

River, Road, & Rail Committee

2026 Action Summary

Executive Summary

The River, Road, & Rail Committee was established to strengthen communication and collaboration among transportation partners across the Tri-State region while helping communities better understand transportation priorities and opportunities. Building on Tri-State Development's longstanding commitment to regional connectivity, the committee brings together transportation agencies, economic development organizations, port partners, and community leaders to share information and encourage collaboration across state lines.

Throughout 2026, the committee focused on developing relationships with regional transportation partners and gaining a better understanding of how transportation priorities are identified and advanced within Missouri, Illinois, and Iowa. Through these discussions, the committee recognized that its greatest opportunity is not to duplicate existing transportation planning efforts but to serve as a regional convener by fostering communication, sharing information, and connecting organizations working toward common goals.

Key accomplishments included:

- Strengthening relationships with transportation partners across the Tri-State region.
- Expanding understanding of state transportation planning and project prioritization processes.
- Hosting the Annual River & Port Meeting in partnership with Mid-America Port Commission and Corn Belt Ports.
- Establishing the committee's role as a regional convener focused on communication, collaboration, and information sharing.
- Continuing to provide transportation resources, including regional maps and research support, while connecting communities with transportation partners.

As the committee looks ahead, it will continue strengthening regional communication, convening transportation partners, and sharing information and resources that support communities throughout the Tri-State region. Beginning in 2027, the committee will transition to quarterly meetings, with additional meetings scheduled as needed to address emerging transportation issues and opportunities.