

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

July 11, 2018

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place

2309 Euclid Avenue, Room 3A

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The July 11, 2018, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:11 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Manager's Network

Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

Lee Ann Russo, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Connie Eastman, AARP Iowa

Megan Hartwig, Iowa Department of Public Health

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of May 9, 2018, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. ITCC Member Agency Spotlight – Ames Area MPO

Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Transportation Planner and ITCC Representative, Tony Filippini, shared information about Iowa's transportation planning agencies and specifics about the Ames Area MPO.

The 1962 Federal Aid Highway Act required the formation of MPOs in areas with populations over 50,000. These MPOs had to be in place by 1965.

Iowa has nine MPOs. The Ames Area MPO includes Ames, Gilbert, and portions of Boone and Story Counties. The other MPOs in Iowa are Sioux City, Dubuque, Waterloo, Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Davenport (Quad Cities), Des Moines, and Council Bluffs (Omaha). Mr. Filippini also shared there are 18 regional planning affiliations (RPAs) around the state, covering the rural areas not included in a MPO but having the same transportation planning responsibilities as a MPO.

MPOs must produce several different planning documents. The metropolitan transportation plan is a long-range planning document, with a planning horizon of at least 20 years and the projects

it contains must be fiscally constrained. The transportation improvement program lists the projects the area intends to complete over the next four years. The unified planning work program outlines the planning work the agency will undertake in the next one to two years. Iowa's MPOs and RPAs are also required to create the passenger transportation plan discussing passenger transportation coordination over a five-year period with input from the local transit advisory group (TAG).

Mr. Filippini handed out contact information for Iowa's MPOs, RPAs and TAGs.

Carl Lingen what long-term projects were planned for Ames. Mr. Filippini answered stating the Grand Avenue extension and a complete streets design manual were long-term priorities for the Ames Area MPO.

V. Passenger Transportation Summit Recap

Kristin Haar shared the results of the Passenger Transportation Summit survey completed by those in attendance at the event on May 24. Based on those completing the survey, all responses to the overall summit evaluation question were satisfactory, more than satisfactory, or excellent. The panels, keynote and presentation of the Passenger Transportation Coordination in Iowa report were equally as favorable. The Topics from the Audience session was not as well-received, therefore Chair Haar noted that session may not return for the 2019 Summit. The attendees seem to like the location.

Roxanne Cogil suggested the Summit be video recorded and posted online for those unable to attend in person. Or, Megan Hartwig suggested, do a webinar of the panels.

Overall, the 2018 Passenger Transportation Summit was successful and can be built upon for the May 23, 2019, Summit.

VI. Iowa Cancer Consortium Implementation Grant

Kelly Angell shared information about a grant the American Cancer Society was recently awarded by the Iowa Cancer Consortium; the ITCC is a named partner on the grant. The goal of the grant is to improve access to cancer treatment. Des Moines and Iowa City are the focus areas with the highest areas in the state for unmet rides. In addition to the ITCC, other collaborating partners include the John Stoddard Cancer Center, Mercy Cancer Center, and the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

The grant has two objectives:

1. The American Cancer Society will increase the number of cancer patients served with transportation through increased transportation options and volunteers by 10% by June 30, 2019.
2. The American Cancer Society and Iowa Transportation Coordination Council will engage stakeholders in the design of solutions for sustainable transportation resources, through meetings, education, training, and data collection, by June 30, 2019.

For the first objective, the goal is for it to be accomplished first through the Road to Recovery volunteer program. Second, it is thought a vendor would be contracted with to provide those rides that Road to Recovery cannot cover.

Ms. Angell said they would be surveying medical center staff at cancer centers to determine transportation resource knowledge.

With the second objective, the goal is to build the business case for funding transportation.

Ms. Hartwig asked if a transportation plan is part of a caseworker's job requirement when working with each cancer patient. Ms. Angell said not in Iowa.

Ms. Angell continued saying there is no one size fits all transportation solution. For instance, many cancer patients are immune compromised or are nauseous after treatment, so public transit may not be a solution in those cases.

VII. ITCC Vision, Mission, and Purpose

Recalling the May ITCC meeting, Chair Haar reminded the group they had wanted to revisit the ITCC's mission statement and create a vision and purpose for the group. To advance the discussion, Chair Haar presented the current ITCC mission statement:

To provide statewide leadership on transportation coordination to improve the mobility of Iowans.

Chair Haar asked the group how it would like to proceed, a subcommittee charged with drafting a few options to present back to the larger ITCC at a later meeting? Or, hiring a consultant to lead the whole council through a process to determine the mission, vision, and purpose?

Scott Anderson suggested having a contest for others to enter mission statements with ITCC picking the winner.

