



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Intermodal Project Implementation
69 West Washington Street / Suite 2100 / Chicago, Illinois 60602

November 3, 2025

Vermilion County
Mr. Steve Miller
Vermilion County Chairman
201 North Vermilion

Subject: Appointment of Designated Transit Funding Recipient for Vermilion County

Chairman Miller:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Office of Intermodal Project Implementation (OIPI), has completed a review of the Bureau of Investigations and Compliance (BIC) Audit Report No. 26-11-002, covering CRIS Rural Mass Transit District's operations for the period July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2024.

The audit revealed severe deficiencies in financial management, internal controls, and governance, including:

- Across three consecutive fiscal years (2022-2024), only 46% of expenditures sampled contained supporting documentation, reflecting ongoing non-compliance with State and Federal grant recordkeeping requirements.
- Ineligible items charged to the grants
- Violation of Open Meetings Act
- Insufficient Payroll Documentation
- Significant Reliance of Line of Credit

Of particular concern is the escalating reliance on their line-of-credit (LOC). Between July 1, 2024, and September 25, 2025, the LOC debt increased from \$366,228 to \$819,678, more than doubling despite CRIS having received a combined \$1,190,611 in Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) and Federal Section 5311 reimbursements during this same period.

Despite repeated opportunities for corrective action and months of technical assistance, CRIS RMTD continues to fail to demonstrate the fiscal and administrative capacity required to serve as a direct recipient of State and Federal transit assistance.

Recently, CRIS RMTD's financial institution submitted a letter expressing support for the agency's intent to contract with an external accounting firm, and the CRIS Board has also requested that such an arrangement be approved. While this demonstrates an awareness of internal weaknesses, it further

underscores the Department's concern that CRIS does not currently possess the administrative or financial management capacity required of a direct recipient of State and Federal transit funds. The reliance on external parties to perform core fiscal oversight functions reflects a lack of internal controls and continuity that are fundamental to sound grant administration.

Accordingly, effective State Fiscal Year 2027 (SFY 27), IDOT is appointing the City of Danville as the designated funding recipient for the Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP), FTA Section 5311 Program for service within Vermilion County, and FTA Section 5305 Planning funding. Finally, CRIS RMTD has a capital facility grant, CAP-22-1188 that will remain on hold.

The City of Danville will serve as the fiscal and administrative agent, responsible for the proper receipt, disbursement, and accounting of all State and Federal public transit funds allocated for Vermilion County. IDOT will reevaluate this designation annually based on CRIS RMTD's performance, compliance, and financial stability.

IDOT's priority remains the protection of public resources and the continuity of safe, reliable transit services for Vermilion County residents. This action ensures uninterrupted service while establishing stronger fiscal oversight and accountability.

Please direct any questions you may have to David Schafer, Bureau Chief of Transit Operations, at david.schafer@Illinois.gov.

Sincerely,


Jason Osborn
Director
Office of Intermodal Project Implementation

Cc: Steve Gulick, Chairperson, CRIS Rural Mass Transit
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