

Minutes of the

ILLINOIS REGION 2 TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

Serving Henry, Mercer, rural Rock Island, and Whiteside Counties

Tuesday, March 18, 2025 – 2:00 p.m.

Self Help Enterprises
2300 W. LeFevre Road
Sterling, IL

Committee Members Present

Jeanette Amidon	MetroLINK
Sam Bushman	Self Help Enterprises
Pam Fluck	Self Help Enterprises
Denise Garcia	Whiteside County Public Transportation
Emily Hammer	Whiteside County Public Transportation
Kim Walker	Abilities Plus/Henry County Public Transportation

Others Present

Morgan Lewis (virtual)	Warren County Public Transportation
Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission
Kathy Starling (virtual)	Illinois-Iowa Center for Independent Living

1. Welcome and Introductions. Mr. Schmid welcomed those in attendance and requested introductions.
2. Approval of the December 17, 2024 Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. The minutes were included in the agenda packet to review. Ms. Hammer motioned to approve the minutes, and Ms. Garcia seconded. The motion carried unanimously.
3. Review of the Transit Development Plan Goals. Mr. Schmid shared a handout from the 2023 Transit Development Plan's *Regional Needs and Strategies*. The group reviewed the text highlighting needs and strategies within Illinois Region 2, and discussed their applicability to current conditions. Whiteside County (WCPT) noted that there will be a need for evening and weekend service in the near future. Insurance costs have skyrocketed, resulting in the service moving to entirely donation only. Both WCPT and Henry County Public Transportation (HCPT) are maxed out at the local match limit, which curtails their ability to expand hours. Education and familiarity of the service is improving. Service to community colleges is not a large need at the moment. Staffing levels have stabilized; however, fleet needs have worsened. Some vehicles have upwards of 260,000 miles. It was noted that door-to-door service is a large liability for agencies as well as puts pressure on time constraints for picking up and dropping off riders. Additionally, marketing has increased a lot in recent years, possibly resulting in increased ridership.
4. Update on RIM Transit. Ms. Lewis provided an update to the changes that will happen to RIM after July 1, when Mercer County's state 5311 funds will be transferred from Rock Island County to Warren County. Mercer County service will have three full-time and five part-time drivers. Warren County will receive two full-time and two part-time first choice drivers from RIM. There will be some microtransit with three trips per day to the Quad Cities. There are 11 Medicaid dialysis patients. Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging will not be able to shift funding for Mercer County seniors yet, so RIM will still provide senior transportation for at least the next fiscal year. Warren

County is looking at tapping into Medicare, Medicaid, and managed care organization (MCO) funding streams.

5. Other business. There was no other business.
6. Public comments. There were no public comments given at the meeting.
7. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.