

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

January 9, 2013, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Des Moines Area MPO – Burnham Room

420 Watson Powell Jr. Way, Suite 200

Des Moines, IA 50309

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Scott Anderson, TMS

Angie O'Brien, Statewide Mobility Manager

Jeremy Johnson Miller, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Department of Human Services – Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Jeff Harris, PeopleRides

Jamie Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Lisa Cushatt, United Ways of Iowa

Anne Turcotte, Iowa Department of Transportation

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development

II. Review November 14, 2012, Meeting Notes

III. United Ways and Transportation

United Ways of Iowa Executive Director Lisa Cushatt discussed Iowa's United Ways, their history, and how they consider transportation in their local community goals. Ms. Cushatt noted that the first United Way was founded in 1887. United Ways are community-based, operated independently with their own boards of directors. All United Ways are affiliates of United Way Worldwide. There are 25 United Ways in Iowa. Education and community health are primary focuses of the United Way.

Transportation arises as a local community goal in many United Ways. Some United Way staff members are on local Transit Advisory Groups (TAGs). Some partner on transportation issues. Ms. Cushatt recommends to get local United Way participation, don't approach them solely as a funder, approach them as a partner to accomplish the goal. Ms. Cushatt can be a resource for local contact names for TAG participation. Many United Ways are identifying night shift transportation as an issue. United Ways may have data on transportation gaps for mobility managers and transit agencies.

Highlighting a few Iowa United Ways, Ms. Cushatt explained that the United Way of East Central Iowa support the local mobility manager, TAG, Job Access Reverse Commute project, and a new veterans shuttle from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City. The United Way of North Central Iowa has worked with the local transit agency on IowaCare transportation and are working with local businesses to determine the need for more transit service. The United Way of Story County is working on a joint transportation brochure.

The state level United Ways of Iowa board is closely monitoring the Medicaid expansion and decision on IowaCare.

IV. Member Roundtable

Scott Anderson shared that the new policies discussed at the November ITCC meeting are now in effect. TMS is working through issues on a case by case basis for individuals not able to work with the rule confines.

Doreen Chamberlin stated she has hard copies of the Health Care and Public Transit brochure if anyone needs them. Ms. Chamberlin asked if there were groups the brochure should be distributed to. The Federally Qualified Health Centers providing IowaCare medical care should were suggested.

Jeff Harris noted that the Iowa Public Transit Association had hired a PR firm to create a brochure for use in discussions with the Iowa legislature and US Congress.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller stated that the Iowa Mobility Managers Network had been discussing TMS and IowaCare transportation issues. Mr. Johnson-Miller also informed the group about the upcoming Federal Transit Administration Region 7 conference August 5-8, 2013, to be held in Kansas City. The four states' mobility managers are planning a meeting in conjunction with this conference, as well.

Jamie Nagel stated that for volunteer programs, liability issues are a concern in providing transportation. These programs also have difficulties in getting volunteers to them.

Angie O'Brien noted her involvement in the Disability Employment Initiative project. She also has been working with the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit on a mobility management brochure, which should be available to share at the March ITCC meeting.

Lisa Cushatt added that the United Ways of Iowa had been concentrating on workforce training and community education issues.

Tim Weltzin clarified a policy discussed at the November ITCC meeting. Services that are cost effective, while still meeting the needs of the individual members, are allowed as determined by IME. The new policies were not TMS decisions. Mr. Weltzin also pointed out that since starting the Medicaid transportation brokerage here in Iowa, there has been a 22-

percent shift from mileage reimbursement to provider ride. Before TMS, 25,000 per month. After TMS, 40,000 provider rides per month.

Anne Turcotte noted the changes to the Passenger Transportation Plan process, with coordinated plans now only required under the 5310 program which not all transit agencies are eligible to receive. The Iowa DOT has some decisions to make about where we go from here with this planning process.

Loren Bawn noted the need to use more local money for coordinated transportation and breaking down barriers between services. Night shift and swing shift transportation availability is an issue and often factories are not served by main bus routes.

V. Mobility Manager Funding

Ms. Haar discussed the new federal transportation legislation, Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21). MAP-21 was signed into law on July 6, 2012, and went into full effect on October 1, 2012.

Ms. Haar explained that New Freedom and Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) funding are both programs repealed under MAP-21. New Freedom funding was the funding source for mobility managers in Iowa. There are some 'old' JARC and New Freedom funds left, however, and the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit will be recommending to the Iowa Transportation Commission: the remaining non-urban JARC funds be used for the regional mobility managers, allowing those positions funding through Federal Fiscal Year 2015; the remaining urban New Freedom funds be used for all Federal Fiscal Year 2013-funded projects, including two urban mobility managers, through first quarter Federal Fiscal Year 2015; and the remaining non-urban New Freedom funds be used for the statewide mobility manager position, into Federal Fiscal Year 2017. The Iowa Transportation Commission will make their decision in March.

VI. Spring 2014 Transportation Summit

No new information was presented on this agenda item at this meeting.

VII. Iowa Disability Employment Initiative

Doug Keast gave a presentation on the Iowa Disability Employment Initiative (DEI), a three year grant received by Iowa Workforce Development. Before beginning his presentation, Mr. Keast noted that all workforce development regions currently are going through a planning process and contact could be made between the Transit Advisory Groups and the workforce regions.

The DEI project includes eight state agencies, Iowa Workforce Development, the Department of Human Services, Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council, Department of Human Rights, Iowa Department on Aging, etc. The purpose of this grant is to create a one-stop

workforce system that is fully accessible to person with disabilities, offering a seamless system of services.

In the five pilot regions, local mobility managers will be utilized to help find transportation options for persons with disabilities in order to access employment. Mr. Keast stated that the local transit agencies also should engage with the regional workforce investment boards.

VIII. Committee Report – NEMT

No report.

IX. Committee Report – Volunteer

No report.

X. IMMN Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller announced that central Iowa's Mobility Matters Workshop will be held on May 17 at Polk County River Place. The theme this year is "Crossing Borders."

XI. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

No report.

XII. Other Items of Interest

None shared.

XIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

March 13, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 3A

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310