

## **MINUTES**

### **McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting**

WEDNESDAY, March 2nd, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 702 and Virtual

#### **Members Present:**

In-Person – John Burrill, Chairperson; Carl Teichman, Vice-Chairperson; Bart Bittner; Jim Fruin; Dr. Charles Irwin; Jennifer Langley; Tony Morstatter; Michael Pettorini

#### **Members Absent:**

Stan Gozur; Carl Olson

#### **Others Present:**

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Cassidy Kraimer; Tessa Ferraro; Jennifer Sicks; Greg Huss; Tania Barreto; Ana Mendoza\*; Katie McShane\*

Others – Gretchen Monti, LWV\*

\*Attended Virtually

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#### **1. Call To Order:**

Mr. Burrill called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

#### **2. Attendance:**

See above

Mr. Lai informed the Commission Members that MCRPC recently hired additional staff members to fill vacancies; Greg Huss as Community Planner and Tania Barreto as Assistant Planner.

Mr. Huss introduced himself to the Commission.

Ms. Barreto than introduced herself to the Commission.

#### **3. Public Comment:**

None

#### **4. Consent Agenda:**

**A.** Minutes of the January 5, 2022 Commission meeting

**B.** Financial Reports

**C.** MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Bittner moved for approval, Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

## **5. Regular Agenda:**

### **a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)**

None

## **6. Items of Information or Discussion:**

### **a. Presentation: Evolution & History of MCRPC**

Mr. Lai explained to the Commission Members about the Illinois State University Stevenson Fellowship program and MCRPC's participation in the program over the last 3 years. Mr. Lai introduced Ms. Cassidy Kraimer as the current Stevenson Fellow at MCRPC.

Ms. Kraimer presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Evolution and History of MCRPC. Ms. Kraimer explained what Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) are, explained MCRPC structure and provided important accomplishments by decade for MCRPC. [PowerPoint presentation available for review at the office]

Mr. Fruin asked how we can make this information available to the public. Mr. Lai explained that we will share with the Commission Members as well as put the presentation on our website.

### **b. Regional Housing Initiatives update**

Ms. Ferraro explained that distribution in COVID-19 assistance has slowed since January 2022 due to some agencies running out of funding. Ms. Ferraro explained that data has been released from the first round of the Illinois Rental Payment Program. Data showed that 4% of eligible renters who qualified to receive assistance received it. The County totaled \$3.8 million in rental assistance. Starting in April, homeowners in need of assistance can apply for assistance in grants up to \$30,000.

Ms. Ferraro explained that members of the Regional Housing Initiative were working on a 5-year work priorities list, which included developing strategies for outreach to landlords, renters, homeowners, and developers; help with residential development opportunities and data collection for market-rate and affordable housing stock.

MCRPC staff also applied to join the Peer Cities Network. Cities selected will be notified by March 14, 2022.

c. Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Project update

Ms. Sicks explained that Town of Normal staff was continuing to review the preliminary pavement reports. Town staff was also working with the consultants to review pavement strategies to address the pavement conditions and ways to improve and stabilize the pavement.

Work was continuing, on the pavement lifecycle analysis, which was to review the data collected and determine the overall cost to maintain the pavement overtime.

d. Bloomington-Normal Wireless Infrastructure Guidelines (5G) Project update

Mr. Lai explained the 5G consultants, CTC, was wrapping up their report. CTC was looking for comments from the local 5G team to review the report. Once the local 5G team reviews and approves the report, CTC will present their report to the MCRPC Commission for their acceptance of the report.

Mr. Teichman asked once the Commission accepts the report, the report will then be sent to the municipalities for them to adopt the guidelines. Mr. Lai responded that that is correct.

Mr. Burrill commented that since this part of the process was about adopting guidelines, we are still a long way away from construction.

Mr. Pettorini asked how we provide connectivity to rural communities that don't have access to broadband. Mr. Lai explained that staff recognized that issue and Bloomington Normal Innovation Alliance (BNIA) was looking at the digital divide issues. Staff understood that the availability and accessibility of 5G would be important.

e. Vision Zero/Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan Project update

Mr. Lai explained that MCRPC has recently applied for a Bike & Pedestrian grant through IDOT to help implementing the Go:Safe Action Plan. This grant is just one of many ways MCRPC is looking into funding implementation of the Go:Safe Action Plan.

Mr. Pettorini asked if IDOT owns the solution or would it be a collaboration between the Town, the City and IDOT. Mr. Lai explained that IDOT would be funding the project, and the staff would work with the police departments in the area to help promote the safety messaging and recommendations in the Plan.

Mr. Pettorini asked if this grant money is more for promotion rather than to solve the problem. Mr. Lai answered that the solution is more than construction or infrastructure improvements. In the Go:Safe Action Plan, transportation safety can be address in 3 main strategies; infrastructure, data and technology, and community culture change. Staff was hoping that promoting the Go:Safe Action Plan's recommendations will help with cultural changes and the behaviors of the drivers.

f. That which may arise

Mr. Lai updated the Commission on staff's plan to update the Metropolitan Long-Range Transportation Plan (MLRTP), which was last updated in 2017. Staff was in the process of inviting Transportation Technical Committee Members, and representatives of school districts and universities to join a MLRTP project steering committee.

**7. Adjournment:**

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie McShane  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant