

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

Friday, June 20, 2025 – 9:30 a.m.  
Scott County Secondary Roads  
950 Blackhawk Trail Rd, Eldridge, 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                      |
| Hector Torres-Cacho | Iowa Department of Transportation |
| Randy Zobrist       | River Bend Transit                |

Others Present

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

1. Approval of Minutes of the March 13, 2025 Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee Meeting. Ms. Kersten called the meeting of the Iowa Region 9 Transportation Technical Committee to order at 9:31 a.m. Mr. Zobrist introduced Ms. Childers, who will be taking over for him as River Bend Transit’s representative on the committee. Ms. Kersten asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to approve the Transportation Technical Committee minutes from the March 13, 2025 meeting as written. Mr. Coon seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Consideration of FFY 2026-2029 Region 9 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Mr. Sutton gave a presentation on the draft of the FFY 25-28 Region 9 TIP document, that included a brief overview of what a TIP document is, as well as the process of creating and amending the TIP. He presented a table of the projects in the TIP for the next fiscal year (FFY 26) with a cost greater than \$1 million. The committee identified a handful of changes that needed to be made to the document, including correcting the legend in the projects map, correcting a sum amount in the annual elements table, and moving River Bend Transit’s vehicle storage garage project to FFY 2026. Mr. Coon then motioned to recommend the FFY 2026-2029 Region 9 TIP to the Policy Committee for approval pending those revisions. Mr. Horesowsky seconded, and the vote was approved unanimously.
3. Discussion of Regional Profile and Regional Transit Network Chapters of 2050 Region 9 Long Range Plan. Mr. Sutton gave a presentation on the progress that had been made in updating the Regional Profile and Regional Transit Network Chapters of the 2050 Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He began by going over the list of goals in the Regional Profile, updated to reflect discussions at the last Tech and Policy committee meetings. These changes included removing that the phrase “climate changes” be removed from the

description of the Preservation & Resiliency Goal and changing the description of the Accessibility & and Mobility goal to end after the phrase “those with special needs.” Mr. Coon suggested that the phrase “those with special needs” be changed to “those that require additional accommodations.” The rest of the committee agreed, and the text will be updated.

Mr. Sutton then reported on the results of public input survey, noting that there had been 38 responses to the survey distributed by Bi-State. In preparation for the upcoming Region 9 Transit Summit, Bi-State had been working with Muscatine Public Health to release a second survey combining questions from an initial Muscatine Public Health survey with the two questions from the Bi-State survey. These questions asked respondents to identify their three biggest issues and three biggest improvements that they would like to see regarding transit and transportation in Region 9. In the initial Bi-State survey, the three most commonly identified improvements that respondents would like to see were increased bus services: times and routes (18 responses), road maintenance/improvement (8), and more trail and increased connectivity (6). These areas were also the top three identified issues with the current system in the survey.

Mr. Sutton then gave the committee a brief overview of the data that would be used in the Transit chapter of the LRTP (Chapter 3). This data included the weekday and weekend hours of both MuscaBus and River Bend, ridership numbers and revenue for the last 15 years for both providers, ridership projections for both providers for the next 15 years created using a linear regression formula, and maps of MuscaBus’ routes and River Bend’s service area. Both Ms. Fortenbacher and Ms. Childers noted that their respective hours in the table needed to be updated. Mr. Zobrist said that he thought that the ridership projections were too optimistic, and both Ms. Childers and Ms. Fortenbacher agreed. Mr. Sutton agreed with these comments and noted that it was more difficult to project future ridership than it had been in previous plans because there are only really three fiscal years’ worth of post-COVID ridership data, which is not a representative sample size, and that ridership post-COVID has changed enough from pre-COVID ridership that even taking out the outlier COVID years still skews the projection numbers. He said that internal discussions at Bi-State were ongoing on how to best project ridership. There was also a brief discussion regarding other factors affecting ridership, including Medicaid changes and competition with private providers.

4. Public Comments. There were no public comments.
5. Other Business. Ms. McCullough informed the committee that both the *FFY 2026 Region 9 Transportation Planning Work Program* and the *2025 Quad Cities-Kewanee-Muscatine Traffic Safety Action Plan* can be found on Bi-State’s website. She also highlighted a few upcoming grant opportunities, including Iowa State Recreational Trails Program, applications that are due July 1, Iowa State Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), due October 1, and the Iowa Clean Air Attainment Program that is due October 1. Mr. Coon mentioned that Muscatine was looking for funds for trail reconstruction projects. Ms. McCullough replied that another round of Region 9 TAP funding applications would likely be held next spring following the approval of the Region 9 Long Range Transportation Plan.
6. Adjournment. Mr. Horesowsky made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. Coon seconding. The motion was approved by consensus, and the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.