

Minutes of the
REGION 9
TRANSPORTATION TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Serving Rural Scott County and all of Muscatine County

Monday, September 22, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.
Muscatine Public Works
1459 Washington St, Muscatine, IA
Angie Kersten, Chair

Technical Committee Members Present

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Sherli Childers | River Bend Transit |
| Kevin Coon | City of Muscatine |
| Amy Fortenbacher | City of Muscatine |
| Bryan Horesowsky | Muscatine County |
| Jeff Horne | City of Wilton |
| Angie Kersten | Scott County |
| Brian Stineman | City of Muscatine |

Others Present

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the June 20, 2025 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Ms. Kersten called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee to order at 2:05 p.m. and asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to approve the Transportation Technical Committee minutes from the June 20, 2025 meeting as written. Mr. Stineman seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Discussion of 2050 Region 9 Long Range Plan Update. Mr. Sutton gave a presentation 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 on 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 129,756 riders in 2035. The committee agreed that these three projections seemed reasonable.

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 committee suggested that the scope of Map 4.1 “Key Industries and Intermodal Networks” be narrowed to just include the Iowa Counties, rather than the entire Bi-State Region.

3. Discussion of Muscatine County Trails Plan Update. Mr. Sutton updated the committee on the status of the Muscatine County Trail Plan update. He informed them 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. There was a discussion on how best to show the proposed trails in the document, with one potential method being to differentiate between aspirational trails and trails priority (feasible) trails.
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. She also informed the group that applications for the Iowa State and Federal Recreational Trail Program and the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program were due October 1.
6. Adjournment. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Horne seconding. The motion was approved by consensus, and the meeting adjourned.