

**Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Executive Board Minutes
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655
April 24, 2025**

Members Present: Dr. Michael Ash, and Jim Cary; Mark Huston, and Barb Smidt via Zoom

Members Absent: Brent Schleisman

Staff Present: Mike Norris, Lori Gilpin, Pat Inrachavongsa, Zach James, and Sherri Jones

Guests Present:

Meeting called to order at 12:06 p.m.

Agenda Approval

Motion by Cary to approve the April 24, 2025, agenda, second by Smidt. All Ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda Approval

Norris said driveway repair bids have been sent out and are due back prior to the May Full Board meeting. He stated that elevator control parts are no longer available for SEIRPC's elevator and approximate cost to replace the unit are \$75,000. The elevator continues to function properly so it is more likely that SEIRPC will take a reactive position to replace due to the cost. Norris participated in the Iowa Association of Councils of Governments (ICOG) Day on the Hill on April 8th. Conversations included COG Assistance, land redevelopment trusts, and services SEIRPC provides for our region. Norris and James attended the Denver EDA Region conference April 14-16. The conference is oriented to the work Economic Development Districts do. Conversations with peers from NE, KS, MO, CO, UT, MT, ND, SD, and IA were valuable. Motion by Huston to accept the consent agenda, second by Smidt. All Ayes, motion carried.

Old Business

1. SIREPA Update: Norris reminded board members that SEIRPC has provided staff and administrative services to SIREPA under contract since late 2014. Recent projects include the Lee County Broadband Expansion and Lee County Career Center. SIREPA helped construct a private-public partnership including Lee County, SIREPA, and Danville Mutual Telephone Co. to expand broadband in Lee County. In addition, SIREPA owns the building located at 2495 280th Street, Montrose, and includes LCEDG offices, incubator space for PV Pallet, convening and classroom space for career exploration. Upcoming opportunities include: Additional broadband development options; Assist in economic development site planning and potential ownership/leaseback opportunities; Assist in developing the Lee County Career Center, or Childcare Center, through funding and ownership; and Sponsor Port Infrastructure Development projects to funnel federal port development funds to Lee County. No action necessary.

New Business

1. Public Hearing: FY2026 Consolidated Transit Application: Resolution #192-2025 Authorizing FY2026 Consolidated Transit Application: Ash opened the public hearing at 12:22 p.m. Inrachavongsa, SEIBUS Transit Director, stated that the Consolidated Transit Fund Application process is an annual event through which SEIRPC applies for state and federal public transit subsidy and allows SEIRPC to provide public transportation to southeast Iowa. He further stated that this application shows the Iowa Department of Transportation how we anticipate spending the money they will be giving to us. Inrachavongsa reported that we are applying for \$463,846 of State Transit Assistance funds, for operating and capital assistance; \$530,218 of FTA Section 5311 funds for operating; and request funds for replacement of two 176" light duty buses, #111 and #112, for a total project cost of \$336,800 with 85% (\$286,280) coming from FTA Section 5339 funds and 15% (\$50,520) from local funding. Ash asked for any comments from the public, and there were none. **Cary made a motion to close the Public Hearing: FY2026 Consolidated Transit Application: Resolution #192-2025 Authorizing FY2026 Consolidated Transit Application at 12:25 p.m., second by Huston.** All ayes, motion carried. **Smidt made a motion to approve Resolution #192-2025 Authorizing FY2026 Consolidated Transit Application, second by Huston.** A roll call vote was taken. All ayes, motion carried.
2. FY2026 Transit Fare Increase: Inrachavongsa, SEIBUS Transit Director, stated that SEIBUS relies partially on passenger fares to pay for the cost of services. The last dated request to raise fares was in July 2006, due to escalating fuel prices at the time. More diverse funding sources and subsidy increases have meant SEIRPC has not had to increase fares in nearly 20 years. To fund the system in the face of future subsidy reductions and to address all areas of potential revenue, staff propose an increase from \$2.50/one-way ride to \$3.00 for the in-town fares starting July 1, 2025. Staff estimate a \$10,000 revenue increase. No action necessary.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR: None

Motion to adjourn meeting by Huston, second by Cary. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

Submitted by Sherri Jones

Mike Norris, Executive Director

Mark Huston, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____