Mr. Filippini offered the ITCC should incorporate the three areas of the retreat: access, cost-effectiveness, and partnerships.

Ms. Angell suggested creating an ITCC Facebook group to convey transportation coordination news.

Ms. Hartwig proposed keeping the current mission and adding purpose statements. Mr. Lingen agreed, stating if there is no energy to change the mission statement, leave it. Instead, ITCC should focus on completing a project for a quick win.

Ms. Cogil requested 'sound bites' to share on other organizations' Facebook pages to get out the word about transportation coordination. These could be shared either through an ITCC Facebook page or just through a timely email asking others to share.

Ms. Angell suggested ITCC develop a logo, helping the group become more recognizable. Chair Haar stated she would work with Iowa DOT's graphic designer to create a couple choices.

VIII. ITCC Member Roundtable

Chair Haar shared that she, Jeremy Johnson-Miller, and Mindi Nguyen, participated in a prisoner re-entry simulation in Newton on May 31, showing what persons coming out of the corrections system have to go through each week in order to re-enter society. Related to this, Ms. Haar and Mr. Johnson-Miller, are working with Ms. Nguyen to visit the Mitchellville Women's Prison to talk to those prisoners about to be released about transportation options.

Chair Haar also shared that she, Mr. Johnson-Miller, and Ms. Nguyen also toured Goodwill of Central Iowa in Johnston on June 29 to learn about their services.

Terry Bergen reported he had been working to get low income people to health appointments, gathering data on who they are and where they are going. This will help determine cost-effective ways to help that population.

Mr. Bergen has also been working with the 6th Judicial District to determine the transportation needs of those getting out of the corrections system. Mr. Bergen and Cedar Rapids Transit have recently surveyed paratransit riders on their concerns.

Continuing with the Iowa Mobility Manager's Network (IMMN) report, Mr. Bergen shared that the South West Iowa Transit Agency is working on creating a Council Bluffs Tyson Foods route. Catlin Curry, the new DART mobility manager, has been providing travel training and restructuring the riders advisory committee to work with transit ambassadors. The next IMMN meeting is July 19.

Julie Bergeson reported she would be attending the N4A Conference and will keep her ears open for anything transportation related to share. Ms. Bergeson also noted that Connections AAA in Council Bluffs works with a local hospital on a "Return to Community" pilot project to get people out of the nursing home and back into the community. This has benefits for the person's quality of life and for funding sources as living at home is much more cost-effective than a nursing home.

Ms. Cogil shared that employment and transportation are the top two calls for the Epilepsy Foundation in Iowa. The Epilepsy Foundation is still paying for local cab rides to help persons with epilepsy get to community supports to get the help they need.

Lee Ann Russo informed that Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) sponsors summer camps for high school students at 13 different VR offices around the state. Those camps have coordinated transportation using WIOA money. The kids participating experience workplace learning opportunities.

Mr. Filippini stated that CyRide is implementing service changes on August 11. The Fixed Route fare is being reduced to \$1 a trip from \$1.25 at that time.

Connie Eastman passed around a flier about AARP's Build a Better Block project taking place the week of July 16 in Des Moines' East Village. The project will incorporate bike lanes, parking, pedestrians, and transit, trying to demonstrate the possibilities of a complete street.

IX. IMMN Update

Mr. Bergen reported on the recent work of each of Iowa's mobility managers during the Member Roundtable agenda item.

X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

While Mr. Johnson-Miller was unable to attend today's meeting, he did share the following update via email:

For the second year, Iowa DOT has partnered with the Iowa Walking College to promote walkable and safe cities, and how to work with local elected officials. This is a collaborative effort between Iowa Dept of Public Health, Wellmark 'Healthy Hometown' and Iowa Healthiest State Initiative. This year, Sarah Constable from HIRTA is a participant.

A formal MOU has been signed between Iowa DOT and Public Health, solidifying the work already being done, and furthering our collaborative efforts to bridge the gap between healthy outcomes and public transit. Focus areas include: Active Living Iowa collaborative, Iowa Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, promote complete streets initiatives, IDPH to attend MPO/RPA meetings annually, assist with education of Community Health Needs Assessments, assist and plan the Iowa Walking College, IDPH to have input on transit planning that support safe and assessible physical activity.

OPT and MVD continue to work together to develop a more inclusive, and interactive website. We will be developing a site that is EASY to use, and fully comprehensive for aging, disabilities, refugee and re-entry populations. 511 will be a "landing page" – starting with public transit routes as a layer option, then linking directly back to the "Get There Your Way" website. Once web content is developed, we will be reaching out to the partners at ITCC for conclusive details and appropriate links.

XI. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**ITCC
September 12, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 3A
2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310**

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.