

**Iowa Transportation Coordination Council
July 13, 2016, Meeting
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310**

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The July 13, 2016, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

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

Stacy Lentsch, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

LeAnn Moskowitz, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Connie Eastman, AARP-Iowa

Loren Bawn, Bureau of Refugee Services

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Hugh Lively, Iowa Public Transit Association

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of March 9, 2016, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. 2016 Passenger Transportation Summit Recap

Chair Haar went over the survey responses from the Passenger Transportation Summit attendees. Of those responding, 11 represented transit agencies, six represented non-profit human service agencies, six were from planning agencies, one person identified as general public, and three were state agency employees. Not all those completing surveys indicated an organization or affiliation.

Several survey responses were concerning the location of the Summit. The ITCC members suggested perhaps rotating the Summit around the state, finding locations in eastern and western Iowa in addition to the Marshalltown site.

Other ideas shared by ITCC members for the 2017 Summit included adding time for input and sharing of concerns about passenger transportation, increase networking time, include sessions on EARL's car purchasing program and HIRTA's rides to wellness project, and a rider panel

featuring a person with a disability, a refugee, and a commuter discussing how they access resources. Chair Haar suggested a technology in passenger transportation theme for 2017.

V. National Task Force on Workforce Development for People with Disabilities

Mr. Johnson-Miller reported on his participation with this national task force. The task force recommended a list of five transportation, technology, and other employment supports states should consider implementing to better serve the disability community. Mr. Johnson-Miller explained those sub-points contained under the first recommendation, "Transportation is a key to the workplace for individuals with disabilities." Finding ways to partner with new technology such as autonomous vehicles and working with transportation network companies will both help expand transportation options for persons with disabilities.

VI. Developmental Disabilities Council/Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment/Public Transit Collaboration

Chair Haar and Mr. Johnson-Miller explained their work with Iowa public transit region 13, known as SWITA, Cass Inc., and the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council to put on a meeting on September 7 focused on ensuring those with disabilities have transportation to employment opportunities in the region. The need for this meeting is the upcoming change to the Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) settings rule, effective March 17, 2019, whereby persons with disabilities who are able are to hold employment out in the community rather than in a sheltered workshop setting.

The Iowa DOT staff is hoping the region 13 meeting will be a pilot for the rest of Iowa as this HCBS rule change edges closer. Also, to help foster relationships between those working with persons with disabilities requiring employment transportation and the public transit agencies, Iowa DOT will be working with the Iowa Public Transit Association and the Iowa Coalition for Integrated Employment to meet on November 2 to start regional conversations statewide.

VII. Transportation Advisory Group Guidance

Ms. Lentsch explained Transportation Advisory Groups (TAGs) and Passenger Transportation Plans in Iowa with a handout of contact information and a copy of the guidance created for TAGs including best practices.

VII. *Transportation Coordination in Iowa Report*

Chair Haar reminded the group of the bi-annual requirement for a report to the Iowa general assembly and governor to "recommend methods to increase transportation coordination and improve the efficiency of federal, state, and local government programs used to finance public transit services and may address other topics as appropriate." This report is due December 15. Chair Haar placed a copy of the last report in the agenda packet's supplemental materials and hopes to have a draft available for the group to review at the September ITCC meeting.

IX. LifeLong Links Project Update

Ms. Bergeson and Chair Haar updated the group on the LifeLong Links project. The Web Resource Center went live on Monday, July 11, and the ICN proposal for updating and linking all of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) telephone systems was okayed by the Iowa DOT for reimbursement through the Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative project. With this new phone system, the AAAs will have the ability to do warm transfers to the county Veteran

Affairs offices and the local public transit systems for easier ride scheduling for requesting individuals calling LifeLong Links information and referral number.

X. Member Roundtable

Mr. Bawn inquired about the LifeLong Links call center, if it would be able to accommodate Limited English Proficient callers. Mr. Bawn also wondered if the HIRTA rides to wellness grant project, if approved, would be able to be used to schedule work trips.

Mr. Anderson reported service is working well as the Medicaid transportation broker for AmeriHealth Caritas.

Ms. Lentsch gave an update on the interregional express bus service from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City. The bus will stop at west Campus and the Coralville intermodal facility in the Iowa City area and at Kirkwood Community College and the Ground Transportation Center in Cedar Rapids. The project is working to add midday service for medical appointments. While trips directly to the VA hospital in Iowa City had been requested, for the sake of the schedule, a stop at the VA will not be feasible. Five buses will be used for this service expected to start in 2018, with 30 minute headways during peak hours and 60 minute headways during off-peak hours.

Ms. Lentsch also is working on finding park and ride sites to further the work of the park and ride system study done in the past couple years.

Mr. Johnson-Miller is working with Brent Paulsen in the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit to add an option to the soon to be released Iowa RideShare app to match a person with a transit buddy (mobility manager) if they need help learning how to ride the bus. Mr. Johnson-Miller also sat on a panel at the recent CTAA conference, discussing human interaction in a technology world. Ms. Moskowitz suggested mobility coordinators around the state should work with human service agencies to travel train staff, so those human service agencies can better serve their clients. Mr. Johnson-Miller was also recently interviewed for an article by People Who Move People.

Mr. Filippini informed the group of the CyRide transit route system redesign project in Ames. Nelson/Nygaard consultants were hired to bring forth two to three concepts for the transit system.

Mr. Greise shared that SWITA presented to the local human service agency council with information about public transit in the region. Mr. Greise's center for independent living also will be doing a survey in August on transportation needs, focusing on human service agencies. He also added that the local planning agency, MAPA and Omaha-Council Bluffs transit system, MAT were to conduct a bus ridership clinic.

Mr. Lively stated the hot topic for Iowa's public transit providers was the provision of transportation under the new Medicaid Managed Care Organization system. The transit system Mr. Lively directs, RIDES, is still working to get paid by Logisticare and MTM for Medicaid transportation. Mr. Lively also noted that the Iowa Public Transit Association (IPTA) had hired a management firm for the next year, following the retirement of its executive director, while the IPTA discusses next steps.

Ms. Moskowitz informed the group that the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation group at Iowa Medicaid Enterprise is now called the Medicaid Transportation Committee. This committee is a forum for systemic issues. Asked about scheduling issues, Ms. Moskowitz stated she had not heard of any problems in scheduling from providers.

Ms. Harker stated the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council has new members and the staff is working with those new members to schedule their own rides to get to council meetings.

Mr. Mitchell informed that Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services (IVRS) are working with persons on the employment transition to employment out in the community. IVRS is also working with the Iowa Workforce Board to ensure persons with disabilities can access the one-stop shops.

Ms. Angell informed the group that the South Dakota and Iowa American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program uses volunteer drivers to take cancer patients to active treatment. They are currently looking for more volunteer drivers. She also shared that Mercy hospital is hiring a mobility navigator to assist patients with transportation needs to their follow-up appointments. Ms. Moskowitz added that perhaps the Iowa Hospital Association needs to be included in a conversation about transportation after hospital discharges as it seems to be an issue across the state.

Ms. Bergeson shared the Falls Prevention Coalition is focusing on preventing falls in transportation.

X. IMMN and Statewide Mobility Manager Updates

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared he has been working with Johnson County to create a mobility manager position for the county.

XI. Other Items of Interest

None offered.

XII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location

The next meeting of the ITCC is scheduled for September 14, 2016, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., at Polk County River Place, Room 2, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.