

**Champaign County**  
**Rural Transit Advisory Group (RTAG)**  
**DRAFT Minutes**

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4 **DATE:** Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012  
 5 **PLACE:** John Dimit Room, 1776 E. Washington Street, Urbana, IL 61802  
 6 **Chair:** Andy Kulczycki (\*RTAG Voting + Proxy #Chair)

Attendee	Organization
Chris Bruns*	The Pavilion
Andy Kulczycki*	Community Service Center of Northern Champaign County
Stan James*	Champaign County Board
Martha Paap*	Provena Center for Healthy Aging
Elaine Palencia*	Disability Advocate
Michelle Ramage*	Thomasboro and Rantoul City School Districts
Rita Morocoima-Black	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, PCD Director
Eileen Sierra	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, HSTP Coordinator
Preeti Shankar	Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Planner
Amy Marchant	CRIS Rural Mass Transit District
Kathy Cooksey	CRIS Rural Mass Transit
Sean DeDecker	CRIS Rural Mass Transit
Carol Nichols	CRIS Rural Mass Transit

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Agenda

- 10 **I. Call to Order** – Mr. Kulczycki called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
- 11 **II. Roll Call** – Ms. Sierra called the roll, a quorum was present. Each attendee around the room announced their presence.
- 12 **III. Approval of Agenda** – Ms. Ramage motioned to approve the agenda, Ms. Bruns seconded, and the motion carried.
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- 14 **IV. Approval of Minutes**
- 15 **A. Meeting of February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011** - Mr. James motioned to approve the minutes, Ms. Ramage seconded, and the motion carried.
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- 17 **V. New Business**
- 18 **A. Head Start Parents Fares & Discussion – CCRPC**
- 19 Ms. Morocoima-Black described a meeting between Ms. Liffick, the director of CCRPC’s Head Start Program, and numerous parents/low-income families were concerned that CRIS fares between Rantoul and Champaign-Urbana at \$5 were too high. Mr. Kulczycki noted that the advisory group cannot ultimately decide to change the fare, but the group can advise CRIS on the issue. Ms.
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1 Marchant noted that CRIS can provide special event transportation related to Head Start's program  
 2 needs; however, at this time CRIS cannot do anything about lowering the fare.

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 4 *B. Operating Resolutions, Ordinance, Etc. – CCRPC*

5 Ms. Sierra described the various operating Fiscal Year 13's resolutions (4 total) and one ordinance  
 6 regarding public transportation, special warranty, and joint certification of assurances. As  
 7 Champaign County is the grantee, these items have to go in front of COW 1 in order for CRIS to  
 8 apply for continued funding in FY 13 (state and federal funding). While there are numerous items –  
 9 these are all the same documents originally accepted by the county board when the rural transit  
 10 system was established.

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 12 Currently, the next fiscal year starts July 1; however, with pending federal and state transportation  
 13 bills, funding is unknown at this time. Ms. Sierra noted as a result these items would not go before  
 14 the county board until a updated grant application is available through IDOT-DIPT with funding  
 15 levels; and then CRIS will have to complete the application for the County Board's approval. This is  
 16 just a heads up for committee members about these pending documents; hopefully, there will be an  
 17 update on these by the next meeting.

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 19 Ms. Morocoima-Black commented how the county board had no questions regarding approving the  
 20 JARC (job access) and New Freedom (increased transportation services) grant application's four  
 21 resolutions; and the a few members commented that they appreciated the service CRIS is bringing to  
 22 the community.

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 24 *C. Service Update: Quarterly Report & Other News – CRIS*

25 Ms. Marchant summarized overall Champaign County rural public transportation services as  
 26 described in the handouts provided at the start of the meeting. In general, amount of  
 27 trips/transportation service has increased, which is expected in winter, even though this was a mild  
 28 winter. CRIS is considering adding another phone line to the Urbana offices as a result. For this last  
 29 quarter January - March (3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter FY12), medical trips have decrease, personal business trips  
 30 have increased, employment trips have increased and educations trips have decreased.

