

**Minutes of the
DAVENPORT-ROCK ISLAND-MOLINE, IOWA-ILLINOIS
URBANIZED AREA
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 12:00 Noon
Third Floor Conference Room 320
Bi-State Regional Commission
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

Policy Members Present

Ray Ambrose	Davenport City Council
Ian Frink	Davenport City Council
Larry Lorensen	MetroLINK Chair
Becky Marruffo	Illinois Department of Transportation - Dixon
Dennis Pauley	Mayor, City of Rock Island
Sam Shea	Iowa Department of Transportation - Davenport
Tom Sunderbruch	Scott County Board of Supervisors
John Thodos	Mayor, City of East Moline
Don Welvaert	Mayor, City of Moline
Bob Wilson	President, Village of Port Byron

Others Present

Betsy Brandsgard	Iowa Quad City Chamber of Commerce
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Tom Kelso	Illinois Department of Transportation-Springfield
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Lalit Patel	Bi-State Regional Commission
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the Minutes of the October 27, 2009 Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Sunderbruch asked for approval of the October 27, 2009 Transportation Policy Committee minutes. Mr. Ambrose motioned to approve the minutes as written. Mr. Lorensen seconded the motion, and the motion carried.
2. Consideration of Updates to Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan and United We Ride Pilot Project. Ms. Waterman directed the Policy Committee to the agenda packet for a summary of the proposed updates to the Bi-State Region Transit Development Plan (TDP). Both Illinois and Iowa Departments of Transportation are allowing minor updates of the document every other year since it has met the overall requirements of the human services coordination planning. Ms. Waterman highlighted a number of updates including the addition of information on the launching of Rock Island and Mercer Counties (RIM) rural transit service and Whiteside County Public Transportation. In "Review of Efforts", the urban circulator project and the New Freedom grant to ITN-Quad Cities was noted. To address education, 2009 Transit Training Workshops were noted. In Chapter 5- Passenger Transportation Prioritization Strategy, urban transit projects reflect the FFY10-13 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and major projects such as the construction of maintenance facilities for Metro and Davenport CitiBus. She noted FY14 projects have been added as provided. The Technical Committee recommended approval of the updates as provided. Mayor Thodos motioned to approve the TDP updates. Mr. Ambrose seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Waterman reported on the award of a United We Ride Grant to the State of Illinois for a pilot program. Her position as a Region 2 Human Services Transportation Coordinator will evolve to a Mobility Manager in the next year. Her new role will be to facilitate greater mobility in Region 2, comprised of rural Rock Island County and Henry, Mercer and Whiteside Counties. The grant will include a mobility coach in addition to the manager position to serve the rural Rock Island County and Mercer County area. The mobility coach will work with senior housing, hospitals, assisted living and other facilities as well as the public to encourage and provide information on passenger transportation options in the region. The Illinois Interagency Coordinating Committee on Transportation (ICCT) will be working with the managers and coaches to create a toolbox to be used as a model across the United States. The Bi-State area and Champaign were selected to pilot the program with each having rural partnerships that will be launching new rural transit services. Ms. Waterman noted the grant was a nationally competitive program, so the selection is quite an honor.

3. Review of the Surface Transportation Program Evaluation Process. Mr. Patel reviewed the Surface Transportation Program Evaluation Process (STP). The quantitative evaluation process was first adopted in 1985 and most recently updated in January 2009 when special considerations were revised to remove timing/scheduling and refine the automobile alternatives items. Level of Service, Accidents and Physical Condition criteria are weighted equally with 150 points for each category. Mr. Patel further reviewed the each evaluation criteria and the subset calculations related to each. Ms. McCullough noted that a call for projects has been sent to the Iowa Quad Cities with a deadline of December 18, 2009. There is approximately \$6.1 million in funds to program. There is much less funding available for the Illinois Quad Cities. With recent federal rescissions, there may be less and staff is waiting information from the Illinois Department of Transportation to confirm. At the January Policy Committee meeting, an evaluation of Iowa Quad Cities' projects is anticipated.
4. Status Reports. Ms. McCullough briefed Policy Committee members on a number of issues.
 - Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Staff is preparing the 2006 base year socio-economic data which is foundation of the travel demand model and populating traffic analysis zones with population, housing units and school enrollment. An initial presentation was made to the Technical Committee this month and a full presentation is expected next month to both the Technical and Policy Committees. Staff has received employment data from both states and are working to verify geographic information and placement in traffic analysis zones (TAZs). An early resource agency consultation & coordination meeting was held on December 1, 2009. SAFETEA-LU requires coordination of planning and documents to determine any early fatal flaws related to environmental hazards and mitigation during the initial LRTP process.
 - Passenger Rail. The Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation are waiting for a 1st quarter ARRA award announcement on the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) discretionary grant program (ARRA). An application was submitted for new and enhanced passenger rail services, including from Chicago to Iowa City via the Quad Cities. The application was the first time where all associated costs were assembled with the Iowa City to Chicago route costs amounting to \$239,632,800. Next steps will be to provide facts on the costs of project as entire package. The application also completed a Tier I environmental review process. As part of The Midwest Rail Initiative is being updated and will include an environmental review. NEPA review will be needed as national level requirement for entire corridors.

- Air Quality. There have been no exceedences of ozone or fine particulates in Scott County yet this calendar year. However, there were elevated levels of fine particulates in early September and late November which may affect Muscatine's attainment status. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is considering whether to revise the ozone standard based on new scientific research. This may occur in late December with an official notice published in the Federal Register. Area officials have been invited and encouraged to participate in the Bi-State Region Clean Air Partnership. The ICAAP application is being recommended by IA DOT staff for approval with a notice of award being announced in early spring 2010. In addition to the ICAAP application, a request for \$40,000 was submitted to Illinois Department of Transportation for special research funds to further the emission reduction efforts in the Bi-State Region. Staff is working with ILDOT on minor revisions to the request prior to contracting for the project.
 - American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) Projects. Iowa Quad Cities received \$5.9 million and has let six highway projects to date with two trail engineering contracts under negotiation. The Princeton project will let January 20, 2010. Any unobligated balances will go to State projects and an equivalent amount will be transferred into the Iowa Quad Cities STP balance. Illinois Quad Cities received \$3.1 million and has let one project in Coal Valley. The five remaining projects will be let January 15 2010. Public transit systems in the Quad Cities received \$5.2 million and projects are underway.
 - Transportation Reauthorization SAFETEA-LU expired on October 1st. Congress passed a subsequent extension through December 18, 2009. There are a variety of discussions related to continuing resolutions from six to eighteen month extension of the act until a reauthorization can occur. Chairman Oberstar of the House of Representatives has proposed a \$500 billion bill but other matters are taking precedence over a transportation reauthorization discussion.
 - Bridge Coordination. A bridge restrictions notice was mailed with Committee members' packets. Closure of the Moline viaduct to the Arsenal was noted beginning in January 2010 for 18 months.
5. Public Comments. No public comments were made.
6. Other Business. No other business was conducted.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Ambrose motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lorensen. The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.