

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

Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 12:00 p.m.
Scott County Administrative Center, Room 605
600 W. 4th Street
Davenport, Iowa

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rob Bates	Illinois DOT, District 2
Richard “Quijas” Brunk	Rock Island County Chair
Jeffrey Deppe	Alderman, City of East Moline
Jean Dickson	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Rick Dunn	Alderman, City of Davenport
Bob Gallagher	Mayor, City of Bettendorf
Bill Healy	Alderman, City of Rock Island
Mike Matson	Mayor, City of Davenport
Berlinda Tyler-Jamison	Chair, MetroLINK Board

OTHERS PRESENT

Doug DeLille	Illinois DOT – Springfield
Jacob Foote	Quad Cities Chamber
Nithin Kalakuntla	Bi-State Regional Commission
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the August 22, 2023 Quad Cities MPO Transportation Policy Committee Meetings. Mayor Matson requested a motion for approval of the August 22, 2023 minutes of the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Dunn motioned to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Tyler-Jamison seconded, and the motion carried.
2. Consideration of Revisions to the Quad Cities MPO FFY2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. McCullough directed the Committee to the agenda packet for the revisions to the FFY2024-2027 TIP requested from the IA DOT, IL DOT, and City of Moline, all of which are new projects. IA DOT is adding a bridge improvement study, IA-24-12, for improvements to the Centennial Bridge. IL DOT is adding bridge preservation/deck sealing projects, IL-24-17, at various locations in Rock Island County. The City of Moline is including a Safe Routes to School project, MO-25-02, and a shared use path project, MO-25-03, on 19th and 27th Streets from the Mississippi River to the Rock River (MIRR Path). Mayor Gallagher motioned to approve of the TIP revisions. Mr. Deppe seconded the motion, which carried. Ms. McCullough also noted two administrative modifications for DA-23-03 and PR-23-01, both of which moved from FY23 to FY24.
3. Consideration of Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) Evaluation Manual. A copy of the draft manual was included in Committee members’ agenda packets. Mr. Kovarik provided an overview of the new Carbon Reduction Program (CRP) that was introduced under the most recent federal transportation legislation, the Infrastructure Investment and Job Act (IIJA). The goal of the program is to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from on-road sources. Funds are apportioned to states to suballocate, 65% of which will be by population. An 80/20 match will be required for awarded projects. Through FY27, \$921,819 is available in the Illinois Quad Cities, while \$2,213,098 is available in the Iowa Quad Cities. Eligible projects must fall

into one of five categories: transportation alternatives; congestion management; fuel and energy alternatives; construction approaches; and planning and project development activities. Evaluation criteria include: vehicle emission reduction estimates; project cost effectiveness relative to air quality benefits; the degree of transportation-related air pollution or traffic congestion; community engagement; and equity. Technical Committee members will evaluate projects in 5-point increments for projects in their own states. Bi-State staff will total the scores and rank the projects into three categories. The call for projects will be released around October 20 after the windows for TASA and STBG close. The CRP will have a 45-day submission period. Mr. Brunk motioned to recommend approval of the CRP Evaluation Manual to the Transportation Policy Committee. Mr. Healy seconded the motion, which carried.

4. Consideration of 2020 Urban Area Boundaries. Mr. Schmid explained the boundaries shown on a map distributed to the committee. The urban boundary on the Iowa side of the Quad Cities was recommended to remain unchanged from the 2010 boundary. The 2010 boundary incorporated all required areas following the 2020 Census Bureau-designated urban areas, which must be included in newly designated areas. On the Illinois side of the Quad Cities, there are a few areas that were designated by the Census Bureau that were not within the 2010 urban area boundary. Staff recommendation was to retain as close to the 2010 boundary as possible, while including the new census-designated areas in northwest Henry County and in Rock Island County south of Oak Grove. Ms. Dickson motioned to approve the 2020 Urban Area Boundary as presented. Mr. Healy seconded the motion, which carried.
5. Review and Concurrence with Public Involvement Outline for *Thrive QC 2055 Long Range Transportation Plan*. Mr. Schmid reviewed the Public Involvement Outline that was included in Committee member agenda packets. The plan outlines methods to solicit input throughout the LRTP planning process. Traditional outreach methods will be employed in the form of an online public survey and a pair of open houses. The Freight Plan Addendum that is currently underway will include a freight interests survey that will provide insight into the strengths and weaknesses of the transportation system from a goods movement perspective. Direct input opportunities will be utilized through presentations to services groups, chambers of commerce (including the Hispanic Chamber), and other interest groups. In addition, there will be an effort to host informational tables at community events such as farmers markets, neighborhood events, back-to-school events, and senior living fairs. Bi-State intends to partner with member governments to publish notifications of input opportunities through their social media accounts. Other projects and plans will inform the LRTP as well, such as the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Traffic Safety Action Plan and the Andalusia Road-Indian Bluff Road Corridor Study. The Policy Committee noted that a more detailed review of outreach to minority groups would strengthen overall outreach on the plan. Mayor Gallagher motioned to approve the Public Involvement Outline with the stipulation to review outreach to minority groups. Ms. Tyler-Jamison seconded the motion, which carried.
6. Updates on Mississippi River Bridges. Ms. McCullough gave an overview of the Mississippi River Bridges projects. The highlights are as follows:
 - The I-74 super structure has been completely removed. Demolition of the eastbound superstructure is underway and is expected to last well into 2024.
 - The landscaping project is progressing according to schedule. Grading is being completed under I-74.
7. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
8. Other Business.

Mr. DeLille noted that funding targets for Illinois Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) funds increased substantially since the notice was given at the last Transportation Policy Committee meeting. The increased funds will be able to be programed this round. In addition, a federal rule finalization is expected soon on a greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions performance measure.

- *Quad Cities MPO FFY 2024-2027 Transportation Improvement Program* document and Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) and Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) solicitations are posted at <https://bistateonline.org/transportation-and-mobility/quad-cities-metro-planning/tip-and-funding-projects-quad-cities-mpo>
 - *National Walk & Roll to School Day* – 10/4/23
 - *USDOT Key Notices of Funding Opportunity* <https://www.transportation.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/key-notices-funding-opportunity>
 - *PROTECT* – 8/18/23
 - *INFRA and Rural Grants* – 8/21/23
 - *Reconnecting Communities Program and Neighborhood Access and Equity Grant Program* – 9/28/23
9. Adjournment – Mr. Dunn motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned by consensus at 12:35 p.m.