and Mr. Etemdi went on to explain that the Centennial Bridge was built by 1940 and is included on the National Register of Historic Places. ILDOT is the lead agency and cost shares bridge inspection, maintenance and repairs, etc. on a 50/50 basis. Full inspections are completed every year including steel, concrete, and subsurface elements. There is a 40-ton load limit. Bridge washing and general maintenance is \$25,000 per state per year. Repairs are scheduled in the ILDOT multi-year program for a total of \$2 million, as well as a painting project for a total cost of \$6 million. Recent repair projects have included the FY2018 structural steel repairs on beams and hangers (completed fall 2018) and FY2019 Pier 3 scour countermeasures (completed fall 2019). These repairs have improved the bridge sufficiency rating, and the ILDOT will continue annual inspections and maintenance to extend the bridge’s useful life. With its historic designation, alternations and repairs must be reviewed and agreed as having “no adverse effect” and takes typically six months to process, as part of the project development process. It was noted that at any time a bridge is determined unsafe, it would be closed, which is why the on-going repairs mitigate problems before they get to that point.

Mayor Matson expressed concerns at long delays between discovery of needed repairs and completion, noting the Centennial Bridge was ranked #1 of poor bridges in Iowa. Mr. Etemdi reiterated that all repair requests must be approved through various state departments because of the bridge’s historical status. He did say that immediate repairs will be made quickly if needed repairs pose a risk to human safety. Mr. Etemdi also mentioned that a poor rating does not always mean a bridge is unsafe.

5. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. Mr. Saucedo asked if area health department costs have been increasing due to COVID-19, and if so, how are these increased costs being addressed. Ms. Bulat stated that FEMA has announced it will provide reimbursement costs of a percentage of COVID-19 related expenditures, and staff would follow up and provide information on the funding.
6. Other Business. Ms. Bulat reported that Census enumerators will be out starting August 11, utilizing COVID-19 safety precautions and badges for identification. She thanked the City of Davenport for forwarding the updated Census information.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeff Sorensen
Secretary