

# **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**September 12, 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 September 12, 2018, 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

Hugh Lively, RIDES

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Manager's Network

Lee Ann Russo, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa

Tony Filippini, Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

Scott Anderson, Access2Care

Megan Hartwig, Iowa Department of Public Health

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Cord Overton, Iowa Department of Corrections

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Michelle Meadors, Public Transit Advocate

### **II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **III. Review of July 11, 2018, Meeting Notes**

No comments or revisions were received.

### **IV. ITCC Member Agency Spotlight – RIDES**

Hugh Lively gave this Member Agency Spotlight for this meeting, describing the RIDES regional public transit agency. RIDES, established in 1976 with one vehicle providing service to ECHO, Inc. in Emmet County, now serves nine counties in northwest Iowa. Funding sources include passenger revenue, contract revenue, city and county support, Federal Transit Administration monies, State Transit Assistance, and other revenue sources.

RIDES provides demand response service. One subprovider is under contract to provide service within Orange City. RIDES directly provides service in the remainder of the region.

Unique services provided by RIDES include extended hours and days within Spencer utilizing a local taxi service, employment shuttles for VT and EPS companies, and late night hospital

discharge services. The extended hours and days service in Spencer started in February. Data available shows approximately 300 trips provided each month.

RIDES employs 55 drivers with a fleet of 67 vehicles to provide over 220,000 trips annually.

## **V. ITCC Mission and Purpose**

Based on feedback received at the July 11, 2018, ITCC meeting, Kristin Haar presented the ITCC Mission and Purpose.

Mission:

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

Purpose:

To improve access to the community through transportation, to enhance cost-effectiveness of coordinated transportation, and to strengthen interagency partnerships and collaboration with state, local, and industry groups.

Those in attendance proposed changing the word 'industry' in the purpose to 'stakeholder'. With that input, the following will serve as the ITCC's purpose statement:

To **improve access** to the community through transportation, to **enhance cost-effectiveness** of coordinated transportation, and to **strengthen interagency partnerships and collaboration** with state, local, and stakeholder groups.

## **VI. ITCC Logo**

Proposed logos for the ITCC were not ready in time for this meeting. This item was tabled to the November 14, 2018, meeting.

## **VII. Passenger Transportation Plan Guidelines and Projects**

Joe Drahos handed out guidance used by the regional planning affiliations and metropolitan planning organizations to create Passenger Transportation Plans (PTP) every five years. Mr. Drahos explained the goals of the PTPs. Each planning area must have a Transit Advisory Group (TAG) including representatives of the local public transit systems, human service agencies, private transportation providers, etc. The TAGs help the transit and planning agencies determine priorities and strategies to meet identified needs, in turn leading to projects.

At a future meeting, Mr. Drahos will present the projects identified in the most recent round of PTPs for the ITCC's information.

## **VIII. ITCC Member Roundtable**

Kelly Angell shared that using the Iowa Cancer Consortium grant, a Quality Improvement Toolkit has been created with John Stoddard Cancer Center. John Stoddard is not keeping records of why patients miss appointments. They are also doing a patient transportation survey and have changed a scheduling script to ask about transportation.

Ms. Angell also shared that the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics have two staff persons employed for help in scheduling discharge transportation. UIHC will also be tracking transportation issues in its electronic medical records.

Ms. Angell continued, stating the American Cancer Society has surveys out to Iowa's cancer centers to learn about the transportation knowledge of the frontline staff. As part of the Iowa Cancer Consortium grant, a Des Moines area cancer center and transportation joint meeting will be held September 24.

Lastly, Ms. Angell informed the group that the Road to Recovery program now has a driver in Spencer. There are 50 drivers in the Des Moines area and 150 throughout the state.

Cord Overton shared that in Iowa there are eight correctional districts who work with inmates once released from prison. There are 30,000 Iowans on probation and work release. Chair Haar and Jeremy Johnson-Miller will present on public transit and mobility management in Iowa to the corrections district directors on September 20.

Terry Bergen announced that the 380 Express Bus will start service on October 1 from Cedar Rapids to Iowa City. The service will have 30-minute headways with fares of \$3.50. 10-ride and unlimited monthly passes are available through the Token Transit app.

Lee Ann Russo stated that October is National Disability Employment Month. Local vocational rehabilitation offices will host events with legislators and the public invited.

Megan Hartwig shared the counties identifying transportation needs in their community health needs assessments. The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) asked counties why they are not taking action on transportation priorities. 30% stated there was no lead organization; 30% cited no staff available to implement; 42% stated other priorities rated higher; and 48% cited that funding was not available. IDPH and the Iowa DOT want to strengthen partnerships between county public health offices and local public transit agencies.

Roxanne Cogil informed that the Iowa Seizure Smart Conference is in Iowa City in October. The Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council will help provide transportation stipends to enable persons to attend. Ms. Cogil also shared that National Epilepsy Awareness Month is in November and she would like some brief posts concerning transportation to share on social media during the month.

Mr. Drahos told the group that he was working to gather usage counts at the Iowa DOT's Park and Ride lots around the state.

Michelle Meadors suggested that the Des Moines International Airport might need ADA compliance training for airline staff.

Tony Filippini advised that new CyRide routes had started at the beginning of the school year and those are going well. The east side of Ames is now served by scheduled service rather than a fixed route.

Scott Anderson shared that Access2Care's parent company started a medical triage project in Washington, DC. A person calls 911, but if it is determined the person is simply ill and not in need of an ambulance, the person talks to a nurse who sends a Lyft to pick them up and take them to an urgent care clinic. This saves money and frees up the ambulances for true emergencies.

## **IX. IMMN Update**

Mr. Bergen reported on the recent work of each of Iowa's mobility managers during the Member Roundtable agenda item. Most mobility managers reported on service routes to connect with jobs or medical appointments. In Region 1, a service runs from Postville to the free health clinic in Decorah. In Region 13, SWITA created routes to get employees to Tyson Foods. Region 8 recently

started a route from Peosta to NEICC in Dubuque. HIRTA, Region 11, has an Request for Proposals out for starting a vanpool service. HIRTA also recently implemented a smart phone app available now in four of its seven counties for scheduling and payments.

In Cedar Rapids, Mr. Bergen has been working on a transportation access project giving free rides to medical, dental and counseling appointments. In July, the project paid for \$300 of rides. Mr. Bergen also applied for the regional mobility meeting grant through the National Center for Mobility Management for conversations between Linn and Johnson Counties. Also happening in Cedar Rapids is an expungement clinic for people to go take the steps necessary to clear their criminal records. Transportation is being provided to this clinic.

**X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update**

Jeremy Johnson-Miller apprised the group of the work on the 'Get There Your Way' webpage addition to the Iowa DOT website. This project was sparked by the ITCC's review of the 'Driving Retirement' brochures in early 2018 where the conversation lead to creating a resource for all persons finding themselves unable to drive, no matter the reason. The Get There Your Way webpage is a collaboration between the Office of Public Transit and the Driver Identification Services bureau. The website will combine information about public transit, rideshare, mobility management, taxi service, biking and walking, transportation network companies (i.e. Uber and Lyft) and non-emergency medical transportation plus information on suspended or revoked licenses and steps to take to reinstate those privileges. In addition to this webpage, this information will also be available on the 511 driver information smart phone app and website. The Get There Your Way webpage should be available by the end of the calendar year.

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

**ITCC  
November 14, 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 1:56 p.m.