

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE
Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 – 3:00 p.m.
Muscatine Department of Public Works
1459 Washington St
Muscatine, IA
Angie Kersten, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

Kevin Coon	City of Muscatine
Amy Fortenbacher	MuscaBus
Bryan Horesowsky	Muscatine County
Angie Kersten	Scott County
Brian Stineman	City of Muscatine
Hector Torres-Cacho	Iowa Department of Transportation
Randy Zobrist	River Bend Transit

Others Present

Lee Gourley	Muscatine County
Gena McCullough	Bi-State Regional Commission
Zach Sutton	Bi-State Regional Commission

1. Approval of Minutes of the May 22, 2024 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Ms. Kersten called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Zobrist made a motion to approve the Transportation Technical Committee minutes from the May 22, 2024 meeting as written. Ms. Horesowsky seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Consideration of Metropolitan Planning Area (MPA) Boundary Joint Agreement. Ms. McCullough informed the committee of the details of the new boundary joint agreement between the Quad Cities MPA and RPA 9. She explained the geographic boundary had not changed, but the agreement had been updated to reflect the population numbers from the 2020 Census, and that the committee would be voting to recommend that the Policy Committee approve the new agreement. Mr. Stineman motioned to recommend the agreement for approval, Mr. Horesowsky seconded, and the committee voted unanimously to recommend the agreement for approval.
3. Discussion of Region 9 Long Range Plan Update and Timeline – Mr. Sutton presented the timeline for the 2050 Region 9 Long Range Plan Update to the committee. The timeline, which spans from September 2024 to January 2026, lays out the schedule for technical and policy committee meetings, public involvement sessions, and chapter writing. Ms. McCullough discussed the public involvement process, noting the different methods that would be used. These methods include surveys, stakeholder meetings, and kickoff meetings (of which there will be one held in each of Scott and Muscatine counties). Ms. McCullough then conducted an exercise with the committee, asking them to identify their top issues related to travel in the region. The top issues identified by the committee included the need to

improve trail connections, with an emphasis on separated trails; the need for improved road safety, with areas like bridges and turn lanes being emphasized by different members; continuing required road maintenance, with an emphasis on bridges; improving system efficiency; building more bike paths; preparing for peripheral development; and potentially expanding I-80 to 3 lanes each way.

4. Discussion of Muscatine County Trail Plan Update. There was discussion regarding an update to the Muscatine County Trails Plan. The committee indicated that the focus of the update should be on identifying connections between communities rather than on specific routes. The committee also indicated that the lack of a dedicated trails person in either Scott or Muscatine Counties would be a potential sticking point for the development of the trails plan, as neither county necessarily currently has the means to supervise or maintain a county-wide, separated trail network. Ms. McCullough closed the discussion by saying that a TTC meeting dedicated to the Muscatine County Trails Plan could be scheduled in the future.
5. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
6. Other Business. Mr. Sutton informed the committee that the Policy Committee had approved an amendment to the TIP that changes the scope of the city of Muscatine’s Issett Avenue project from “Issett Avenue, Cypress St to HWY 61” to “Issett Avenue, E 5th St to HWY 61.” He also told the committee that one of the questions asked by the Iowa DOT in the list of questions sent to Bi-State in advance of the RPA certification review was about how often the committee discusses project updates. He asked the committee if they felt it would be useful to start having an agenda item for TTC meetings where members would update the committee on the status of currently ongoing TIP projects. The committee was unanimous that they did not see a need to have this as an agenda item, in part due to the relatively small number of projects in the RPA.
7. Adjournment. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Ms. Fortenbacher seconding. The motion was approved by consensus, and the meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.