

MINUTES
McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, June 2, 2021, 4:00 P.M.
Government Center
115 E. Washington St, Bloomington, Illinois
Room 404 and Virtual

Members Present:

In-Person - Mary Kramp, Chairperson; John Burrill; Carl Teichman
Virtual - Bart Bittner; Jennifer Langley; Carl Olson; Michael Pettorini

Members Absent:

Jim Fruin; Diana Hauman; Mark Wylie

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Melissa Robinson; Alyssa Cooper; Lauren Gibson; Jennifer Sicks, Raymond Lai; Tessa Ferraro; Melissa Quimby

1. Call To Order:

Ms. Kramp 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 April 7th, 2021 Commission meeting
- B. Financial Reports
- C. MCRPC Staff Report

Ms. Kramp asked if the commissioners had any questions or comments. With none, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

- a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)
None

Mr. Lai introduced the new commission member, Jennifer Langley, who represents the City of Bloomington. Ms. Langley gave a brief introduction about herself.

Ms. Kramp also welcomed the new MCRPC Assistant Planner, Tessa Ferraro. Ms. Ferraro introduced herself and stated her excitement to be part of the MCRPC.

Ms. Kramp then thanked Ms. Quimby, a fellow from the Illinois State University (ISU) working with the MCRPC. Ms. Quimby will be finishing her fellowship at the end of June 2021.

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

a. Regional Housing Initiatives review and update

Ms. Gibson stated that it has been three years since the Regional Housing Initiatives has been approved. It was appropriate to provide the commission with an overview of what has been worked on and accomplished since the spring of 2018. She presented a PowerPoint. In this presentation, she discussed the background of the Regional Housing Initiatives, its mission statement and purpose, the various groups and committees created within, housing data and research within McLean County, their consolidated planning process, COVID response and outcomes, and a timeline of events. [The presentation (PowerPoint) is attached].

Ms. Kramp asked if the MCRPC website shows how the uses of housing information is being used. Ms. Gibson responded that on the MCRPC website, there is a housing data dashboard and outreach analyses.

Mr. Burrill asked if developers were able to use the housing location tools as well. Ms. Gibson stated that they were internal, primarily used by City of Bloomington (COB) and Town of Normal (TON) planners and policy staff. However, they are hoping to release a public format within the next few months. Mr. Burrill also asked if a developer wanted to build multi-level family residences, would they have to speak with COB, TON, and County planners to get approval. Ms. Gibson answered that the original intent was for it to be one tool to evaluate those types of proposals. She added that often times developers will contact her and/or the Housing Authority.

Mr. Teichman asked if Ms. Gibson was aware of how COVID has affected homelessness in the community. She responded that in 2016 the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) confirmed that veteran homelessness was diminished. The Housing Assistance Coalition has worked closely with HUD throughout the past year in examining available grants. Currently, the Housing Assistance Coalition is discussing how the roll-back of the eviction moratoriums will affect those in McLean County.

b. Draft State FY 2022 Unified Work Program (UWP)

Mr. Lai mentioned to the commission that a Unified Work Program (UWP) is completed annually for approval by the Transportation Policy Committee since the MCRPC is a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). He also gave brief information about Item “c”, the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), that it is a five-year improvement document that’s updated annually.

Ms. Sicks presented an overview of the FY 2022 Unified Work Program (UWP) document, through a PowerPoint. She reminded the Commission that the UWP is completed annually and follows the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Fiscal Year, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. She discussed the funding sources highlighted in the document as well as the related work funded by the various outlets.
[The presentation (PowerPoint is attached)].

Mr. Teichman asked if the MCRPC was allocating money for Connect Transit in hopes for their new manager and direction. Ms. Sicks responded that Connect Transit is actually allocating money for the MCRPC through a three-year agreement since staff is assisting them with their planning efforts.

c. DRAFT FY2022-26 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Sicks prepared a PowerPoint presentation on the draft Fiscal Year 2022-2026 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The presentation included information such as what the TIP includes, funding, types of projects, and the review/approval process. She mentioned that there are projects that are programmed, meaning they are state projects that are currently funded, and planned projects, meaning they are not yet funded but could be a potential project at a later time. Both programmed and planned projects are to be included in the TIP document.
[The presentation (PowerPoint is attached)].

Ms. Kramp asked if Ms. Sicks could explain a significant project that has been detailed in the TIP that has been carried over into various TIP’s. Ms. Sicks answered that the Hamilton Road project has been illustrated in many TIP documents to be executed for about 25 years. This project has taken time due to negotiating with the railroad company. At this time, Hamilton Road is expected to connect by crossing the railroad. The City of Bloomington (COB) has funding for this project but is actively looking for more funding opportunities. Mr. Lai stated that the Hamilton Road project has been presented to federal and state officials for further funding during the Economic Development Corporation’s virtual “One Voice” trip a few months ago.

Mr. Bittner asked if projects and plans were able to extend into the east side bypass corridor. Ms. Sicks answered that staff are temporarily not able to, however, they are monitoring that area in case there is an immediate need. Mr. Bittner asked if the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) had a hold of that specific area and if staff were to create a regional plan, how that area be released. Ms. Sicks stated that IDOT did not

proceed with a corridor protection but will ask them how staff could move forward, if needed. It does not have any evidence to show that there is a need for this growth.

d. Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Project Update

Ms. Sicks provided an update on the PASER project. Earlier that afternoon, the chairperson of MCRPC, Ms. Kramp, executed an extension of time agreement with Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) for the PASER project. With this extension of time, work will be able to continue through June, 2022. Currently, a draft agreement between the MCRPC and the consultant is being reviewed by the Town of Normal and County legal staff. She is hoping that this will be presented for considerations of approval by the commission in the upcoming July 2021 regular meeting.

This project is being funded by federal dollars, which will flow from the MCRPC to the consultant. Once the agreement is fully executed, the work of the consultant will be able to begin. Ms. Sicks stated that they are expecting the work to be completed by December 2021.

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

Mr. Lai told the commissioners that since the approval of the Action Plan, the MCRPC staff discussed the implementation process in the intergovernmental meeting, which is held with various local governmental staff. Mr. Lai and Ms. Sicks also presented the approved Action Plan to the Connect Transit Board, for further education and engagement.

Mr. Lai explained that staff is continuing to look for more funding opportunities and organization to work with to implement, engage, and ultimately continue with this traffic safety project. He also would like to present the plan to the City, Town, and County elected officials to educate and engage them on this project as well.

Ms. Sicks mentioned that the Vision Zero Network was the guidance for the Go:Safe Action Plan. She is working on sending the Action Plan as a request for recognition as a Vision Zero city. She is also working on a state and federal trademark application for the Go:Safe branding.

Ms. Sicks stated this project has a lot of potential throughout the community.

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

Mr. Lai noted that the consultant for this project has completed their outreach with the City staff, Town staff, and local universities. The outreach was conducted to understand their 5G and wireless infrastructure needs. However, they are still reaching out to the Heartland Community College for their input and information.

In June 2021, the consultant will be finishing their needs assessment. They will be meeting with local service providers. The consultants are also continuing with the draft report. Mr. Lai stated that this project is to be completed by fall 2021.

g. That which may arise

None.

Ms. Kramp thanked Ms. Sicks for her presentations throughout the meeting.

7. Adjournment:

Ms. Kramp called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Teichman moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Burrill seconded the motion, which passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Robinson
Office Manager/Executive Assistant