

Time: 5:00 pm

Date: September 16, 2014

Place: Tri-County Regional Planning Commission
456 Fulton St, Suite 401
Peoria, IL 61602

1. Welcome and Introduction

Ms. Shackelford called the meeting to order at 5:00. Members introduced themselves by stating their name and their favorite smell. Those in attendance were:

Katy Shackelford
Jill Goforth
David Smesrud
Ryan Harms
Aaron Coffeen
Ronald Rainson
Josh Sender

Maggie Martino
Michael Guerra
Terrisa Wolford
Connie Schiele
Tom O'Neill
Denny Kief
Sen. Dale Risinger

Ms. Shackelford passed around sheets of paper with three possible mission statements for the LRTP. Mr. O'Neill explained the concept of environmental justice and its importance in the mission statement. Mr. Rainson asked for clarification on the meaning of "environmental" in this context, and Mr. O'Neill cited IDOT guidelines pertaining. Ms. Shackelford invited every member to mark their preferred version of the mission statement and submit it to her. The mission statement selected was:

"The Greater Peoria area will have a safe, balanced, regional, and multimodal transportation system that creates an attainable and economically sustainable solution to connect communities to Areas of Opportunity, increase access, maintain infrastructure, and enhance environmental justice for current residents and future generations."

2. Approval of 8/19/14 Minutes

Mr. Kief moved to approve the minutes from August's meeting after the correction of one spelling error. Ms. Schiele seconded. The motion passed.

3. Financial Constraints

Ms. Martino passed out and explained an overview of the financial constraints related to the LRTP, including estimates of available federal funds through 2039. She explained that the LRTP is financially constrained, in that the projects listed in the plan must have a source of funding. One of the responsibilities of the committee is to whittle down the project list to one that fits within projected funding totals. She then asked the group if using funding totals from previous years to predict future years is appropriate. Mr. Kief asked if the numbers presented assumed no increase in federal gas tax. Ms. Martino said yes. Mr. O'Neill stated that using past years to anticipate funding totals is the only appropriate approach.

Mr. Kief noted a potential error in the estimates for federal transit revenues. Ms. Martino said she would revisit these estimates and fix any mistakes.

Ms. Shackelford asked the group for comments on state revenues. Ms. Wolford noted that state funds might be difficult to come by, but more definitive information is required. Ms. Shackelford then asked if changes would be made to match funding. Sen. Risinger noted that state funds come from various sources (sales tax, gas tax, etc.), and that discussion is going on about increasing state revenues to infrastructure projects.

4. Call for Projects

Ms. Shackelford then passed out a proposed Call for Projects form and drew the committee's attention to the policy goals section. Ms. Goforth asked the committee if projects should be scored in order to determine which should be included in the LRTP. After reading the policy goals, Mr. Kief asked what an Area of Opportunity is. Mr. Hayward defined Areas of Opportunity as places that provide access to quality of life assets like jobs, healthcare, and schools. Mr. Hayward went on to explain that a process identifying Areas of Opportunity in the region had already been completed, but could be expanded upon.

Ms. Shackelford asked the committee about scoring and weighting of different goals. Mr. Sender noted that none of the items listed addressed low-income residents. Ms. Goforth acknowledged his observation and asked if a point system or more subjective approach to prioritizing projects should be taken. Mr. Kief moved to vote on whether or not to use an objective points system to prioritize projects. Ms. Schiele seconded. The motion passed. Ms. Shackelford noted that the points system is a guide, and ultimately the committee and staff will put together the final list.

Mr. Kief expressed concern that entities not present at committee meetings may object to decisions being made in their absence. Ms. Shackelford confirmed that invitations to each meeting have been sent to every entity affected by the LRTP.

5. Performance Measures

Ms. Goforth gave a progress report on performance measures from the previous LRTP. She went over goals for which the region is exceeding expectations, meeting expectations, or behind expectations. Of the 47 goals listed, progress on 20 goals still needs to be assessed.

Ms. Schiele asked if ciCarpool focused on small communities. Ms. Goforth said that Morton generated the most activity, but malfunctions in the matching system may have prevented potential users from utilizing it. Mr. Rainson commented that the lack of large traffic problems in the region may have also played a major role.

6. Focus Groups

Ms. Shackelford informed the committee that she and other staff members will organize focus groups representing different segments of the region's population to collect citizen input for the LRTP. She

invited any committee members interested in being involved with a focus group to approach her at the next meeting.

7. Interviews

Ms. Shackelford told the committee that she hopes to conduct interviews with stakeholders not actively involved in the LRTP process by the next meeting.

8. Comments

Ms. Schiele asked the committee about news of a Peoria-to-Bloomington bus. Sen. Risinger stated that Amtrak is interested in becoming involved with a Peoria/Bloomington bus and integrating its schedule into the train schedule, so riders can better plan their trips. Ms. Sheely noted such integration would be beneficial for people with disabilities.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Shackelford adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm.