

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

Wednesday, January 27, 2021, 3:30 p.m.
Teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT: Maranda – Chair, Beck, Breeden, Broderson, Brunk, Dawson, Deppe, Dunn, Freeman, Gallagher, Heninger, Kendall, Kinzer, Lack, Lawrence, Limberg, Matson, Maxwell, Mendenhall, Newton, O’Boyle, Parker, Peacock, Schloemer, Sherwin, Stoermer, Thompson, Thoms, Waldron

MEMBERS ABSENT: Acri, Holmes, G. Moore, R. Moore, Saucedo, Sauer, Tank

OTHERS PRESENT: Colonel Todd Allison, Garrison Commander, Rock Island Arsenal; Jessica Brooks, NOAA

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

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

1. Approval of the December 16, 2020 Minutes. Mayor Broderson moved to approve the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting as presented. Mr. Stoermer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor O’Boyle presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending December 31, 2020, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$618,922.92. Mayor O’Boyle moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$387,076.10, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Dell Marketing L.P., 12 Dell 24 ICM Monitors for staff	\$ 2,748.00
The Roosevelt Group LLC, December 2020 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00

Addendum

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (esri), Maintenance Agreement for ArcGIS Desktop Basic and Advanced software and license for Community Analyst Web App Online, March 31, 2021 thru March 30, 2022	6,800.00
Rock Island County Treasurer	5,428.10
02/2021 Rent	4,689.58
02/2021 Internet Access	88.00
01/2021 Managed Print Services	333.50
12/2020 Postage	291.02
12/2020 Cell Phone	26.00
Bryan Schmid, tuition reimbursement	2,100.00
Disbursement of funds for the following Bi-State Revolving Loan Fund Loan: Lewis Machine & Tool, Inc.	350,000.00

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$387,076.10 as presented above. Mr. Heninger seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2020-21 Program Budget as of December 31, 2020. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was sent to prior to the meeting. The Commission is 50.0% through the fiscal year with 42.7% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract for consideration.
 - Henry and Stark Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan Update
Up to \$26,846 in FEMA Pre-Mitigation Disaster Funds with a portion as a subagreement with North Central Illinois Council of Governments for public outreach assistance.
Henry County will be matching the federal funds with in-kind personnel assistance.

Mr. Brunk moved approval of the contract as presented above. Ms. Mendenhall seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Executive Committee.

- a. Election of Officers. Chair Maranda reported the Executive Committee, serving as the Nominating Committee, met January 27, 2021 to recommend a slate of officers for consideration to the full Commission. The By-Laws provide that officers shall serve a term of one year (with eligibility for re-election to a second term) and must be elected officials with no more than one officer from each jurisdiction and no more than two officers from the same state. The office begins March 1, 2021. The slate nominated is:

Chair – Bob Gallagher, Mayor, City of Bettendorf

Vice Chair – Kippy Breeden, Chair, Henry County Board

Secretary – Diana Broderon, Mayor, City of Geneseo

Treasurer – Richard “Quijas” Brunk, Chair, Rock Island County Board

Chair Maranda called for nominations from the floor, and none were received. Mayor Matson motioned to approve the slate of officers as presented, and Mr. Deppe seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The secretary and treasurer will begin their terms in February as those positions are currently vacant.

5. Project Updates.

- a. *Status of Connect 2050 – Quad Cities Long Range Plan Update* – Ms. McCullough reported that chapters of the *2050 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* are currently available for review on the Bi-State website, including those related to the metropolitan planning area (MPA) profile, passenger transportation, non-motorized transportation, and freight. Pending chapter include system planning considerations, a summary of the transportation system, and roads as well as the supporting appendices. Three addendums will follow the plan adoption, including model documentation, congestion management plan, and the Federal Highway Administration directed performance requirements in a technical addendum.

Ms. McCullough went on to highlight the following areas.

Goals. Transportation provides for the movement of goods and people to contribute to a resilient Quad Cities metro area. Six overarching goals provide the basis for transportation to be enhanced in the Quad Cities. They relate to residential and commercial/industrial

development, transportation resilience, centers for learning, culture and recreation, government and public facilities/installations, and urban design. It was suggested that equity be added to the core goals, which will be brought to the Transportation Policy Committee for consideration.

