

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION POLICY COMMITTEE

Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Friday, October 31, 2025 – 11:00 a.m.
Muscatine Public Works
1459 Washington St, Muscatine, IA
Mike Limberg, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

Michael Limberg	Mayor of City of Love Grove
Ross Paustian	Scott County Board of Supervisors
Scott Sauer	River Bend Transit Board
Jeff Sorenson	Muscatine County Board of Supervisors

Others Present

Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Zach Sutton	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the July 11, 2025 Region 9 Policy Committee Meeting. Mr. Sorenson made a motion to approve the Transportation Policy Committee minutes from the July 11, 2025 meeting. Mr. Paustian seconded, and the minutes were approved as written.
2. Consideration of Revisions to the FFY 2026-2029 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Muscatine County requested that an amendment be made to their bridge replacement project (project number MC-26-02) on F70 over Little Mosquito Creek to reflect an increase in costs and additional federal dollars received in Highway Bridge Program (HBP) funds. Mr. Sorenson motioned to approve the amendment, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the amendment was approved unanimously.
3. Discussion of 2050 Region 9 Long Range Plan Update. Mr. Sutton gave a presentation on a on the progress that had been made in updating the Regional Profile, Regional Transit Network, and Freight chapters of the 2050 Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), noting that drafts of the Regional Profile and Regional Transit Network chapters could be found on the Bi-State website. Highlighting the work that had been done on the Regional Transit Network chapter, he shared the 10-year ridership projections for both MuscaBus and River Bend Transit, which had been updated based on feedback from the committee. River Bend's projections had been updated using the agencies internal projections, giving a projected ridership in ten years of 3,293 riders in Muscatine County and 2,131 in rural Scott County.

The Muscatine projections were calculating three different methods. These methods were all based off of ridership per capita calculations for the city of Muscatine from 2010 to 2024. In this formula, the city of Muscatine's future population growth estimates (+.025% per year) were used to calculate the estimated population of Muscatine in the years since the 2020 Census, as well as the projected future population of the city beyond 2024.

The first method projected what a potential decrease in ridership over the next 10 years would look like. This method involved calculating the average change in ridership per capita between 2010 and

2019 (using the 2020 Census number as an estimate of the 2019 population). This change in per capita ridership between 2010 and 2019 (-.1075 riders p.c.) was projected for the next 10 years (2025-2035) to give a low-end estimate of 85,085 riders in 2035.

The second method projected what ridership in 2035 would look like if ridership p.c. remained stable. If the estimated ridership p.c. for 2024 (4.6862 riders p.c.) were to remain constant over the next 10 years, the projected ridership in 2035, when accounting for projected population growth, would be 113,798 riders.

The third method projected an increase in ridership p.c. over the next 10 years by calculating the estimated increase in ridership p.c. between 2023 and 2024 (0.0597 riders p.c.) and projecting that increase for each of the next 10 years. This method gave a high-end estimate of 29,756 riders in 2035.

The committee agreed that these three projections seemed reasonable. A discussion followed regarding challenges that River Bend had been facing in recent years, including the growth of small private transportation providers and a lack of public awareness regarding transportation options

Mr. Sutton then provided a summary of the public input survey, with updated results based on the new survey that was conducted in coordination with Muscatine Public Health. He then provided a summary of some of the data that will be included in the Freight chapter as well as drafts of the maps that will be included in the chapter. The data included tonnage by commodity for goods passing through Lock and Dam 14 and Lock and Dam 17.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
5. Other Business. Ms. McCullough informed the committee of updated guidance regarding railroad crossing signage, encouraging the use and emphasis of blue signs displaying an emergency number that can be called to notify the railroad company of issues such as a vehicle stopped on the tracks. She also gave an update on priorities for transportation funding reauthorizing, stating that RPA America is advocating for more discretionary funds to be made available as well as potential requiring a lower match for rural jurisdictions seeking funding. Mr. Sutton then gave a brief update regarding the status of the Muscatine County Trails Plan update, informing the group that Bi-State had facilitated discussions with the communities of Wilton, West Liberty, and Muscatine regarding each community's internal trail plans and how those planned trails might connect to the regional trail network. There was not much to update the committee on regarding the city of Muscatine, as much of the internal trails that would connect to the regional network have already been built. Wilton informed Bi-State of their plans to construct a trail between the elementary school and Westview Park, and that their preference for a trail connecting Muscatine to Wilton would be located on IA-38, entering Wilton via F65 and Story Avenue. West Liberty indicated that their preference would be that the ADT enter from the south of town, along or close to the current designated route, with the trail entering city limits just west of the Muscatine County fairgrounds. He also mentioned that one roadblock towards building out the regional trail network is the difficulty in securing funds for the maintenance of these trails.
6. Adjournment. Mr. Sorenson motioned to adjourn, Mr. Sauer seconded, and the meeting adjourned unanimously at 12:06 p.m.

TIP REVISION

Muscatine – Amendment

FFY	PROJECT NUMBER	PROJECT LOCATION	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST (\$)	FEDERAL SHARE*		STATE SHARE		LOCAL SHARE		TPMS #	Revision
					DOLLARS (\$)	SOURCE	DOLLARS (\$)	SOURCE	DOLLARS (\$)	SOURCE		
2026	MC-26-02	On F70, Over LITTLE MOSQUITO CREEK, S31 T78 R02	Bridge Replacement	\$1,600,000	\$1,280,000	HBP (FA)	\$320,000	SWAP (HBP)			TPMS # 51134	Total Cost Increased from \$1,200,000 to \$1,600,000