



QUAD CITIES REGIONAL METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY



REGIONAL FUNDING FOR REGIONAL ASSETS

The Quad Cities has big ideas and ambitious goals, as outlined in Q2030, our regional action plan. To achieve some of these regional and transformational initiatives, additional funding is necessary to implement big, bold ideas.

The Quad Cities' Q2030 Regional Action Plan is a transformational community and economic development initiative designed to make our bi-state area a cooler, more creative, connected and prosperous place by the year 2030.

In order to advance the Q2030 goals, we are advocating for the creation of a bi-state regional funding mechanism – the **Quad Cities Regional Metropolitan Authority** – that allows for investment in quality of life and infrastructure initiatives on a regional basis.

HOW WE WIN:

- Sets up a bi-state entity that allows us to manage and fund regional initiatives differently
- Creates a government authority that can work across state boundaries
- Establishes clear regional collaboration
- Helps achieve the goals outlined in Q2030

ENDORSEMENTS

Quad Cities Chamber, Quad Cities Community Foundation, Q2030, Visit Quad Cities (preliminary list; more being secured)

TWO-PHASE PLAN

1. Crafting and passing legislation in the States of Iowa and Illinois and U.S. Congress to create the funding mechanism – the Quad Cities Regional Metropolitan Authority.
2. Setting up governance structure and soliciting input from the public on what should be invested in, created and/or built.

PHASE 2 WON'T HAPPEN WITHOUT PHASE 1 BEING SUCCESSFUL.

PHASE 1: LEGISLATION

New legislation would create the Quad Cities Regional Metropolitan Authority through an interstate compact between Scott County, Iowa, and Rock Island County, Illinois. Legislation must be passed by the States of Iowa and Illinois, in addition to U.S. Congress.

The Authority could regionally collaborate in these focused areas:

- Riverfront development, including flood mitigation
- Regional planning and economic development
- Transportation and infrastructure, including but not limited to intermodal facilities, waste disposal systems, mass transit, bridges and river transit and ports
- Cultural and recreational amenities, including but not limited to parks, museums, trails, tourist and destination assets, zoos, centers for performing arts and botanical centers
- Education
- Natural resources

The legislation, when implemented, would create an eight-person board. The board members would be appointed by local elected officials with the advice and consent of their respective governing bodies. Board members would be term-limited to serving eight consecutive years and could be reappointed after a two-year break.

The board makeup, based on overall population and geographic representation, would be:

- City of Davenport - 2 members
- City of Bettendorf - 1 member
- Scott County - 1 member who cannot reside in either Davenport or Bettendorf
- City of East Moline - 1 member
- City of Moline - 1 member
- City of Rock Island - 1 member
- Rock Island County - 1 member who cannot reside in East Moline, Moline or Rock Island

The Authority would have the ability to collect funds from multiple sources, including philanthropic entities; private businesses; local, state and federal governments; and local taxes by referendum.

PHASE 2: FUNDING TRANSFORMATIONAL INITIATIVES

After the Authority is created and the laws are in place, local elected officials would appoint the inaugural board of directors. First, the board would approve bylaws, processes and other issues pertinent to governing.

The board would likely research and review our region's assets to determine what is needed and at what funding levels. During this process, the board should solicit input from the community about improvements needed to move our region forward. After these discussions, a formal plan and budget should be developed for the selected initiatives and submitted to the public for feedback. Once the plan is approved, the board should determine funding sources, which could include a local referendum as well as other public and private funding.

For the Authority to receive local tax dollars directly, a local referendum of the voters would need to be passed. The board, according to the law, would need to pass a referendum in Scott and Rock Island Counties before any tax revenue could be collected. In the referendum, the voters would approve what projects they would want to see and how they would like to pay for it.

The Authority guarantees local control, and protections and restrictions have been set forth to ensure the completion of projects. There are important points to note related to taxation and the powers the Authority would have:

- It could not issue bonds and would conduct all the projects on a "pay-as-you-go" basis. The Authority could not take on any debt.
- The Authority would not have eminent domain powers. If it wants to purchase land, it would need to negotiate with the current owners.
- Each referendum could not last more than 10 years. Voters would have the chance to reevaluate any projects and continue to invest in what the community's needs are at that time.
- Local taxpayers would have the ultimate say in what they would want to invest their tax dollars in and what projects they would like to see in the community. If the voting public did not like the project or the taxes, they could vote it down.

If, and only if, a referendum passes through both counties, those tax dollars would start to be collected and the initiatives outlined in the referendum would be funded. No tax dollars would be collected unless the voters approved the referendum in both counties.