

Minutes of the

**ILLINOIS REGION 2 TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)**

*Serving Henry, Mercer, rural Rock Island, and Whiteside Counties*

Thursday, March 19, 2026 – 2:00 p.m.

Self-Help Enterprises

Sterling, IL 61081

Committee Members Present

Sam Bushman	Self-Help Enterprises
Morgan Lewis (virtual)	Western Illinois Public Transportation
Melissa Shouse	Project NOW
Kim Walker	Abilities Plus / Henry County Public Transportation

Others Present

Sarah Bambas	Bi-State Regional Commission
John Bannon	RTAC
Andrew Davis	Illinois DOT
Greg Gates	Reagan Mass Transit District
Kristy Jones	Reagan Mass Transit District
Jean Jumper (virtual)	RTAC
Robin Landis	Winning Wheels
Nikki Lundquist	Winning Wheels
Colleen Rillie	Winning Wheels
Oakley Thompson	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Welcome and Introductions. Ms. Bambas welcomed those in attendance and requested introductions.
2. Approval of the December 16, 2025 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. The minutes were included in the agenda packet to review. Ms. Walker motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Shouse seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Presentation on Local Match. Jean Jumper from the Rural Transit Assistance Center (RTAC) attended the meeting virtually. She presented on local match for transportation providers, specifically for 5311 federal grant recipients. Ms. Jumper began by detailing the reasons why local match matters: it's required for 5311 federal grant funding and enabling full access to appropriations, it fills gaps between service cost and grant reimbursement, it shows community commitment and sustainability, it supports expansion plans, and it can be used for unexpected/unbudgeted needs. Ms. Jumper then went on to detail the reasoning behind what qualifies as local match: for-profit business and service organization contracts dealing with work transportation; local government contributions; police departments, state's attorney offices, or prosecutors or jails; schools (non-school provided services); church programs; non-emergency medical transport (DHS or MCO contracts); hospitals; clinics; senior centers; AAA; and assisted living and nursing homes. Ms. Jumper then noted what does not qualify: interest earned, fare box income, advertising income, and all income (except 5311 reimbursement) on lines 4140 – 4630.

The reporting requirements include a PTAA monthly report (submitted quarterly) and an annual non-DOAP local match survey. Additionally, the report must be completed by PCOM not an operator, contracts for the upcoming year must be submitted with the application, and contract end dates must not be earlier than 6/30/26 for FY27. Ms. Jumper then recommended to the committee to make presentations to local organizations (especially ones that serve the elderly), attend community service agency committees or workgroups, and attend Chamber of Commerce committee meetings to find service contract opportunities. She also recommended members get out in the community, have business cards and listen, speak with nurses or receptionists or church members to pick up on potentially unmet transportation needs, and, most importantly, follow up with them. Available local match resources include: IDOT Grant Managers, BLACK CAT Global Resources, Operations Resources, and the RTAC Toolkit.

Ms. Lewis requested advice on how to increase ridership numbers. Ms. Jumper mainly advised utilizing free/low-cost marketing for improving ridership numbers, including sending out on-the-clock drivers to park at grocery stores and hand out pamphlets when the drivers have down time.

4. Introduction to Reagan MTD. Mr. Gates provided an introduction to Reagan Mass Transit District and distributed a pamphlet on Reagan MTD that services Lee, Ogle, and Winnebago counties. Reagan MTD is currently engaged in discussions with the Whiteside County Board regarding the potential expansion of Reagan MTD to include Whiteside County. Reagan MTD is also working on improving coordination with Rockford Mass Transit. Along with that improvement, Reagan MTD is seeing increases in ridership for its Greyhound Connect Routes between Chicago and Davenport plus Chicago and Danville. Reagan MTD is working on qualifying for Medicaid coverage payment numbers, but gathering impact numbers is a difficult and complex process.
5. Update on the Transit Development Plan Update. Ms. Bambas shared a progress update on Bi-State's Transit Development Plan. A draft will be sent out in May and will be considered for approval at the June meeting. There is a Quad Cities Transit Summit next Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Centre Station in Moline, where more details will be offered on the upcoming Transit Development Plan. Region 2 Committee Members are welcomed to attend the summit.
6. Other business. Mr. Davis shared that the IDOT Chicago office has moved to LaSalle Street. Mr. Davis also reminded the group that the risk assessment process for IDOT is time-consuming, so make sure that resources are sent in early. If there are any other issues in the North Section of Illinois, please contact Andrew Davis by email at [andrew.m.davis@illinois.gov](mailto:andrew.m.davis@illinois.gov). Mr. Bannon shared updates for RTAC, including their upcoming rodeo with cash and non-cash prizes on 4/25/2026. He also noted the newsletter and the Regional Maintenance Center resources, along with all training materials that are online.
7. Public comments. Ms. Shouse shared with the committee that her organization, Project NOW, is looking for an inclement weather policy. There was a discussion on how others deal with inclement weather and if they have a policy in place. Committee members recommended not offering service based on low temperatures and to avoid using the wheelchair lift when it's too cold out. Ms. Lewis noted her organization's Act of God clause in her driver's contracts.
8. Adjournment. Ms. Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Ms. Shouse seconded. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.