

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

Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 3:30 p.m.  
Teleconference

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Holmes, Kendall, Maxwell, G. Moore, R. Moore

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Joseph Goetz, Airport Operations Manager

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

Chair Maranda called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Following roll-call, a moment of silence was observed for the passing of Jim Tank, RLF Board Representative to the Commission.

1. Approval of the January 27, 2021 Minutes. Mr. Beck moved to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting as presented. Mr. Kinzer seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mr. Brunk presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2021, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$549,144.09. Mr. Brunk moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mayor Dawson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$111,327.18, as listed on the following bills listing:

*Bills List*

Blackhawk Bank & Trust, VISA charge card expenses related to 3 staff attending \$ 2,976.85 the Iowa Bicycle Summit; Institute of Transportation Engineers license renewal for 1 staff; Photoshop and Creative Cloud licenses; air purifiers; computer back-up batteries; website hosting; office supplies	2,609.56
Dell Marketing L.P., Precision 5820 Tower XCTO Base	20,000.00
The Roosevelt Group LLC, January 2021 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	80,000.00
Disbursement of funds for the following Bi-State Revolving Loan Fund Loan: Smith’s Custom Meats & Deer Processing, Inc.	5,740.77

*Addendum*

Rock Island County Treasurer			5,740.77
03/2021	Rent	4,689.58	
03/2021	Internet Access	88.00	
02/2021	Managed Print Services	333.50	
01/2021	Postage	474.26	
01/2021	Printing	15.00	
01/2021	Supplies	114.40	
01/2021	Cell Phone	26.03	

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$111,327.18 as presented above. Mayor Gallagher seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2020-21 Program Budget as of January 31, 2021. Mayor O’Boyle explained the Program Budget Status Report was sent to prior to the meeting. The Commission is 58.3% through the fiscal year with 49.0% expended and within budget.
  - c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
4. Commission Committee Assignments for 2021-2022. Chair Maranda presented the list of the 2021-2022 officers and committees distributed prior to the meeting. Chair Maranda motioned to approve the Commission officers and committee assignments as presented. Mr. Beck seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  5. Consideration of Appointment of Replacement for RLF Board Representative. Chair Maranda and Ms. Bulat presented to the Commission the appointment of Eileen Roethler to the position of RLF Board Representative due to the passing of Jim Tank. Mayor O’Boyle motioned to approve Ms. Roethler’s appointment to the Commission for RLF. Mayor Gallagher seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
  6. Project Updates.
    - a. *Status of Connect QC 2050: Quad Cities Long Range Plan Update* – Ms. McCullough provided an update on the status of *Connect QC 2050: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP)*. Commissioner Parker at the January meeting requested inclusion of racial equity as part of the plan. The request was taken through the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Technical and Policy Committees for consideration. A core function of the plan is to identify projects eligible as part the federal transportation system and future federal funding opportunities.

After review of the federal civil rights and environmental justice requirements, and peer examples from across the country, a new LRTP development goal was presented as:

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion* – Foster development plans and processes to serve and benefit all residents in ways that reduce, mitigate or eliminate inequity, and encourage diversity and inclusion of environmental justice-defined populations (minorities, low income and limited English proficiency).

Already existing in the LRTP was a residential development goal that addressed cultivating “diverse, quality-based residential areas...” and the urban design goal that addressed creating “safe, secure, attractive, equitable, community-based living and working conditions that minimize negative outcomes and provide quality of life benefits...” Each of these is consistent with the requirements under the U.S. Department of Transportation on environmental justice (EJ). The Federal Highway Administration defines EJ as “identifying and addressing disproportionately high and adverse effects of the agency's programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations to achieve an equitable distribution of benefits and burdens. This includes the full and fair participation by all potentially affected communities in the transportation decision-making process.” The Transportation Policy Committee concurred with the addition as presented, and it will be included in the full draft plan.

Ms. McCullough then addressed the following questions.

