



Effingham County Board
101 N. 4th Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL
217.342.4990

April 14, 2026 8:30 AM
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Norbert Soltwedel, Doug McCain, Tim Ellis

Other Board Members Present:

Committee Member Absent:

Others Present: Travis Buhnerkempe, Kelly Lockhart (PCOM), Beth Beck-Marts (CEFS), Peter Niccum (CSS), Susan Oliver (NSDAR)

Minutes

- Minutes from March 10, 2026 Transportation & Infrastructure Committee meeting were approved. T. Ellis motioned/ D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

Unfinished Business

- Effingham County Public Transportation (ECPT)
 - March report provided by B. Beck-Marts.
 - Service report of 2305 total passenger trips, 8 new riders, 219 non-ambulatory rides, 57 sponsored medical (Modivcare), 23 unmet rides, 20 no-shows, and 540 cancellations.
 - Demand response trip purpose report of 255 medical, 1669 employment, 21 nutrition, 55 business, 68 shopping, 53 social/recreational, 0 other, and 0 educational purposes.
 - Reduced fair report of 268 seniors, 169 disabled residents, 23 veterans for demand response.
 - March E-Trax report provided by B. Beck-Marts.
 - 184 total units with 8.36 as the average per day and 1.05 as the average rides per hour.
 - Reduced fair for E-Trax of 14 seniors, 15 disabled residents, and 15 veterans with \$0 in donations received.
 - Rebuild Round 3 Grant (Maintenance Facility) – K. Lockhart reported IDOT has reviewed architecture agreement and requested updates with new clauses. K. Lockhart stated updates should be completed this week and returned to IDOT with hopes it will be reviewed quickly for award of bid.
 - B. Beck-Marts shared staffing update with 2 open driver positions. B. Beck-Marts stated with the limited number of drivers, ECPT will need to shut down E-Trax on April 20th until a new driver is trained, estimating it would take two weeks. B. Beck-Marts stated ECPT also has one open dispatcher position and will need to alter the dispatch hours until new dispatcher is hired.
- Government Center
 - Control Systems – T. Buhnerkempe stated equipment for control systems should be here the last week of April
 - Elevators – A. Thompson reported updated maintenance agreement has been signed and will be sent back to OTIS. A. Thompson shared inspections have been completed and applying for certificates stating the new portal has been difficult. Currently, all invoices have been received and paid, however, there have been difficulties with wrong expiration dates on new certificates when received.
- County Building
 - Jail Roof Replacement – T. Buhnerkempe reported seven contractors were present at the pre-bid meeting and confirmed bids are due May 8th.

New Business

- Heart Theatre – Summer Movie Night – Committee reviewed application submitted. D. McCain motioned use of historic courtyard and pavilion by Heart Theatre for Outdoor Movie Night to full board for approval. T. Ellis seconded. T. Ellis suggested same method of trash removal as last year. Unanimous. *Motion carried.*

- DAR – Patriot Garden – Committee reviewed application submitted. S. Oliver shared NSDAR is proposing exhibiting small signs with patriot’s name, flags, and DAR insignia along with a banner for a patriot garden. T. Ellis inquired about mowing around signs and recommended short time period for display. Discussion on location for display. N. Soltwedel suggested south-east side of courtyard. T. Ellis recommended June 22nd through July 7th for display time. T. Ellis motioned moving patriot garden for June 22nd through July 7th on south east corner of museum lawn to full board for approval. D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Policy for Declining Ride Requests – No discussion
- Community Rides Grant – B. Beck-Marts stated Effingham had applied, but wasn’t awarded funding.

General Information/Public Comments

- Beth Beck-Marts shared the following additional updates to committee via report provided:
 - 5311 & DOAP grant applications have been submitted including some budget corrections
 - TXX grant application has been completed and needs submitted by Wednesday
 - New marketing materials have been created
 - Updating passenger handbook with planned distribution in the early fall
 - Participating in the Effingham Chamber’s Open Interview Day & providing free rides within the city dependent on availability
 - Completed a new transportation agreement with the Chamber
 - April 20-24 is Volunteer Week and will be offering free rides for any volunteering purposes
 - Planning special events for America’s 250th celebration; \$25 monthly passes good for July only, free in-county rides the week of June 30-July 4 for anyone wearing red/white/blue, and patriotic attire contest for staff
- PCOM Update – K. Lockhart commended Beth on attempting to recruit drivers.
- CSS Update – P. Niccum reported mileage update with total of 7,137 miles traveled with buses for month of March.
- T. Buhnerkempe reported some vandalism and damage to First Responder monument on courtyard will need repaired.

Closed Session

Adjournment

- T. Ellis motioned and D. McCain seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator