

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

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Holmes, Kendall, Matson, Mendenhall, G. Moore, R. Moore, Waldron

OTHERS PRESENT: Colonel Todd Allison, Garrison Commander, Rock Island Arsenal

STAFF PRESENT: Bulat, Grabowski, McCullough

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

1. Approval of the February 24, 2021 Minutes. Mayor Dawson moved to approve the minutes of the February 24, 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 February 28, 2021, noting an ending total bank and book balance of \$505,023.84. Mr. Brunk moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Beck seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
  - a. Bills. Mayor O’Boyle presented the bills totaling \$25,648.47, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

The Roosevelt Group LLC, February 2021 Legislative Technical Services (cost reimbursed by participating member governments)	20,000.00
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Addendum

Rock Island County Treasurer	5,648.47	
04/2021	Rent	4,689.58
04/2021	Internet Access	88.00
03/2021	Managed Print Services	333.50
02/2021	Postage	438.36
02/2021	Supplies	73.00
02/2021	Cell Phone	26.03

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of the bills totaling \$25,648.47 as presented above. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2020-21 Program Budget as of February 28, 2021. Ms. Bulat explained the Program Budget Status Report was sent to prior to the meeting. The Commission is 66.7% through the fiscal year with 56.1% expended and within budget.

- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. Ms. Bulat presented the following contract for consideration.
- Contract with Shovel Ready Rebuild Illinois Grant Administration to administer a Shovel Ready Rebuild Illinois Grant for the YWCA and the City of Rock Island for up to \$20,000.

Mayor O’Boyle moved approval of grant application. Mayor Broderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Consideration of Resolution to Recognize the Significance of the Corn Belt Ports Statistical Area Designations, and Specifically Recognize the Importance of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois to the Bi-State Region. Ms. Bulat presented a resolution to recognize the significance of the Corn Belt Ports Statistical Area Designations.

Mr. Beck moved approval of the resolution. Mayor Dawson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

5. Consideration of Adoption of *Connect QC 2050: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan.* Ms. McCullough provided an update on the status of *Connect QC 2050: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) before consideration of adoption of the plan by the Bi-State Regional Commission. The plan fulfills federal requirements to examine development and its transportation impacts on future travel demand in the Quad Cities. The plan provides a pathway for identifying transportation needs and desires to move goods and people safely, efficiently, and in ways that minimize environmental and social impacts, and translate these into projects for the future. The plan is updated every five years to address changing conditions and course corrections. As an example, COVID has impacted passenger transportation, but has had less impact on movement of freight. Some travel is beginning to rebound and will continue to be monitored for its longer term impacts on the transportation system.

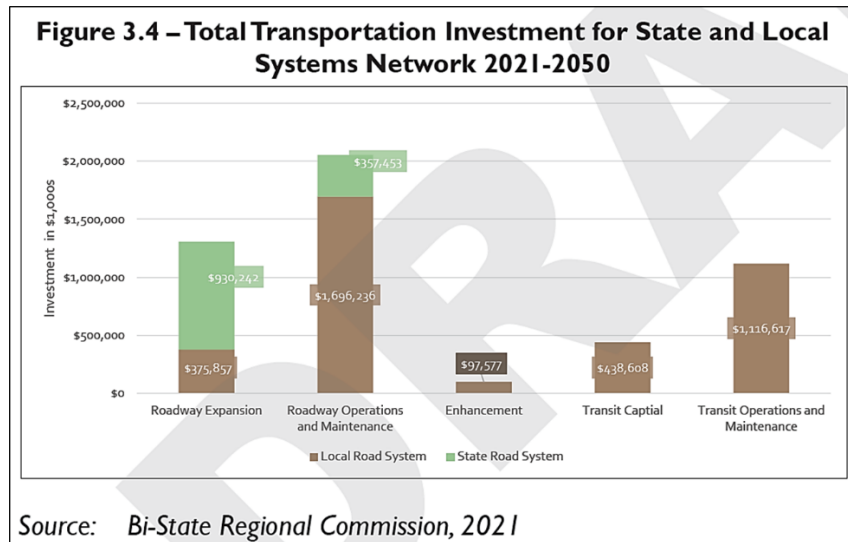
**Multimodal System.** The plan addresses multiple modes of transportation, including:

- 800 miles of federally eligible roads of 2,000 miles total
- 214 miles of bikeways & 19 *Complete Streets* corridors
- 25 fixed routes – 3 public transit systems
- 2 regional transit systems
- 104 transit vehicles + 3 vessels
- 11 transit priority corridors
- ~30% streets w/ sidewalks one or both sides (excludes local roads)
- 9 *Safe Routes to Schools* plans
- QC-Chicago Passenger Rail Service Preliminary Engineering + Moline Q Station
- Airport improvements
- MRPEIWI Ports Statistical Area designation

### **Multimodal Investment**

The plan represents a total investment of \$5 billion dollars by the year 2050. Operations and maintenance represents 73% of this investment to preserve the existing system and its assets. Capital projects that will enhance the system by adding capacity, connectivity, and accessibility

accounts for 27% of the investment. By mode, roads account for 54% of the future investment, transit 41%, and other enhancements at 5%.



**Public Involvement.** A media release notifying the public of the availability of the plan was sent 2/24/21. The draft plan was available on the Bi-State website, and virtual public input meetings were held in March. The original citizen survey secured 179 responses, and subsequent input since January 2021 totaled 114 responses. A public hearing was part of the March 23 Transportation Policy Committee meeting. No public comments were received, and the Policy Committee recommended approval of the plan. Following adoption, staff will prepare the final plan for publication and it will be available at [www.bistateonline.org](http://www.bistateonline.org)

Mayor Freeman moved approval to adopt the *Connect QC 2050: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan*. Mayor Thoms seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

6. Status of the *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Updates*. – Ms. Bulat presented a full draft of the CEDS Update, highlighting economic trends in the Quad Cities. Besides the Bi-State Regions Goals and Strategies, which were presented previously, components of the CEDS include a detailed demographic overview of the people, economy, and place of the Bi-State Region; a description of the strengths, challenges, opportunities, and threats; and a list of performance measures to access the progress toward the region’s goals.

In the summary of regional data and demographics, Ms. Bulat noted most data lags and is 2019 information that won’t fully reflect the pandemic. There is a projected steady slow population growth aligning to the recently completed long range transportation plan population projections. Median age for the region increased from 39.2 to 40.5 and is projected to continue to increase. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts. After spring 2020 unemployment increases due to the pandemic, fall unemployment numbers recovered to near 2019 levels. However, lower income, Hispanic people, and African Americans experienced higher levels of job loss. There has been a stable slightly increasing Gross Regional Product. Major industries in the region include defense, food processing, agriculture, logistics, and animal production. Industries hit hardest by the pandemic were travel, entertainment, personal services, and transportation.

Strengths and opportunities in the Bi-State Region include access to multiple modes of transportation including the creation of the port statistical area; the Rock Island Arsenal and its

global reach; numerous economic tools such as tax credits, enterprise zones, and revolving loan funds; the I-74 Corridor Project, the largest infrastructure project in regional history; a trained educated labor force; multiple economic development partners; multiple mental health services; multi-season outdoor recreation opportunities; and major redevelopment activities.

The themes related to threats include protecting the Rock Island Arsenal from job losses; the need for improvements and completion of numerous infrastructure projects; various issues that affect fiscal matters and funding, including taxes, tariffs, and wages; the need for diverse housing throughout the region; workforce attraction and retention; the need for large scale site ready industrial parks; flooding impacts and extreme weather; and funding for commercial district/downtown revitalization. The economic development projects listed in the plan were collected from partners and member governments and are used to report progress toward goals.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D Broderson', is positioned above the typed name.

Diana Broderson  
Secretary