



CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING  
COMMISSION

**To:** RPC Commissioners

**From:** Rita Morocoima-Black, RPC Planning and Community Development Director

**Date:** November 13, 2020

**Re:** Board Authorizing Resolutions for IDOT grant applications:

1. Advancing Transportation Equity
2. Sustainable Neighborhoods Bus Route Evaluation for the Champaign-Urbana MTD
3. Transportation Costs and Inequities in Rantoul - Studying the impact of fare-free transit service

**Requested action:** Approve Board Resolutions

**BACKGROUND:** The staff of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission (RPC) prepared three grant applications that were submitted to the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT's) Office of Intermodal Project Implementation on September 25, 2020. As part of each grant application, IDOT request the submission of an executed Board Resolution which can be certified after the grant proposal deadline.

In order for IDOT to authorize RPC to receive the grants, I am soliciting the RPC Board to approve the attached Board Resolutions authorizing and directing the RPC Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to apply for and execute the technical assistance grant contracts on behalf of RPC and provide information and file documents as may be required to receive and have work performed under these grant contracts, if any of them are awarded to RPC.

The three grants submitted for funding were:

Advancing Transportation Equity: This project aims to advance transportation equity at the MPO level by focusing on the transportation experiences of Title VI populations in the Champaign-Urbana urbanized area. This project will allow planners to develop new tools for looking deeper into the collective needs of the community in order to better serve all individuals, particularly those that are underrepresented, disadvantaged, and economically distressed. The outcome of the project will include a report on transportation equity in the MPO region as well as a new tool for extracting Census data to use in QGIS.

Amount Requested from the State: \$171,372

Sustainable Neighborhoods Bus Route Evaluation for the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District: The project seeks to leverage the Sustainable Neighborhoods Toolkit, already developed by CUUATS staff using IDOT grant funding, to assess the accessibility and equity impacts of the proposed MTD



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route system modifications. It will provide MTD with neighborhood-level insights into the impacts of the proposed route changes, allowing them to develop an effective implementation plan.

Amount Requested from the State: \$110,122

Transportation Costs and Inequities in Rantoul - Studying the impact of fare-free transit service: This project proposes to study the fixed route transit service (Eagle Express) provided by C-CARTS in the Village of Rantoul and its impact on access to employment and other services by transit-dependent population. This study will include a cost/benefit analysis that will compare ridership and fares before and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Existing Eagle Express data show significant increase in ridership, particularly to employment centers, during the pandemic when fares were not being collected. These preliminary findings suggest that fare-free service in this region has promising potential to further reduce inequities and promote economic development. More research in this area would provide a clearer understanding of the impact of fare elimination or reduction on populations who need public transportation to access employment.

Amount Requested from the State: \$112,101

Total Amount Requested from the State: \$393,595



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## AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

I, Joan Dykstra, do hereby certify that I am the fully qualified and acting Chair of the Board of Commissioners of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission and the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission's keeper of the seal, records, and files.

I also certify that the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission's Board of Commissioners adopted a resolution in full accordance and conformity with its by-laws and the statutes of the State of Illinois, as made and provided at a duly constituted and legally convened meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020. The following is a full, complete, and true copy of the aforementioned resolution's pertinent provisions:

WHEREAS, 20 ILCS 2705/2705-300 and 2705-305 of the Department of Transportation Law authorizes the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to make financial assistance available for the purpose of conducting studies, demonstrations and development projects which shall be designed to test and develop methods for increasing public use of mass transportation and for providing mass transportation in an efficient, coordinated, and convenient manner; and

WHEREAS, funding may be provided from a 49 U.S.C. § 5305 grant made to IDOT by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and/or by IDOT funds, and/or by Champaign County Regional Planning Commission using local funds.

WHEREAS, grants for said funds will impose certain obligations upon the recipient.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission:

Section 1. That an application be or has been made to IDOT's Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, for a grant to advance transportation equity at the MPO level by focusing on the transportation experiences of Title VI populations in the Champaign-Urbana urbanized area. This project will allow planners to develop new tools for looking deeper into the collective needs of the community in order to better serve all individuals, particularly those that are underrepresented, disadvantaged, and economically distressed. The outcome of the project will include a report on transportation equity in the MPO region as well as a new tool for extracting Census data to use in QGIS.



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Section 2. That Dalitso Sulamoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, is hereby authorized and directed to apply for and execute a technical assistance grant agreement on behalf of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission; and

Section 3. That Dalitso Sulamoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, is hereby authorized to furnish such additional information as may be required by the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation and FTA in connection with the aforesaid application for such grant; and

Section 4. That Dalitso Sulamoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, is hereby authorized to and directed to execute and file on behalf of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission a technical assistance grant agreement ("Agreement") with IDOT, and amend such Agreement, if necessary, in order to obtain grant assistance.

Section 5. That Dalitso Sulamoyo, Chief Executive Officer of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, is hereby authorized to provide such information and to file such documents as may be required to perform the Agreement and to receive the grant.

I further certify that the original of the aforementioned resolution is on file in the records of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission in my custody.

I do further certify that the foregoing resolution remains in full force and effect and has not been rescinded, amended, or altered in any manner since the date of its adoption.

PRESENTED and ADOPTED this 20th day of November, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Authorized Official)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Attest)

\_\_\_\_\_  
CCRPC Board Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
11/20/2020

(Title)

(Date)



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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission:

Section 1. That an application be or has been made to IDOT's Office of Intermodal Project Implementation, for a grant to leverage the Sustainable Neighborhoods Toolkit, already developed by CUUATS staff with IDOT grant funding, to assess the accessibility and equity impacts of the proposed MTD routes system modifications. It will provide MTD with neighborhood-level insights into the impacts of the proposed route changes, allowing them to develop an effective implementation plan;

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