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 32 **VI. Old Business**

33 *A. Grant Application Update – CRIS*

34 CRIS applied for new JARC transportation funding, especially as Rantoul appears to be a hub  
 35 and needs a deviated fixed routes from Rantoul to Parkland to Champaign-Urbana. The purpose  
 36 of which is to provide more access to job training, and employment opportunities for major  
 37 medical centers.

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 39 Additionally, CRIS applied for New Freedom funding to allow for CRIS to provide  
 40 transportation for widely in Champaign County for medical trips, and access between Vermillion  
 41 and Champaign. This grant application also would allow CRIS to pick up personal assistants for  
 42 free and then drive to the rider's home, which will help one mobility barrier for riders. The grant  
 43 awards are due out in the late summer.

1 Lastly, CRIS applied for three new vehicles to help with meeting the increase demand for  
 2 transportation in Champaign County. However, all of these grants are very competitive for the  
 3 federal funding. Ms. Marchant also introduced two of CRIS' staff in attendance, the new director  
 4 of operations, Sean DeDecker and communications manager, Carol Nicholas.

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 6 **B. Rural Transportation Planning Update – CCRPC**

7 Ms. Morocoima-Black went over the analysis of CRIS ridership provided in the yellow handout.  
 8 She explained that this is provided to the group to give a better understanding of the  
 9 demographics utilizing the service, looking at an entire year of data. The provided handout is  
 10 step one in the plan and CCRPC will provide periodic updates regarding the plan. A few  
 11 highlights from the provided handouts included:

- 12 - Trip Purpose - highest were medical trips and the lowest were educational trips;
- 13 - Demographics - Senior trips were almost 50% of all trips provided;
- 14 - Mobility needs - 13% of trips required an ADA lift;
- 15 - Geographical area – 67% of all riders were from the Village of Rantoul

16 Ms. Sierra noted that the next phase of the mobility plan will be to look at vehicle ownership,  
 17 and trip frequencies with major trip generators to analyze where deviated fixed bus stop may best  
 18 serve the communities. Ms. Morocoima-Black stated that the purpose of the Champaign County  
 19 Rural Mobility Plan is to find ways to better service the community either through efficiencies,  
 20 organizing the flow of vehicles and/or the development of new services/funding applications. In  
 21 particular this plan is focused on the Northeast quadrant of Champaign county Ms. Sierra  
 22 mentioned that in the upcoming months, there will be public meetings scheduled where RTAG  
 23 members will be encouraged to “get out the word” for more public attendance and input.

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 25 Mr. Kulczycki inquired if the committee could receive in particular the first graph provided in  
 26 the handouts so that they could compare on a quarterly basis – visually look at the trends and in  
 27 return compare year to year. Ms. Sierra noted that the graphs were provided as part of the rural  
 28 mobility plan, but that they will try to have the data available in the graphs when possible.

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 30 **C. Open Meeting Act Online Certificate Update**

31 Ms. Sierra had received most RTAG members' open meeting act certificates. Ms. Sierra  
 32 reminded the committee that they are due by the end of June and are required. The group had a  
 33 short discussion on how to log-on and complete the opening meeting act test.

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 35 **VII. RTAG Announcements** – Ms. Palencia took brochures to the disability meeting last April and is looking  
 36 into employment transportation opportunities. Ms. Morocoima-Black reminded everyone to make people  
 37 aware that CRIS transportation is for everyone, especially make aware those needing employment and  
 38 education transportation. Mr. Kulczycki noted that given the limited hours of transportation hours that  
 39 CRIS has that it is not easy to coordination employment transportation.

40 **VIII. Audience Participation** – None

41 **IX. Adjournment** – Ms. Bruns motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. James seconded, and the motion carried.  
 42 Mr. Kulczycki adjourned the meeting at 4:37 p.m. Next meeting is on ~~August 1<sup>st</sup>~~ {August 8<sup>th</sup> set at a later  
 43 time}, 2012 in the John Dimit Room at the Brookens Administrative Center in Urbana.