

**GREATER EGYPT REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
January 13, 2026**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Jeff Robinson, Chair, presided and called the meeting to order at 12:08 pm. A roll call was taken, and it was noted that there is a quorum present.

Officers Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Position, Represents</u>
Jeffery Robinson	Chair, Williamson County
Kathy Lively	1 st Vice-Chair, Herrin
Kevin Weston	2 nd Vice-Chair, Franklin County
Julie Peterson	3 rd Vice-Chair, Jackson County
Robert Spencer	4 th Vice-Chair, Pinckneyville
Cindy Humm	Treasurer, Franklin County

Officers Absent:

Steve Damron	Secretary, Jefferson County
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Staff Present - Cary Minnis (Executive Director), Sarah O'Dell (Administrator)

2. Consent Agenda

- a) Minutes of November 18, 2025, Executive Committee Meeting
- b) December 2025 Staff Report
- c) List of Bills
- d) Miscellaneous

A motion was made by Robert Spencer and seconded by Kevin Weston to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

3. New Business

- a) Updates on 604b & IDOT Planning
 - The Executive Director provided an update on the Section 604(b) water quality and IDOT planning programs. Illinois EPA has been delayed in issuing 604(b) grants, but a \$30,000 extension to the current agreement is expected, with additional FY22–FY25 work plans totaling approximately \$1.33 million submitted to U.S. EPA for approval, which would provide three to four years of funding primarily supporting the water quality program. Cary reported progress on IDOT planning studies, including completion of rural bike plans, continued work on urban bike plans, the Jackson-Union Port feasibility study, and a multi-county Safe Routes to School study, all expected to conclude by June. While no new IDOT planning grant cycle is anticipated this year, staff is in discussions with IDOT regarding a potential pilot Rural Regional Transportation Planning Organization to sustain planning efforts. Staff also noted federal discussions on requiring and funding regional transportation planning organizations and highlighted Greater Egypt's strong record of delivering impactful transportation studies with modest funding.
- b) Chamber of Commerce Memberships
 - The Executive Director discussed joining local Chambers of Commerce to increase Greater Egypt's visibility, networking, and outreach with community and business leaders. Membership costs would be a few thousand dollars annually and could be covered within existing budget authority. Board members agreed the value lies in relationship-building, identifying community needs, and maintaining a visible presence. The board expressed support for moving forward, noting it aligns with ongoing efforts to strengthen outreach and demonstrate value to member communities.

- c) Concrete Repair
 - The Executive Director reported damage to the concrete at the ManTraCon entrance, where a section beneath a covered walkway column has cracked and begun to sink, likely due to an inadequate footing. While not currently a structural issue, it was noted the condition may worsen over time. Temporary patching was discussed, but full repair was recommended to prevent future structural problems. A repair estimate of approximately \$13,000 was referenced, and the Board advised obtaining multiple bids before proceeding.

- d) Personnel (Closed Session under 2C (1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act)
 - A roll call vote was conducted to enter a closed session at 1:05pm, all meeting members voted AYE to enter in to the closed session. A roll call vote with all members voting AYE was conducted to end the closed session at 1:21 pm.
 - After the closed session a motion was made by Robert Spencer to approve a 5% raise of the Executive Director's salary executive 1/3/26. The motion was seconded by Cindy Humm and carried unanimously.

- e) Miscellaneous
 - The Executive Director provided a miscellaneous update regarding the policy manual review. The attorney who had previously agreed to complete the review, has been unable to do so due to workload, despite multiple follow-ups over the past year. Given recent legal changes and the need for updates to policies including travel and IMRF language, staff recommended seeking another attorney with employment law expertise, potentially outside the local area. Board members suggested reaching out to professional associations and other contacts for recommendations.

4. Matters from the Floor

- Discussion was held regarding ADA compliance and the need for an ADA Transition Plan for Jackson County, prompted by concerns over accessibility at the Murphysboro courthouse and aging facilities. It was clarified that while ADA Transition Plans are required by law for entities above a certain employee threshold, the plan primarily serves to identify deficiencies and outline a long-term strategy rather than mandate immediate, costly improvements. Board members discussed the need to designate an ADA coordinator, challenges with staff capacity, and the role consultants could play. It was noted that IDOT has been surveying communities on ADA compliance, increasing urgency. Examples of phased approaches, funding considerations, and potential external resources were shared.

a) Next Meetings:

Full Board Commission Meeting: February 10, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Executive Committee Meeting: March 10, 2026, 12:00 noon

6. Adjourn

A motion was made by Kevin Weston and seconded by Cindy Humm to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 1:57 pm.