

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

November 13, 2013, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 3A

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Scott Anderson, A2C/TMS

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Jamie Orozco Nagel, Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service

Ruth Thompson, Iowa Department on Aging

Heather Byron, American Cancer Society

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Jennifer Kammeyer, United Ways of Iowa

II. Review September 11, 2013, Meeting Notes

III. Volunteer Transportation Survey

Kristin Haar presented the Volunteer Transportation Programs Survey Results Report. The survey was conducted by the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service. Ms. Haar went through the report with the group, highlighting noteworthy response areas.

In reference to the Iowa DOT Reaction section of the report, Doreen Chamberlin asked how many non-ambulatory persons had been turned away from volunteer transportation programs and if that statistic could be surveyed. Scott Anderson noted that power wheelchairs were becoming more prominent, but either cannot or are difficult to be secured.

Jamie Orozco Nagel stated that the ICVS Reaction section of the report will be filled in soon. In October, the Iowa commission on Volunteer Services approved its 2014 public policy priorities. Of those, background check affordability and access and tax code equity for reimbursable mileage rates are two areas of emphasis for the Commission next year. Ms. Orozco Nagel also noted that for insurance, Iowa does have a Good Samaritan law. Heather Byron, however, pointed out most insurers do not recommend doing volunteer transportation. Ms. Orozco Nagel added that New York City has a 'goPass' program where an individual gets a background check which is certified and can be used for all volunteer programs. This cuts down on costs to the individual agencies.

ITCC members were asked if they would like an ITCC Reaction section added to the report. Suggestions for that section included support of Iowa DOT's reaction to the survey, encouraging development and offering of training programs for volunteer drivers in the Americans with Disabilities Act, cultural competence, etc., offering answers to FAQs on insurance and mileage rates, how to start a volunteer transportation program, and best practices.

Ms. Chamberlin asked what training is available for volunteers, suggesting they may need to be trained in HIPPA. She also asked what we can offer to the volunteer transportation programs to assist. Loren Bawn thought ITCC could offer a list of training resources and offered a list of refugee service training resources. Ms. Byron suggested that CTAA might have some examples and offered the name of a professor at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee who had provided training for some volunteer programs in Wisconsin.

The ITCC members suggested writing an Executive Summary of this report for distribution to the survey's respondents. Ms. Haar will present that summary at the January 2014 ITCC meeting.

IV. Project Development and Public Transit Policy Recommendation

Ms. Haar reminded ITCC members at the September 2013 ITCC meeting, while discussing the Iowa Code and Administrative rules relating to the ITCC, members suggested working with various agencies responsible for grant-making and economic development to encourage consideration of public transit in project approvals. To this end, the Iowa DOT's RISE application was included with the agenda packet's supplemental materials, as an example for discussion. Ms. Haar had included "Public transit availability (for retail projects and projects employing more than 50 employees)" under the Local Commitment and Initiative Information section of the RISE application. ITCC members were supportive of that language to go forward to Iowa DOT management for consideration.

ITCC members also agreed that letters to other development groups such as the Iowa Economic Development Authority, planning and zoning commissions, metropolitan planning organizations, regional planning agencies, and councils of governments among others would be the best way to communicate the benefits of considering public transit in development projects. The group thought including research-based statements in the letters might be the most effective way to incite change in current development practices.

V. AARP Tele-Town Hall Meetings

Ms. Haar offered a proposal from AARP to the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit on the topic of tele-town hall meetings. ITCC members are invited to make suggestions for town hall meeting discussion topics, if these would be of interest to the group.

VI. Member Roundtable

Ms. Byron gave the following American Cancer Society program statistics for 2013: the Road to Recovery program gave 1753 rides to 96 patients, 141 patients used 646 free nights at participating hotels, and the Hope Lodge in Iowa City has provided 5,864 nights of lodging and has a two-week waiting list.

Jennifer Kammeyer reported first for the United Ways of Iowa, stating that their public policy agenda included an item to form a public/private matching fund. For the United Way of North Central Iowa, the Fort Dodge Dash shuttle has ended service, the Marshalltown Missile shuttle will end with IowaCare on December 31, 2013, the Iowa City shuttle may still be needed but who will pay for it is still being determined, and recently the region started an employment transportation shuttle to Winnebago.

Scott Anderson reported that TMS had been purchased by Access to Care. Nothing changed with respect to contract and there would be a minimal impact to providers.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller commented that HIRTA now provides direct services in Marion County and have been invited to participate in a group to work on Pella transportation issues. Mr. Johnson-Miller also is helping to write the document for the central Iowa transit study. Final reporting for the project sponsored by CTAA is due December 15, 2013.

Ms. Haar informed the group she and Angie O'Brien had presented at the Independent Living conference on October 15 and attended the Empowering Persons with Disabilities through Employment forum on October 17.

Ruth Thompson noted that she, too, had attended the Independent Living conference and the disability forum. Currently, Ms. Thompson is working with the Area Agencies on Aging through their restructuring and visiting each plus their satellites to assess readiness to be Aging and Disability Resource Centers.

Mr. Bawn reported that the Bureau of Refugee Services had hired a contractor to conduct ESL training of refugees and made sure to include information on transportation in that training.

VII. 2014 Passenger Transportation Summit

Ms. Haar stated she had met with Mr. Johnson-Miller to review speaker invitations, but no further activity on summit planning had taken place. Mr. Johnson-Miller suggested that at lunch, attendees have the opportunity to meet their transit manager and their mobility manager.

VIII. IMMN Update

Mr. Johnson-Miller reported that Iowa’s mobility managers have been working through IowaCare concerns as the program and its associated transportation ends; many of the mobility managers will attend a CTAA design thinking workshop in Madison, WI; and, there is a new mobility coordinator for the Council Bluffs/Omaha area, Ashley Myers.

IX. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Kristin Haar read Ms. O’Brien’s report in her absence. In summary, Ms. O’Brien continues moving forward with her advanced practicum for her MSW degree which only enables her to work “part-time” in her role as Statewide Mobility Manager. She has found that while she is working at the hospital, several transportation issues have arose and she has been able to educate several staff, patients and families about transportation; not only in the Des Moines area, but across the state as several patients travel quite a distance to receive medical care.

Ms. O’Brien has been working with the Lifespan Respite Coalition on transportation issues that concern the population they serve. She was able to speak to the State Rehabilitation Council with Vocational Rehab and share with them information about mobility management in Iowa and our continued successes.

Ms. O’Brien has been fielding calls regarding IowaCare clients and those needing assistance. In some cases it is a matter of helping them know who to call and how to manage public transportation. She does receive calls from agencies, as well, who are helping their clients in different parts of the state. Ms. O’Brien continues to work on the national Partnership for Mobility Management and serve on the TMS advisory council.

X. Other Items of Interest

Nothing offered.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**January 8, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310**

Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m.