

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

March 14, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Call: (866) 685-1580

Code: 9115069782

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The March 14, 2018, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Manager's Network

Connie Eastman, AARP Iowa

Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Hugh Lively, RIDES

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of January 10, 2018, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. Iowa Code Chapter 324A

Kristin Haar introduced Iowa Code Chapter 324A to the group. Chair Haar explained that this Chapter of the Iowa Code discussed public transit in Iowa and the coordination requirements of and with public transit providers. Chair Haar directed the group to section 324A.4.1. This section states that "Public, private, and private nonprofit organizations applying for or receiving federal, state, or local aid for providing transit services shall annually report to the department the costs of their transportation programs, depicting funds used for public transit programs and such other information as the department may require prior to receiving any federal or state funds or aid from a political subdivision of the state." Further in that section, it states, "An organization, state agency, political subdivision, or public transit system, except public school transportation, receiving federal, state, or local aid to provide or contract for public transit services or transportation to the general public and specific client groups, must coordinate and consolidate funding and resulting service, to the maximum extent possible, with the urban or regional transit system."

Chair Haar further explained there are criteria listed in 324A.4.2.b. for adopting rules to determine compliance and exceptions to the coordination requirement. In 324A.5, the Code Chapter requires assistance from Iowa Department of Human Services and Iowa Department on Aging, plus any others concerned with health, welfare, and safety of recipients of transportation services in carrying out the requirements set forth in 324A.4. 324A.5 also describes the consequences for those agencies found to be in non-compliance with this Code. Chair Haar states she feels the consequences are a rather heavy-handed way to incite coordination and would rather have a kinder, gentler approach. Ms. Haar also shared that the DOT is not currently imposing these rules and would like input from the ITCC in how to best encourage coordination and editing this Iowa Code Chapter.

Terry Bergen questioned why school transportation was exempted from these rules. Mr. Bergen shared he believed it was good to coordinate with schools as possible. Ms. Haar explained she thought that exemption was included because of the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) "school rule" where public transit agencies may not provide exclusive school transportation. Hugh Lively added that school transportation is possible if it is not exclusive. RIDES provides transportation to schools, sheltered workshops, and Medicaid clients all while following the FTA's school and charter rules.

Mr. Lively also suggested making all agencies aware of these rules would help coordination. He also questioned what sanctions could/should be imposed.

Loren Bawn pointed out the words "and specific client groups" in 324A.4.1. Mr. Bawn felt the word "and" may add a loophole to coordination for agencies providing transportation to one of the groups (general public or specific client groups) and not the other.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller suggested the ITCC may want to talk more about this Iowa Code chapter at its upcoming retreat.

Mr. Bergen stated that we need to be clear about what the rules and criteria for compliance mean and may want to get an opinion from the attorney general about this chapter.

Chair Haar stated this Code Chapter would be a topic of discussion frequently in the coming months as the Iowa DOT works to update the sections.

V. ITCC Retreat Preparations – Johnson-Miller/Haar

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared that the group, at the upcoming retreat, would be discussing how ITCC could mimic the national Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility (CCAM). We will be working on the three CCAM goals and what they mean to Iowa, then determining next steps.

Mr. Bergen shared that since we are all staying at the resort, we could work into the evening if needed.

VI. 2018 Passenger Transportation Summit Brainstorming: Questions for Elected Officials Panel - Haar

Chair Haar shared the most up to date version of the Passenger Transportation Summit agenda. Three elected officials agreed to serve on the elected officials panel – the Atlantic Mayor, a Councilman from Cedar Falls, and a Supervisor from Delaware County. Chair Haar asked if we needed to try for a state legislator? The group agreed that the three local officials would be a good size panel for an hour discussion.

Chair Haar explained that she promised the elected officials a list of questions they would be asked in advance so they would not be caught off guard on the day of the summit. The ITCC members present suggested several questions to ask the panel.

VII. IMMN Update - Bergen

Mr. Bergen is representing the Iowa Mobility Managers Network. He offered an update of his work, plus the work of his mobility coordinator colleagues around the state. Mr. Bergen has created a transportation resources brochure for Linn County and the surrounding area with English, Spanish and French versions. Connie Eastman wondered if this brochure could be shared with the group electronically. Mr. Bergen pointed Ms. Eastman to 365ride.org and the brochure could be accessed there.

Mr. Bergen is working to augment the local Transit Advisory Group meetings with other listening sessions around the area. One listening session will be held at the Ground Transportation Center in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Bergen is working with Linn County to assist people who cannot afford transportation.

There is a new mobility manager at DART in Des Moines. His name is Catlin Curry and he's currently working on "how to ride transit" training sessions.

There will be a Johnson County transportation forum in May. There is also a transportation resource directory live on the county's website for public access.

VIII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update – Johnson-Miller

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared that Tricia Wagner, the mobility coordinator at Region 8, was working with a local community college on a transit branding project. That project led to a student volunteer bus buddy program.

Mr. Johnson-Miller has been working on the ITCC retreat planning. He continues to work with the Iowa DOT's Motor Vehicle Division on a transportation options website (for those who have recently lost their license and for those who are unable to drive) and the website prototypes should be available by late Spring/early Summer.

Mr. Johnson-Miller also reported that the Iowa DOT is updating 511ia.org and it is planned that all transportation options will be linked in the new website/application.

IX. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location

**ITCC Retreat
March 26-27, 2018
Honey Creek Resort, Moravia, IA**

**Passenger Transportation Summit
May 24, 2018
9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
FFA Enrichment Center
DMACC Campus, Ankeny, IA
Register at: <https://app.tikly.co/events/2545>**

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m.