

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

January 14, 2015, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 2

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The January 14, 2015, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Public Transit, Chair

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Managers Network

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, TMS

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Jennifer Roberts, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Connie Eastman, AARP

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of November 12, 2014, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. Biennial Report to Iowa General Assembly and Governor on Transportation Coordination in Iowa

Chair Kristin Haar presented the final *Transportation Coordination in Iowa* report to the Iowa General Assembly and Governor Branstad. This report is required to be produced by the Iowa DOT in even numbered years.

The ITCC members present requested a link to the report online be emailed to the membership so the report could be shared with other interested parties.

V. 2015 Passenger Transportation Summit

Chair Haar presented the draft agenda for the May 14, 2015, Passenger Transportation Summit for review and comment.

Doreen Chamberlin offered to help find another panelist for the Health Care panel. For the Employment panel, Scott Anderson suggested having a business operating vanpools for its employees, such as the University of Iowa, Pella Corporation, or HyVee, as panelist.

For the afternoon breakout sessions, Loren Bawn suggested having participants break into their local Transit Advisory Groups (TAG) to give exposure to the local groups. This would promote the TAG concept. Jennifer Roberts suggested technology in passenger transportation as a breakout session topic. Jeremy Johnson-Miller offered that travel training could be a topic for a breakout session, detailing its benefits and success stories.

While discussing the travel training idea, Connie Eastman brainstormed that perhaps AARP could team up with local mobility managers to provide a travel training course to their membership. The course could be tried first in Des Moines or Cedar Rapids to determine popularity.

Chair Haar requested volunteers to serve as breakout session leaders. Mr. Johnson-Miller, Mr. Bawn, Ms. Roberts, and Terry Bergen volunteering.

Chair Haar reported the agenda and other summit details would be on the agenda again at the March ITCC meeting for final input before the event.

VI. Iowa Commuter Transportation Study Update

Jennifer Roberts presented the final Iowa Commuter Transportation Study. The study included four recommendations to relieve congestion along the I-380 corridor: Public Interregional Express Bus Service, Subscription Bus Service, Public Vanpool Program, and Public Carpool Program. Ms. Roberts explained the service options would be offered between 5:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. This report was submitted to the Iowa General Assembly on December 15, 2014. Currently, an implementation committee is being formed, with the East Central Iowa Council of Governments serving as lead agency.

Chair Haar asked which solution would help solve the need for transportation to Amana-based employers. Ms. Roberts responded that the subscription bus service option could be tailored to meet the needs of a specific locale or large employer off the I-380 corridor.

Loren Bawn asked why only day shift hours were proposed for service. Ms. Roberts explained that the impetus for the project was congestion, plus the public survey results showed those hours as peak.

VI. Member Roundtable

Loren Bawn reported the Bureau of Refugee Service has moved. The Bureau also is now issuing bus passes instead of tokens for refugees to attend New Iowan classes or work. The bus passes save money and promote freedom.

Scott Anderson stated TMS is now issuing bus passes for Medicaid members in Oskaloosa for their fixed route bus system. Mr. Anderson also explained how TMS is now working with ADA Complementary Paratransit systems to reimburse Medicaid members also eligible for ADA Complementary Paratransit their bus fare when traveling to/from a medical appointment. The passenger may schedule the ride directly with the transit system, but must inform TMS of the appointment. Even seasonal passengers, unable to access the fixed route bus during the winter months, may use paratransit and then switch back to fixed route bus passes in warmer months.

Tim Weltzin updated the group on the Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) request for proposals. Four or five bids were received. The evaluation team is reviewing the bids currently and will make a recommendation to the Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME) Director on January 30. The IME Director will make the decision by February 13 and that decision will be announced on February 13. The winning bid will be announced on the IME NEMT website.

Mr. Weltzin also announced the IME website, including the NEMT page, had been updated. The new website includes FAQs, statistics (including Iowa Health and Wellness Plan), NEMT rules, and a link to the NEMT broker. Mr. Weltzin will be writing a letter to the field case managers about the website and creating a flier to distribute. Chair Haar suggested the flier be available for handout at the Passenger Transportation Summit.

Mr. Weltzin explained two rule changes in process will take effect July 1, 2015. The first involves the amount of advance notice a member must give TMS before an appointment for which transportation will be reimbursed. The old rule requires two business days. The new rule simply requires advance notice. The second rule change requires members to submit claims within 120 days. Currently, no limit on amount of time for travel reimbursement after an appointment exists.

Finally, Mr. Weltzin updated the group on the Iowa Health and Wellness Plan (IHAWP) waiver for transportation. Currently only 'medically exempt' members may receive transportation under IHAWP, of which there are 12,000 members; not all IHAWP member are eligible for transportation. The state of Iowa requested an extension from the federal government on the waiver to provide transportation under IHAWP. This waiver extension was approved for six months, expiring June 30, 2015.

Hugh Lively informed ITCC members that the current effort by the Iowa Public Transit Association is a grassroots push to show local state legislators the need for capital funding and to get the Iowa legislature to fund capital needs at the state level. \$25 Million per year is being requested by IPTA.

Doreen Chamberlin noted it's been 3 years since the last update of the public health and public transit brochure and it may be time to update the publication.

Jennifer Roberts explained her work with a central Iowa refugee group is focusing on providing driver education for refugee women.

Connie Eastman reported the Age Friendly Community effort in Des Moines included a survey of bus stops in the 'East Bank' neighborhood. Four new bus shelters will be added as a result of that survey.

Terry Bergen stated he is working on the annual update of transportation resources. He's also been involved with the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study, assisting the local Metropolitan Planning Organizations and Council of Governments update their Passenger Transportation Plans (PTPs) and conducting surveys for those PTPs, working with human service agencies on a vehicle sharing program, researching a vehicle donation program, and following the Mental Health and Disability Services redesign and its use of transportation vouchers. Kay Fisk continues her work to get the Iowa Employment Rides Initiative passed in the legislature. Mr. Bergen also announced Cedar Rapids Transit will soon launch a bus finder app.

Dave Mitchell reported Doug Keast had recently provided Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) an update on the Disability Employment Initiative and IVRS will place that update on their website and would also like to include mobility manager and transit information.

VI. IMMN Update

Terry Bergen provided the Iowa Mobility Managers Network update. Mr. Bergen stated that the mobility coordinators, at their recent meeting, discussed travel training for mobility managers, the Passenger Transportation Summit, using the Statewide Mobility Manager, Jeremy Johnson-Miller, as a resource, and the issue of attendance at Transit Advisory Groups.

VII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller informed the group the mobility coordinator in the Sioux City area will be working with Morningside College as they do a research project on the local Transit Advisory Group. The Morningside students will put on a workshop in March.

Mr. Johnson-Miller also noted he had been contacted by the US DOT about a study on improving public health in seniors through mobility managers.

VIII. Other Items of Interest

None presented.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Polk County River Place, Room 2, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.