

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

Tuesday, November 14, 2006, 10:00 A.M.
Bi-State Regional Commission
Third Floor Conference Room
1504 Third Avenue
Rock Island, Illinois

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Atchley	City of Davenport
Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation – Davenport
Charles Heston	City of Davenport
Scott Hinton	City of Moline
Mike Kane	City of Rock Island
Dan Long	Illinois Department of Transportation – Dixon
Patrick Marsh	Village of Coal Valley
Donald F. Mayhew II	City of East Moline
Wally Mook	City of Bettendorf
Gary Statz	City of Davenport

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Hunt	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Becky Passman	Bi-State Regional Commission – IAQC Transit Coordinator
Lalit Patel	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the Minutes of the August 8, 2006 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Mr. Mook chaired the meeting and requested introductions. Following introductions, he asked members to review the August 8, 2006 Transportation Technical Committee minutes for comments and/or corrections. Hearing none, Mr. Dean motioned to accept the minutes as written and Mr. Hinton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as written.
2. Project Progress Report. A transportation project progress report was provided in the agenda packet and electronically prior to the meeting. Representatives from the jurisdictions provided either electronic, verbal, and/or written progress reports to Bi-State Regional Commission staff of street/highway, enhancement, and/or transit projects to record for the next meeting. Mr. Hunt clarified that the progress report records and provides status for projects in past or current fiscal years that are progressing into an implementation phase. The Transportation Improvement Program is a record that identifies monies programmed toward projects in the current and upcoming fiscal years.

3. Discussion of Regional Transit Development Plan (TDP). Ms. McCullough presented information and a time schedule for the development of the regional transit development plan. The plan will cover the five-county Bi-State Region, including Henry, Mercer, and Rock Island Counties, Illinois and Muscatine and Scott Counties in Iowa. The document is being required by the Iowa Department of Transportation (IADOT) and it will meet the need for a human services coordination plan as required in the federal transportation act, SAFETEA-LU. The Illinois Department of Transportation (ILDOT) is working to develop transit regions within the state and create a rural human services transportation plan statewide. These efforts are a result of Executive Order 13330 which calls 9 federal governmental departments to reduce duplication through coordination of their rules/regulations related to transportation services, to improve cost efficiency, and to simplify delivery of transportation services to a variety of customers, including individuals with disabilities, older adults, and those with lower incomes. SAFETEA-LU furthered the initiative by requiring human services coordination planning as part of programming of transit assistance. Coordination applies to Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Sections 5310 Special Needs/Elderly and Disabled Program, 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) Program and 5317 New Freedom, a new program under SAFETEA-LU. Based on the IADOT schedule, plans must be approved no later than April 2007. A draft plan is expected to be brought to the Technical Committee in January 2007 for initial comments. By March, a final draft will be provided for consideration of approval. Because of the short planning time frame, the document is expected to require refinements over the next few years as more data and coordination is available and identified.
4. Update on Intermodal Transportation Issues in the Quad City Area. Ms. McCullough mentioned local discussions with Iowa Interstate Railroad related to moving the switching yards from Rock Island to Silvis to open up areas for riverfront development. Mr. Hinton noted that ethanol rail cars are being stored on the riverfront close to where the new Western Illinois University campus is proposed to locate. It was noted that Amtrak has multi-year funding proposed in recent legislation. This would give Amtrak more stability rather than receiving annual appropriations. There is interest to support an Illinois study of feasible passenger rail routes in the state if it includes the Quad Cities. Mr. Dean noted a transportation logistics roundtable being facilitated by the Quad City Development Group. It was suggested that a representative of that group could attend a future Transportation Technical Committee meeting and provide a status report. The transportation logistics roundtable is a group of local industries, freight interests, and local governments that meet quarterly to discuss logistics issues and make suggestions for area improvements that would help to encourage more transportation logistics companies to locate in the Quad Cities. It was noted that the Transportation Policy Committee received a presentation from IADOT on the impacts of ethanol on the transportation system. The Technical Committee expressed interest in having the presentation at an upcoming meeting.
5. Public Comments. No public comments were made.

6. Other Business. Ms. McCullough noted that a final document copy of the 2035 Quad City Area Long Range Plan was sent out with the agenda packet. The plan will be updated again in five years. It is available in a downloadable format from the Bi-State Regional Commission website. It could also be put on a CD, if requested. Mr. Marsh inquired about revising a project from the 2016-2035 time period to the current-2015 time period. Typically, the key factor of note is whether the project is in the long range plan. If the Village of Coal Valley would like to note the project is likely to be completed sooner than later, then a letter to Bi-State Regional Commission would be sufficient. Staff can share the information with the Technical and Policy Committees as an administrative revision. The information will be kept on file for future reference once it is received.

With the development of the transit development plan, there is a need to schedule a Technical Committee meeting in January. The meeting would be scheduled for January 9, 2007 at a morning time convenient for the proposed speakers.

7. Adjournment. Mr. Hinton motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was seconded by Mr. Dean. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.