



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

January 13, 2026 8:30 AM
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Meeting

MINUTES

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

Other Board Members Present: Joshua Douthit

Committee Member Absent:

Others Present: Sheriff Kuhns, Travis Buhnerkempe

Minutes

- Minutes from December 10, 2025 Transportation Committee meeting were approved. T. Ellis motioned/D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Minutes from December 11, 2025 Building and Grounds Committee meeting were approved. T. Ellis motioned/D. McCain seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

Unfinished Business

- Effingham County Public Transportation (ECPT)
 - December report provided by B. Beck-Marts.
 - Service report of 2091 total passenger trips, 7 new riders, 221 non-ambulatory rides, 501 special assistance, 0 sponsored medical (Modivcare), 36 unmet rides, 2 no-shows, and 762 cancellations.
 - Demand response trip purpose report of 232 medical, 1474 employment, 18 nutrition, 37 business, 61 shopping, 24 social/recreational, 0 other, and 0 educational purposes.
 - Reduced fair report of 281 seniors, 220 disabled residents, 30 veterans for demand response.
 - December E-Trax report provided by B. Beck-Marts.
 - 253 total units with 12.65 as the average per day and 1.58 as the average rides per hour.
 - Reduced fair for E-Trax of 69 seniors, 18 disabled residents, and 19 veterans with \$0 in donations received.
 - Rebuild Round 3 Grant (Maintenance Facility) – K. Lockhart explained grant funding for maintenance facility to new members of committee and updated on current progress including land purchase and waiting for IDOT architect approval. J. Douthit to follow up with state legislature if continued delays from IDOT for approval. K. Lockhart shared he is hoping for bid process on construction by next winter. K. Lockhart stated he has requested an extension on grant for one year to go through 2027. K. Lockhart confirmed grant total is approximately 4 million with \$153,000.00 spent and reimbursed by grant on land purchase.
- County Building Updates
 - Parking Lot – J. Douthit stated nothing new to report confirming topic will be discussed in Capital Improvement Committee meeting later this month.
- Government Center
 - Elevators – T. Buhnerkempe reported reprogramming fire alarm today and waiting on parts for opening arms, but anticipate repairs completed by end of month.

New Business

- Government Center Control Systems – Bid Opening and Recommendation
 - FieldWrxs - \$39,725.00 and \$13,400.00 add-on option for new readers and key fobs
 - SEICO Security - \$19,239.63 materials and labor with no add-on – using existing card readers
 - Digital Solutions - \$65,193.00 with 5-year door and elevator license; \$99,193.00 with 10-year door and elevator license; \$12,095.00 add-on for new readers
 - Accurate Controls – Current equipment in place at Government Center. \$84,300.00 for completely new system.

- T. Buhnerkempe and J. Repking to review bids for comparison and further investigation to provide recommendation at next meeting.
- Sheriff Kuhns shared trouble with current system with maintenance struggles and recommended a local supplier for these reasons.

General Information/Public Comments

- Current Staffing Openings: Beth Beck-Marts shared currently openings for 4 full-time, 4 part-time and 1 substitute with plans to add 3 more full-time.
- Vehicle Disposal – B. Beck-Marts stated she is currently waiting on Midwest to give an estimated value on 22-1 with hopes to donate to Effingham Fire Department for training purposes. B. Beck-Marts reported SC-1 and SC-2 have titles needing checked with liens that have already been released, however RIDES is listed on titles. B. Beck-Marts to follow up with County Clerk for titles.
- SouthTown Shuttle – B. Beck-Marts recommended Tuesday and Thursday operational hours for SouthTown Shuttle stating there is a planning meeting scheduled the last week of January and she is hoping to get route operational by May.
- FY27 Grant application started – B. Beck-Marts shared allocations should be received in next couple of weeks and will need grant approval in March committee meeting.
- B. Beck-Marts shared average cost of operation for ECPT is currently \$55.27/hr.
- PCOM Update – K. Lockhart reported visiting with new Dispatch Operations Manager and all running smoothly. N. Soltwedel inquired on transportation struggles for ROSC. B. Beck-Marts reported struggles have been with transportation needs are to Charleston or evening hours with a single or very few riders creating difficulties with driver limitations.
- CSS Update – P. Niccum shared mileage update on leased vehicles in 5780 miles added since last meeting.
- T. Buhnerkempe reported maintenance has shared concerns the Courthouse lawn has spots settling along sidewalks from tree removal and Christmas display traffic. T. Buhnerkempe inquired if Highway Department can possibly bring in top soil and lawn will need reseeded. Maintenance to check with City on use of seeder.
- T. Buhnerkempe reported block on top of Government Center on north side turning black and may need pressure washed along with windows needing washed.
- N. Soltwedel reported Animal Control truck no longer in use with four flat tires will need addressed. Sheriff Kuhns to investigate.

Closed Session

Adjournment

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

Minutes submitted by Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator