

**MINUTES OF THE
BI-STATE REGIONAL COMMISSION**

Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 3:30 p.m.
Rock Island County Office Building
1504 Third Avenue, Third Floor County Board Room
Rock Island, IL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Bark –Chair; David Adams; Mike Bartels; Kippy Breeden; Maria Bribriesco; Richard “Quijas” Brunk; Kimberly Callaway-Thompson; Jean Dickson; Ralph Heninger; Marshall Jones; Kurt Kirchner; Jerry Lack; Michael Limberg; John Maxwell; Drue Mielke; Scott Naumann; Eileen Roethler; Rich Volkert

MEMBERS ABSENT: Danny Chick; Michael Davis; Rick Dunn; Reggie Freeman; Robert Gallagher; Jason Gordon; Ashley Harris; Dan McNeil; Marcy Mendenhall; Gary Moore; Jazmin Newton; Dylan Parker; Sangeetha Rayapati; Rick Schloemer; William Stoermer

OTHERS PRESENT: Mia Frommelt, Bohnsack and Frommelt; William Gillespie, Mayor of McCausland

STAFF PRESENT: Sarah Bambas, Denise Bulat, Sarah Grabowski, Jill Henderson, Gena McCullough

Chair Bark called the meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

1. Approval of the January 28, 2026 Minutes. Mr. Lack motioned to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026 meeting as presented. Mr. Naumann seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
2. Treasurer’s Report. Mayor Volkert presented the Treasurer’s Report for the month ending January 31, 2026, noting an ending total bank book balance of \$728,419.86. Mayor Volkert moved the report be accepted as written and mailed. Mr. Maxwell seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
3. Finance and Personnel Committee.
 - a. Bills. Mayor Limberg presented the bills totaling \$15,457.27, as listed on the following bills listing:

Bills List

Rock Island County Treasurer		\$5,002.15
03/2026	Rent	4,841.75
03/2026	Internet Access	88.00
01/2026	Paper	72.40

Addendum

Bohnsack & Frommelt LLP, 6-30-25 Year End and Single Audit		10,000.00
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***CORRECTION:**

Rock Island County Treasurer, on Bill List shown as \$5,002.15; 5,457.27
additional invoice added in the amount of \$455.12 (Postage)
for a total of \$5,457.27

Mayor Limberg moved approval of the bills totaling \$15,457.27 as presented above. Mr. Naumann seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

- b. Report on Progress on Commission’s FY 2025-26 Program Budget as of January 31, 2026. Mayor Limberg explained that on Program Budget Status Report, the Commission is 58% through the fiscal year with 51.0% expended and within budget.
- c. Contracts/Grants for Consideration. There were no contracts or grants for consideration.
- d. Consideration of Recommendation to Accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2025. Mayor Limberg stated the Finance and Personnel Committee received a detailed audit presentation and are recommending approval of the audit report. There were no findings and that Bi-State complied with all laws, regulations, contracts, and grants. The Commission again received the highest audit opinion, an unmodified opinion "Clean Audit" with no findings or questioned costs.

Mayor Limberg made a motion to accept the Financial and Compliance Report for the year ended June 30, 2025. Mr. Jones seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

4. Update on Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). Ms. Bulat provided a brief update on the status of the *Bi-State Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Progress Report 2025* (CEDS). The CEDS is redeveloped every five years and must be completed for the region to receive federal funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA). The last full update was in 2021, and a progress report is prepared annually. The 2026 CEDS will be a full update. The planning process is a collaborative effort with participation from local governments, economic development organizations, institutions of higher learning, and workforce training organizations. In order to ensure full representation of the region, meetings have been held throughout the Bi-State Region. The CEDS also serves as an umbrella economic development overview with broad goals that support projects from across the region. Ms. Bulat reviewed the goals that had been developed with stakeholder input and distributed a copy of the goals.

Ms. Bulat explained the CEDS progress report includes a summary of economic and demographic data; an analysis on the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to the region; a review of progress made toward the goals and strategies; and a comprehensive list of economic development projects that have been completed, are underway, and or are planned for the future. As a preview of regional data and demographics, Ms. Bulat noted most data lags and is based on the five-year American Community Survey averages that were just released. There is a projected steady slow population growth aligning to the recently completed long range transportation plan population projections. Median age for the region increased from 40.3 in 2020 to 41 in 2025. The cost of living is lower than the national average and compares favorably to regional counterparts; it is also 90.9, which is lower than the U.S. average of 100.0. The draft annual 2025 unemployment rate is 4.7%. Draft numbers for labor force are down from 219,920 in 2019 to 208,681 in 2025. Major industries in the region include defense, food processing, machinery, metals, food services, health care, and logistics.

The jobs and investments from this list are reported to EDA, and the list may be utilized by legislatures to promote the region and champion projects. A draft of the 2026 CEDS update will be presented to the Commission in March to lay on the table and be reviewed for the following month with a final draft provided at the Commission’s April meeting.

5. Consideration of ADA Program Access Plan for the Bi-State Regional Commission. Ms. Bambas reviewed the ADA Program Access Plan. She explained that the plan was developed based on a recommendation received at the June 2024 Transportation Management Area certification review. She described the basic key sections of the plan and expanded on how meetings are set up to meet ADA accessibility objectives. Ms. Bambas detailed potential accommodation requests and explained how requests are handled, and noted a complaint process following Title VI.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion to accept the ADA Program Access Plan as presented. Mr. Brunk seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

6. Overview of Thrive 2055: Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan Update. Ms. McCullough noted that the long range transportation plan (LRTP) for the Quad Cities will be brought to the Commission in March for consideration of adoption following a recommendation for approval by the Quad Cities MPO Transportation Policy Committee. An overview of the vision that coincides with the CEDS was shared as well as the development goals and transportation planning objectives. Objectives of access/mobility, safety and connectivity/integration were the highest priority expressed by the public and confirmed by the Technical and Policy Committees. Public input suggests improvements to bus service, roads, passenger rail, safety streets and a cohesive bicycle network. Public engagement pre-plan development reached 270 individuals and 118 surveyed. Post-plan development during the review period through February 21st reached 15+ individuals, including input via the online form. In the last year, there was a total of 10,295 views and 166 interactions on the LRTP Facebook page or associated shares.

Highlights were giving on the planned projects. For roads, there is an emphasis on safety as well as asset management. For transit, maintaining systems in good repair and looking at transit optimization are a focus. For bicycles, there are 275 miles of bikeways with another 374 miles envisions by 2055, with an estimated range in cost from \$153-265 million. Total investment for the surface transportation modes of transportation through 2055 is estimated at \$6.8 billion. Ms. McCullough addressed questions following the presentation. A link to the plan will be sent out to Commissioners as a meeting follow-up.

7. Questions or Comments by Commissioners. There were no questions or comments.
8. Other Business.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



John Maxwell
Secretary