- *Could the goal be narrowed to racial equity?* Yes, but it would be inconsistent with the EJ review of minorities and low income populations, as well as limited English proficiency.
- *Why not make it a performance objective?* The transportation objectives are federally identified objectives, such as the resilience objective that was added to be consistent with the federal objectives. Diversity, equity and inclusion is broader in nature and locally identified and therefore appropriate as a goal.
- *Can this be used to program projects?* Programming of projects follows the development of the LRTP. It was noted that the authority to program projects and the process utilized to program projects has been delegated to the Transportation Policy Committee. Under the current Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), the Transportation Technical and Policy Committees follow an evaluation manual that looks at safety, condition of asset, and congestion using quantitative criteria. An EJ analysis is provided as additional information to the decision-making process, but the information is not part of the quantitative criteria.

Ms. McCullough reported that a media release notifying the public of the availability of the plan was sent 2/24/21. The draft plan is available on the Bi-State website, and virtual public input meetings were being planned for mid-March. A public hearing is planned at the March 23 Transportation Policy Committee meeting. The Bi-State Regional Commission would consider adoption of the plan at their March 24 meeting.

- b. *Status of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Update* – Ms. Bulat informed the Commission that the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2021 Update is under development, and she provided a draft of the demographics section of the document, which breaks down regional demographics on people, place, and the economy. Ms. Bulat also distributed the Strategic Directions section of the CEDS explaining that it had been developed with input from the CEDS Committee and includes goals and strategies. She noted the goals that were included in the 2016 CEDS Update were carried forward into the 2021 CEDS. Two goals were added to the 2021 CEDS Update related to monitoring recovery from the pandemic and efforts to address diversity, equity, and inclusion.

At the March Commission meeting a draft copy of the 2021 CEDS Update will be distributed and will lay on the table until April Commission meeting. The draft will include a copy of the Analysis of Regional Economy section which discusses strengths, opportunities, challenges, and threats (SWOT) to the Bi-State Region's economy as identified by members of the CEDS committee. It will also include a listing of completed, underway, and planned economic development-related projects in the Bi-State Region.

7. Update on Activities of the Quad City International Airport. Mr. Goetz reported that as with many transportation modes, air travel has been significantly impacted by the global pandemic. The good news is that the enplanements at QCIA are 62% of the national average, or 58% down for 2020. December 2020 enplanements were roughly 1/3<sup>rd</sup> less than in 2019. Revenues at QCIA are down 35%. With diversification in their revenue streams, the impact of COVID-19 is less impactful than some of their peers have experienced. The airport authority received \$2.7 million in COVID relief funds to supplement operations.

Moving forward, QCIA is investing in improvements. CARES act funding allowed for the purchase and replacement of an 18-year old firefighting apparatus for \$850,000 at 100% federal share via the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This same funding will provide \$2,044,170 to remove and replace three boarding bridges. A runway shortening project of \$8.57 million (90% covered by FAA and 5% covered by State of Illinois and 5% by the Airport) will reduce one of three intersections of the runway to improve safety and aircraft operations. It is expected to begin in Spring 2022.

Mr. Goetz reported that QCIA is installing \$8 million in solar panels. The energy produced will reduce the cost of power consumption by 50%. This project will include installation of 4,573 solar panels, and is set to begin March 1, 2021. Short-term parking will become covered parking under the canopy of solar panels. It will be managed by WCP Solar of Naperville with local subcontractors – Decco, General Constructors, Bevans Steel, and Moxie Solar.

QCIA intends \$71,000,000 in projects in the next 6 years. This includes \$5,000,000 in equipment purchases (2 plows, 2 snow brooms, paint machine, front end loader, snow blower), future terminal design sense of place and visioning, rehabilitation of the general aviation ramp areas, ongoing drainage improvements, and rehab runway 13/31.

Mr. Goetz concluded with a few comments on non-aeronautical activities including the purchase of five additional properties around the airport. He noted Group O subleased to a firm that created 45 new jobs. The State of Illinois aviation plan reported that QCIA employed 1,400 on their airport property. The facility is an important transportation asset and contributor to the regional economy.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Diana Broderson  
Secretary Elect