

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, April 6, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 702 and Virtual

Members Present:

John Burrill, Chairperson; Carl Teichman, Vice-Chairperson; Bart Bittner; Stan Gozur; Dr. Charles Irwin; Jennifer Langley; Carl Olson*

Members Absent:

Jim Fruin; Tony Morstatter; Michael Pettorini

Others Present:

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

Others – Mercy Davison, ToN*; Vasudha Gadhiraaju, ToN*; Craig McBeath, CoB*; Robert Innis, IDOT*; Adeel Qureshi, CTC Technology*; Julie Elias, CTC Technology*; Anthony Crispin

*Attended Virtually

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

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

- A. Minutes of the March 2, 2022 Commission meeting
- B. Financial Reports
- C. MCRPC Staff Report

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

5. Regular Agenda:

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

None

Mr. Lai introduced Robert Innis as MCRPC's new Metropolitan Planning Manager from IDOT. Mr. Lai also introduced Vasudha Gadhiraju as Town of Normal's Director of Innovation and Technology and Craig McBeath as City of Bloomington's IT Director. Mr. Lai welcomed the consultants with CTC Technology and their role for the 5G project.

b. Consideration of acceptance of the 5G Project Report

Mr. Qureshi presented a PowerPoint explaining the 5G project goals, ordinance reviews, broadband needs, and funding options. [PowerPoint available at the office for reference]

Mr. Bittner asked if the two municipalities that requested this project will cover the cost of implementation or will it be funded by federal government. Mr. Lai stated that the City and Town will be responsible for the rules and regulations portion of the project. As for the broadband and fiber, the two municipalities could look at their budgets and see also if there are any grants available to help fund. Ms. Gadhiraju also advised that several of the recommendations within the project report are low or no cost options that the Town and City can adopt to improve the process. Mr. McBeath agreed with Ms. Gadhiraju, stating the two municipalities are working together through the Bloomington-Normal Innovation Alliance for grant opportunities.

Mr. Gozur asked about the target download speed of 120, which seemed to be a residential need. Mr. Gozur asked if there is a focus on what local businesses need as well. Mr. Qureshi answered that the target of 100/100 will be sufficient for most businesses and residential uses. Mr. Qureshi also mentioned that getting the fiber installed is the best and only option right now that would benefit both businesses and residential areas.

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to accept the 5G Project Report. Mr. Teichman moved for acceptance and Ms. Langley seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

a. Regional Housing Initiatives update

Ms. Ferraro updated the Commission on the Illinois Housing and Development Authority mortgage assistance program. The program opened on April 11 and will close on May 31. Eligible applicants could receive up to \$30,000 in grants to help with mortgage payments, property taxes and other homeowners' expenses.

Ms. Ferraro explained that staff has submitted the FY2023 CDBG grant applications to City of Bloomington and Town of Normal, which provide 60% of funding for the Regional Housing Initiative. Ms. Ferraro advised that the Regional Housing Initiative 2021-2022 Year End report will be presented to the Housing Staff Committee at this month's meeting. Our Peer Cities Network application was turned down; however, the Lab has stayed in contact with us to offer technical assistance and housing resources as needed.

Mr. Burrill asked where the public can go for housing assistance. Ms. Ferraro stated for the mortgage assistance program, the public can go to the state website and for local assistance the community can reach out to Town of Normal, City of Bloomington, Immigration Project, and PATH.

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

Ms. Sicks advised that the PASER project is in the final phase. The consultants, ARA, surveyed the pavement and sent a first report to the Town of Normal. The Town made some revisions and have now received the second draft from ARA. The Town continues to train and use the software that was provided by the consultants. MCRPC staff is waiting on the Town to provide a schedule for the last phase of the project. The deadline for final payment from IDOT is the end of June. Once the project is complete, Ryan Otto, the Town's Director of Public Works and Engineering, will provide an update to the Commission on the PASER project.

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

Mr. Lai discussed the recent SPR grant that MCRPC staff submitted. If awarded, the grant will help with implementation of the Go:Safe Action Plan, and outreach and public education about transportation safety messaging for both urban and rural areas in McLean County. The application was submitted with support from five local partners, TON, COB, BNWRD, Connect Transit, and McLean County, to meet the state's local match requirement of 20%. Staff should know by about July 1st if the grant was awarded.

d. Metropolitan Long-Range Transportation Plan (MLRTP) update

Mr. Lai explained that the MLRTP is a federal mandate that staff must update the current transportation plan every 5 years. The last LRTP was updated in 2017. Staff have created a Project Steering Committee (PSC) that includes members of the Technical Committee and representatives from different organizations in the community. Mr. Lai spoke about the MLRTP Survey and how staff is trying to publicize the survey to reach many of the community for input and ideas. The survey can be found on our website, and is available in three different languages, English, Spanish and French. Staff has also put many paper copies of the surveys in local public libraries, as well as issuing press release and utilizing social media. Ms. Sicks advised that staff is hoping to have a draft plan to the Commission in August, because there is a 45-day period that is required for public review and comments.

e. That which may arise

Mr. Lai discussed the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), which must be updated every 5 years. Mr. Lai explained that staff coordinate monthly meetings for the Technical and Policy Committees to review current projects. Ms. Sicks explained that the TIP is completed each spring and submitted to IDOT by the end of its Fiscal Year. The TIP includes a list of planned projects for the next 5 years for which there is funding from the local municipalities and IDOT.

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant