

Minutes of the
QUAD CITIES, IOWA-ILLINOIS
METROPOLITAN PLANNING AREA
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – 12:00 p.m.
TELECONFERENCE
Mayor Mike Thoms, Chair

Due to on-going COVID-19 meeting directives by state and federal officials, the Policy Committee was held by teleconference to limit personal contact. Webinar sign-in information was provided to Policy Committee members, general public, and media with the agenda.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Baecke	Chair, MetroLINK Board
Bob Gallagher	Mayor, City of Bettendorf
Ken Kroken	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Mike Matson	Mayor, City of Davenport
Marty O’Boyle	Mayor, City of Eldridge
Sam Shea	Iowa Department of Transportation – District 6
Kris Tobin	Illinois Department of Transportation – District 2
Betsy Tracy	Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division

OTHERS PRESENT

Rachel Anderson	QC Chamber
Denise Bulat	Bi-State Regional Commission
Doug DeLille	Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield
Mark Garrow	Bettendorf Transit
Chelsey Hohensee	MetroLINK
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Jeff Nelson	MetroLINK
John Powell	Davenport CitiBus
George Ryan	Wood Environment and Infrastructure Solutions, Inc.
Chong Qing Wu	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the July 28, 2020 Quad Cities MPO Transportation Policy Committee Meeting. Mayor Gallagher deferred approval of the minutes due to a lack of a quorum.
2. I-74 Mississippi River Reconstruction Update. Mr. Ryan gave an update on the progress on the I-74 bridge construction. The first piece of the arch deck is to be poured by mid-September. Crews are working to finish the arch pieces. The westbound span is expected to be open to traffic by the end of the year. The eastbound portions are beginning. The project is approximately one year behind schedule.
3. Consideration of Revisions to the Quad Cities MPO FFY2020-2023 and FFY 2021-2024 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mayor Gallagher deferred approval of the TIP amendments due to a lack of a quorum.

4. Presentation on 2045 Performance Measures Addendum. A draft of the 2045 Performance Measures Addendum was included in Committee members' agenda packets. Ms. McCullough noted that due to the widespread power outages, the August Technical Committee was cancelled, but they were sent a copy of the draft addendum. Consideration of approval will be set for September, and the document was available for review and comment. The addendum is a compilation of a summary of the federal performance measures and requirements, as well as a collection of the targets approved by the MPO. To date, the MPO has accepted state performance measures and measures set by the respective transit systems for asset management. Transit safety targets will be reviewed either by the end of this year or early next year. The intention is for the document to be updated with the newest information as it is approved, and kept on the Bi-State Regional Commission website. It will then fold into the *2050 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* update as an addendum. A question was raised as to why support the state targets and not develop MPO specific targets. It is assessed that the area would be better served focusing on supporting state targets by reducing crashes through grant writing for improvements, and targeting local efforts through the development of a traffic safety plan. Traffic safety is the only transportation performance measure that has a local component, as it applies to all public roads. The other targets are aimed at state/federal assets or transit assets and safety.
5. Report on Quad Cities Public Transit. At the July meeting, general background and information was provided on the three fixed-route public transit systems as part of the *2050 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* update process. The systems wanted the opportunity to share their progress over the last five years since the update. Transit managers presented on their respective systems. Mr. Garrow, Bettendorf Transit, addressed system route changes and declining ridership. He outlined potential efficiency changes in the future, such as going to bus stops and looking at microtransit. Similarly, Mr. Powell, CitiBus, explained route changes in the last five years and its impact on ridership. The system has introduced electronic fares and is looking at uniform bus shelters and signing. Mr. Nelson, MetroLINK, reported on several facility and fleet improvements in the last five years, as well as operational improvements deploying new technology. All systems reported driver and rider safety precautions implemented and continuing under the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Status of the 2050 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan Development – Non-motorized Transportation, Passenger Transportation Existing Conditions and Future Land Use. Ms. McCullough reviewed the employment control totals previously shared with the Policy Committee. The low total was 181,360, and the high was 238,139 employees. Using 2015 employment derived from InfoGroup, the number of employees from the parcel based analysis was within 2.2% of the InfoGroup total. The land-used based projections of employment for the future years collected from the communities exceeded the high control total by 30%. Based on this result, the percentage of land area for future development was scaled back to reflect and align with the employment/population ratio of 62.5%. This resulted in a 2050 employment figure of 218,995 employees, which was below the 238,139 employee control total.
7. Public Comments. No public comments were made.
8. Other Business. Mr. Shea announced that the Iowa DOT Commission is scheduling its October 13 meeting for 10:00 a.m., at a location within the Iowa Quad Cities. Details are yet to be determined. If presentations are planned, local officials will need to work with DOT staff to coordinate them.
9. Adjournment. Mr. Baecke moved to adjourn. Mr. O'Boyle seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1:00 p.m.