



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

May 12, 2021, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

via Microsoft Teams [link included in email]

Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order.

Those in attendance were:

Samra Hiros, Iowa Department of Public Health

Loren Bawn, Iowa Department of Human Services, Bureau of Refugee Services

Brandon Roccio, Easterseals

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

Cord Overton, Iowa Department of Corrections

Dax Oberreuter, Iowa Department on Aging

Joe Drahos, Iowa Department of Transportation, Systems Planning Bureau

Shelaine Harbart, Veterans Affairs

Hugh Lively, RIDES

Terry Bergen, Linn County Mobility Coordinator, Iowa Mobility Managers Network

Josh Cobbs, Autism Speaks

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Modal Transportation Bureau, Chair

II. Introductions

III. Mobility Management in a Correctional Facility – Ben Kreger, Iowa DOT, Motor Vehicle Division

This presentation delayed to a later date due to illness.

IV. State Long-Range Transit Plan – Joe Drahos

Joe Drahos shared that he is currently finishing up the plan's appendices for posting on the website. The appendix topics include public meetings and outreach, transit dependency analysis methodology, financial analysis methodology, and a listing of potential revenue sources. On the topic of potential revenue sources, Chair Haar explained a bill currently in the state legislature, Senate File 619, allowing hotel/motel tax for support of public transit. Mr. Drahos remarked that funding source would be similar to the idea of imposing a tax on rental cars for the support of local public transit.

Carl Lingen further explained SF619. Mr. Lingen stated it would need to be a fairly large community and public transit agency to make that tax work. The Iowa Public Transit Association is working with a law firm to determine steps transit agencies can take to get a referendum on the ballot locally to receive this tax.

Chair Haar also explained a proposal the Iowa DOT public transit team had introduced to their Public Transit Advisory Council on using a portion of the transit American Rescue Plan funds for projects with further the goals of the long-range transit plan. No action will be taken by the DOT on this idea until at least August when transit agencies can assess a little better how they are recovering from the pandemic.

V. State Transit Assistance Special Project Application Form – Kristin Haar

Chair Haar presented the draft State Transit Assistance Special Project application, created following the update of Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 761-920 for review and comment.

Loren Bawn suggested adding point values to the evaluation criteria and including the scoring rubric.

Chair Haar asked if any ITCC representatives would like to serve on the scoring committee for evaluating project applications. Mr. Bawn, Josh Cobbs, Terry Bergen, and Mr. Lingen volunteered.

VI. IMMN Update – Terry Bergen

Mr. Bergen shared the work of mobility managers around the state.

The Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) recently held its Beyond the Bus Symposium. HIRTA also is working with the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center on its Developmental Disability Transportation Grant project by holding meetings with disability organizations in counties throughout the region to determine the transportation needs of persons with disabilities and how best to serve them.

CorridorRides and Cedar Rapids Transit are both providing transportation to vaccination sites. As of this meeting time, Linn County LIFTS had provided 250 rides to vaccination appointments.

Mr. Bergen stated he is working with refugee families to find solutions for getting their children to school. Mr. Bergen also shared their Transit Advisory Group is meeting next week.

VII. ITCC Member Roundtable – All

Brandon Roccio informed the group that the National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) is soliciting applications for technical assistance grants for release of immigrants by Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) facilities. NCMM is trying to put together toolkits for ICE about access to transportation, specifically in the Chicago region. NCMM would also like to put together information for immigrant detainees.

Mr. Roccio also added that the NCMM is hosting a webinar discussing the future of mobility management, post-COVID.

Mr. Cobbs shared that Autism Speaks is in Phase III of an assessment about job access and needs and how transportation fits with employment.

Mr. Lingen informed the group that HIRTA has received a highway grant to source and deliver rideshare services with wayfinding.

Mr. Bergen shared that Cedar Rapids Transit is looking at re-starting Saturday service, but not until Fall. Cedar Rapids Transit is still not charging passenger fares to ride the bus at this time.

Brooke Lovelace explained the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (DD Council) had received guidance for grants as they relate to COVID. Their Administration for Community Living (ACL) grant provides funds for persons with disabilities to access vaccinations through marketing for example. Vaccine hesitancy is a big factor in vaccination rates with this population. The DD Council may also offer mini-grants for transportation to vaccinations.

Dax Oberreuter stated that the Iowa Department on Aging received money from the ACL for purposes of vaccine access. However, the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are not hearing that transportation is a big issue for accessing vaccinations.

Mr. Oberreuter also shared that the AAA in central Iowa, Aging Resources, is adding an option for its program participants to use Uber and Lyft for transportation. The testing on that program will begin soon.

Roxanne Cogil informed that the Epilepsy Foundation is still under a travel ban through September due to the pandemic. The Foundation has instead been offering drive-through health fairs for those with epilepsy. The Epilepsy Foundation has found that 90% of patients are going to their appointments at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics in person rather than virtually. Ms. Cogil also shared the date of this year's Seizure Smart Conference as October 30. That conference will take place in Iowa City.

Shelaine Harbart shared that Veterans Affairs had issued iPads to veterans during the pandemic, enabling the veteran to attend their medical appointments virtually. Now the veterans are being given the option to come into the clinics in person and the patients are choosing that option.

Mr. Drahos is working on getting counts of those using Iowa DOT's park and ride facilities this spring for the Southeast corner of the state and will get the Northeast corner of the state this fall. Mr. Drahos also noted the Iowa DOT is working on an Integrated Corridor Management for I-235. The Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority and HIRTA have been part of those plan development discussions.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

ITCC
July 14, 2021
10:00 a.m. – Noon
via Microsoft Teams