Roads. There are 2,000 miles of roads in the metro Quad Cities with 125 miles of interstate, and about 40% eligible for federal funds. The river crossings of the Mississippi River carry 171,500 vehicles per day. Related to traffic safety and intersection crashes, speed and younger drivers contribute to the highest number of severe injuries and fatalities. Those with the highest percentage of severe injuries include motorcycle, pedestrian, and unprotected persons' crashes. The impact of crashes may be addressed using engineering, enforcement, emergency response, and or education.

Passenger Transportation. There are 3 public transit systems providing 25 fixed routes within the Quad Cities. They use a total of 104 vehicles and 3 passenger ferries. There are 3.9 million annual unlinked rides per year provided in the metro area during 12-13 hours of daily weekday service in the Iowa Quad Cities and 17 hours of daily weekday service in the Illinois Quad Cities. There are two paratransit providers and two regional transit providers (River Bend Transit and RIM Transit) serving rural to urban passenger needs. Passenger rail service continues to be in the development stage. The completed passenger rail station in Moline is awaiting rail construction to allow implementation of service from Quad Cities to Chicago. The Quad City International Airport provides commercial air service to 11 destinations.

Non-motorized Transportation. Quad Citizens and visitors have 214 miles of existing bicycle facilities to use for commuting and exercise with more miles planned for the future. Two national trails cross the metro area at the Government Bridge, the north-south Mississippi River Trail and east-west American Discovery Trail. Nineteen road corridors have been identified as Complete Streets corridors to encourage use by all users both motorized and non-motorized. As noted, bicycle injuries result in a higher percentage of severe injuries with 37 occurring in the last five years. The plan calls attention to these incidents to facilitate discussions on how our transportation system can be improved to reduce pedestrian crashes. There are also hundreds of miles of sidewalks in the Quad Cities. In the last 5 years, Bi-State staff have inventoried sidewalk repair and snow removal programs, shared best practices, and highlighted potential improvements through the development of 9 safe-routes-to-school plans. In the last 5 years, there have been 83 of these types of pedestrian-vehicle crashes. Work to reduce severe pedestrian and bicycle injury crashes will continue.

Freight Transportation. Advances in planning for freight include the 2015 freight plan, Mississippi River rail bridges study (2020), and the designation of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois as a statistical area for data collection by the Corps of Engineers. Since the last plan update, the Davenport transload facility west of the Davenport Municipal airport and part of the Eastern Iowa Industrial Center was completed and became operational.

Next Steps. Pending chapters are expected to be drafted in February. Public involvement on the draft plan will begin in March. The Policy Committee will review the plan and consider a recommendation to the Commission. The Commission will consider adoption of the plan at their March 24 meeting.

- b. *Status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update* – Ms. Bulat reported the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) is fully updated every five years, with the last one completed in 2016. The 2021 CEDS will be a full update.

The Bi-State Regional Commission helps to create an overarching plan that is consistent with the broad goals of the five-county Bi-State Region. The CEDS goals are purposely broad so that the CEDS does not usurp the goals of member governments and various economic development partners throughout the Bi-State Region. Many of the goals have remained the same over the years. With this CEDS Update goals related to pandemic recovery and diversity, equity and inclusion added. Strategies are more specific than goals, measurable and realistic considering what can be accomplished over the five-year period of the CEDS by partners in the Bi-State Region.

The demographic and goals section of the plan are currently being drafted.

6. An Early Look at Spring Flood Potential. Ms. Brooks provided an early look at the 2021 spring flood season. She noted factors considered as part of spring flooding including snow cover, frozen ground, soil moisture, stream flows, and conditions leading up to the spring including weather as well as outlooks for the future.



As of late January, the flood risk for the Mississippi River was near to below average for the coming spring. Local rivers are near or slightly above normal for this spring. Overall, drier than normal conditions over the past 6 months and dry soils drive the lowered risk flooding predictions for the Mississippi River. However, additional snow from this point on, the rate of snowmelt and spring precipitations could still result in flooding.

Ms. Brooks highlighted these predictions with maps showing regional snow depth, snow water equivalent, frozen ground and soil moisture. The potential for ice jams on the Rock River have been limited, but cold air outbreaks could still cause ice development and ice jams to form.

The formal spring flood outlook will be released on February 11, 2021 with updates on February 25 and March 11. Information can be found at the North Central River Forecast Center <https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/> and the Quad Cities Weather Forecast Office: <https://www.weather.gov/dvn>. The weather flood outlook for the Quad Cities this spring can be found at https://www.weather.gov/dvn/2021_springfloodoutlook.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. None
8. Other Business. None
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Broderson
Secretary Elect