

## **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**July 8, 2015, 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 July 8, 2015, 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

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, TMS

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Jennifer Roberts, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Connie Eastman, AARP

#### **II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

#### **III. Review of March 11, 2015, Meeting Notes**

No comments or revisions were received.

#### **IV. 2015 Passenger Transportation Summit Recap, Reaction, Next Steps**

Chair Haar presented survey results received from Passenger Transportation Summit attendees. From the breakout sessions, Jennifer Roberts mentioned that her quadrant of the state, Northeast Iowa, might like to learn more about employer transit tax incentives at a future summit. Chair Haar noted the breakout session reviews were mixed and next year we should try to offer a variety of breakout session topics, with attendees able to choose the one they attend. Dave Mitchell recommended the breakout sessions be structured with regular speakers or panels. As for breakout session topics, Chair Haar suggested volunteer transportation and Ms. Roberts proposed contacting the Urban Land Institute for a session on transit planning. In reading through the survey results, Ms. Roberts noted the issues

identified were similar to those brought up in Passenger Transportation Plans, such as providing tools for transit advocates by identifying the dollar value of healthcare saved because transportation was available and the need to personalize the transit story and envisioning a community without transit.

Chair Haar urged ITCC members to be on the lookout for great keynote speakers for possible use at the next Summit.

**V. Community Development Block Grant Funding for Public Transit**

Chair Haar informed the ITCC of a new grant opportunity for public transit systems serving populations under 50,000. The Iowa Economic Development Authority is making Community Development Block Grant monies available to public transit agencies for the Career Link Program, employment transportation projects. Eligible activities include transportation services for individuals to job activities and adult students to educational training/instructional opportunities. Maximum award is \$150,000 and a 50% local match is required. For each project, the majority of beneficiaries must be low to moderate income, as defined by HUD. To comply, grant recipients must collect income surveys from project beneficiaries.

Chair Haar will send out notice to ITCC members, plus to the Iowa Public Transit Association, and League of Cities once the application is online.

**VI. Federal Funding Sources for Coordinated Transportation Services**

Chair Haar shared a list of 80 possible funding sources for funding coordinated transportation projects. It was hoped with the diversity of the ITCC membership, the list would spark some new coordination ideas among the various funding sources the represented agencies receive.

Ms. Roberts suggested sending the list to the Regional Planning Affiliations and Metropolitan Planning Organizations.

**VII. 2015 Passenger Transportation Plans**

Ms. Roberts presented a summary of issues highlighted in the last two years of Passenger Transportation Plans. The list was good, allowing Iowa DOT staff to possibly address some of the 'easy' to solve issues with a training for planning and transit agencies on available resources.

**VIII. Member Roundtable**

**a. Future Agenda Items**

ITCC members were asked to share projects they may be involved with which are affected by coordinated transportation. Also, a special question of future agenda topic ideas was asked.

Scott Anderson reported TMS is now in transition to the July 1 provision of waiver transportation. Waiver Medicaid members now must go through the non-emergency medical transportation benefit of Medicaid rather than using their waiver dollars. This affects those on the ID, BI, PD, and Elderly waivers. However, if living in an independent care facility, the first 30 miles are not covered by Medicaid.

Tim Weltzin shared that Iowa Medicaid Enterprise's Program Integrity unit had been audited recently. Learned from this audit was the need to collect ownership and control information on providers, even government and non-profit providers such as the public transit systems. Mr. Weltzin also noted 11 bids for the Iowa Wellness Plan had been received, with an expected two to four to be chosen to serve the state. An August 7 decision date has been set. Mr. Weltzin suggested placing an item on the September agenda to discuss non-emergency medical transportation both under the Managed Care Organization (MCO) structure and outside the MCO.

Frank Greise attended for the first time, representing independent living centers around Iowa. Mr. Griese's specific independent living organization serves Pottawattamie, Cass, Shelby, Montgomery, Page and Fremont counties.

Connie Eastman has been involved with AARP walkability audits and in working on travel training availability. Ms. Eastman suggested topics for future meetings: advocacy and legislative topics, funding availability, coordinated marketing, and a spotlight on transit managers and planning agencies.

Becky Harker is planning a conference for persons with disabilities to be held at the Coralville Marriott. The theme will be 'Making your Mark' and will feature a mock caucus.

Dave Mitchell noted there will be a disability and employment conference on August 25 and 26 and registration is free.

Julie Bergeson attended the travel training course at the Iowa DOT, along with several of the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA). As a result of that training, one AAA now is using senior mentors to ride the bus and to show their peers how it is done. Ms. Bergeson has also been reviewing AAA plans and noted that Title III money does get spent on transportation. One need noted in those plans is transportation to meal sites.

Chair Haar shared that she would be presenting to the Developmental Disabilities Council on July 9. She also informed the group that the Veterans Transportation Community Living Initiative/LifeLong Links project is proceeding. The contract is being finalized for database software and the ICN is working on a plan for the communications system.

Jennifer Roberts has been working the park and ride plan and on the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study. Through the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study, options for commuting along I-380 are being explored such as rideshare, vanpools, and express bus routes. Ms. Roberts suggested adding the state long-range transportation plan to a future agenda as the Iowa DOT works to update the document.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller participated in the recent Easter Seals Project Action Consulting travel training course at the Iowa DOT. Mr. Johnson-Miller has been working on gathering more public input through use of Facebook and will begin compiling an e-newsletter for the Office of Public Transit.

Hugh Lively has been working with the other transit managers on making their stance known on Medicaid transportation rates and is closely watching the managed care organization selection to see how public transit will be affected under this new system.

**IX. IMMN and Statewide Mobility Manager Updates**

Mr. Johnson-Miller combined his updates under the Member Roundtable.

**X. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Americans with Disabilities Act Celebrations**

Chair Haar shared a list of events happening around Iowa to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

**XI. Other Items of Interest**

None offered.

**XII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The next meeting is September 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., Polk County River Place, 2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310.