

**Minutes of the**

**REGION 9**

**TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE**

*Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County*

Friday, October 3, 2007, 10:00 A.M.

River Bend Transit Office

7440 Vine Street Court

Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Anderson	City of Wilton
Steve Boka	City of Muscatine
Jon Burgstrum	Scott County
Ann Harrison	Muscatine Transit
Randy Hill	City of Muscatine
Keith White	Muscatine County
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit, Inc.

OTHERS PRESENT

Fred Dean	Iowa Department of Transportation
Doug DeLille	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Bill Molison	Ament, Inc.
Becky Passman	Bi-State Regional Commission
Kathy Starling	Iowa-Illinois Center for Independent Living (IICIL)
Chelsey Waterman	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of the May 30, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting Minutes.  
Mr. Zobrist called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of May 30, 2007 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee minutes. Mr. Burgstrum moved for approval of the minutes. Mr. Hill seconded the motion, and it carried.
2. Discussion of Region 9 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan – Draft Transit and Trails/Pedestrian Chapters. Ms. McCullough updated the Committee on the Long Range Transportation Plan schedule and timeline for completion. Adoption of the final plan might be possible in January or early February of 2008. A 45-day public review period is necessary prior to adoption.

The Committee was referred to their agenda packets for copies of the draft chapters. Ms. Waterman reviewed the contents of the Transit Chapter. Mr. Dean noted the ridership data appeared incomplete and suggested comparing the data to revenue service hours; if it's gone up, has the number of passengers increased. In reference to revenue service hours discuss "first on – last off" versus "dead-head"; "dead-head" hours are not provided in the draft. Illustrate if the

investments being made in transit are paying off. Identify indicators used to determine that the asset capacity goal is to increase capacity. Ms. Harrison noted Table 3.1 should list four routes rather than three, and in the first paragraph on Page 19, part-time drivers has increased to 20 part-time drivers. New routes should be shown on the maps. The last sentence should be removed under Network and System Expansion. The need for vehicle replacement is a statewide issue and should be added to Transit Needs. Mention how STP funding helped significantly in replacing vehicle fleet. Also, ridership projections and commuting patterns need to be developed and expanded. Mr. Zobrist stated he would send additional comments and/or changes to Ms. Waterman.

Mr. DeLille reported on the Trails and Pedestrian draft chapter. The Committee was informed a map is being developed and will be added to the chapter. The background information is similar to that of the Metropolitan Plan. County plans and other pertinent plans, documents, and resources were used to develop the chapter. Estimated costs for construction and maintenance of identified projects will be included in the chapter. The Committee recommended adding the Scott County Trail Funding Policy to the plan. It was also recommended spur trails to businesses and industries in the region be identified to enhance health and fitness benefits. More emphasis should be placed on the higher priority national and regional trails. Highlight the MRT and ADT indicate miles completed and the anticipated timeline for completing the remaining segments (i.e. 5-10 years, 10-20 years). Mention 20-year maintenance requirement for trails receiving federal funding assistance. Trails map should include access points and transit connections for trail users.

3. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
4. Other Business. Ms. McCullough updated the Committee on the status of passenger rail service in the Quad Cities. The Amtrak Study is looking at two possible routes in to the area. The Illinois DOT is expected to receive the completed study and recommendations by the end of the year. A route from the Quad Cities across Iowa is unknown at this time. There is a group working with Iowa DOT to expand passenger rail service to Des Moines. Emphasis is on creating a unified message and determining how to subsidize passenger rail.

Ms. McCullough also informed the Committee that Bi-State staff are working on updating the Transit Development Plan. Whiteside County will be added to the Illinois region for the Transit Plan.

Ms. McCullough provided the Committee a spreadsheet handout and reviewed the status of Surface Transportation Program (STP) and Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. She noted the anticipated TE funds targeted through 2011 have all been programmed. The anticipate STP funding targets through 2011 indicate a balance remaining which could be programmed for projects in Region 9. It was pointed out the accuracy of the future targets is tenuous. The Committee decided to wait awhile before conducting another request for Region 9 STP projects.

5. Adjournment. Mr. Boka motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Harrison seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 a.m.