

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

October 26, 2011, Meeting

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Polk County River Place, Room 2

2309 Euclid Avenue

Des Moines, IA 50310

MEETING NOTES

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.

Those in attendance included:

Erin Mullenix, Iowa League of Cities

Shanell Wagler, Iowa Community Empowerment, Iowa Department of Management

Margi Ness, United We Ride Ambassador, Vice-Chair

Heather Byron, American Cancer Society

Doug Keast, Iowa Workforce Development

Lisa Sieren, United Ways of Iowa

Scott Anderson, TMS Management

Doreen Chamberlin, Iowa Department of Public Health

Jeff Harris, Region 6 Peoplerrides

Angie O'Brien, State-wide Mobility Manager

Bridget Bartlett, East Central Intergovernmental Association

Anne Turcotte, Iowa Department of Transportation

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation, Chair

II. Review July 13, 2011, Meeting Notes

III. Senate File 205: Transportation Coordination Report to Iowa General Assembly

Kristin asked for input on the format, topics, and general recommendations for a biennial report to be submitted to by December 15 of even numbered years to the Iowa General Assembly and the Governor on increasing transportation coordination and improving efficiency of federal, state, and local government programs used to finance public transit services and other topics as appropriate.

Members agreed that the report should be to the point, easy to read, include data and quantify the benefits of coordination. It was suggested that a separate executive summary might be beneficial to include for those legislators not having the time to read an entire report and suggested scheduling a meeting with the committee(s) responsible for funding transportation coordination activities.

Scott stated that the report will basically be a marketing piece, selling the benefits of coordination. Shanell added that for reports due annually to the General Assembly and

Governor, no paper copies are now accepted; the reports must be electronic. She was unsure if the new electronic report rule applied to reports due on a biennial basis.

Kristin agreed that the report should be presented to the ITCC no later than November 2012 for input and editing suggestions before submitting it to the General Assembly and Governor.

IV. Volunteer Transportation Survey of Cities Results

Erin and Kristin distributed the draft survey to be sent to Iowa cities for input on volunteer transportation programs in their communities. Lisa suggested contacting the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Services first to determine if their group has a database of volunteer transportation programs in Iowa first, then surveying cities to determine what volunteer services they are aware of and ask those agencies specific transportation related questions. Lisa and Heather also suggested sending the survey to United Ways in Iowa, the American Cancer Society's contacts, and the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs around the state.

V. Iowa Institute for Transportation Coordination Follow-up

Team shadows from the Iowa Institute for Transportation Coordination were asked to report on their teams' progress since the Institute ended in May. Bridget reported that Sioux City is working on getting people across state lines and working with the Dakota Dunes mobility manager. Margi was to visit Sioux City during the week of October 31 to assist the MPO in their coordination efforts.

Dylan stated that Central Iowa's team has been working with DART and other transportation providers to provide a seamless system for the rider. DART and HIRTA also are applying to the Iowa DOT for mobility management positions.

Margi was Region 2's shadow and reported that they have hired a Travel Navigator.

VI. Compilation of State-wide Passenger Transportation Needs

Anne and Angie worked to compile a list of recurring state-wide passenger transportation needs from the Passenger Transportation Plans (PTP). Anne reported that Regions 1, 4/Sioux City, 5, 7/Waterloo, 14, Iowa City, 13, and 16 had all expressed interest in hiring mobility managers. Other themes of interest to the ITCC from the PTPs were access to jobs, daycare, and the transition from rural to urban service, travel training in rural areas, marketing of employer transit incentives, evening and weekend hours, and schedule sharing/central dispatch.

The ITCC members recommended presenting these findings to the Iowa Public Transit Association and the Iowa Transportation Commission. This item will be included on the January 2012 ITCC agenda for further discussion and analysis.

VII. Charter Rules Q&A

Kristin presented a compiled list of questions and answers from Iowa's transit systems to the Federal Transit Administration on the Charter Rule. The Charter Rule is perceived to limit coordination and provision of transportation service and Iowa's transit agencies aim to follow the rules while still providing needed transportation in their communities.

VIII. Committee Report – NEMT

Bridget reported on the Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Committee's discussion from their recent meeting. TMS provided 21,350 trips in the October – December 2010 quarter and 30,425 trips between July and September 2011. TMS also has begun working with DART in Des Moines to offer monthly fixed route bus passes to their clients to use to get to their medical appointments. Those clients would also be able to use the bus pass for any other trip purpose. Bridget also suggested the formation of a TMS consumer group, with the suggestion that Angie work with TMS to form such a group.

ITCC members also discussed the possibility of having a state-wide Medicaid pass and an American Cancer Society voucher able to be used on transit systems state-wide.

IX. IMMN Update

Bridget reported that Gina Johnson had resigned as chair of the Iowa Mobility Manager's Network until Cedar Rapids finds a local match source for her position.

X. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Kristin reported that a group, including Angie, Kristin, Margi, and Bridget, had met the previous day to create an action plan for Angie.

XI. Member Roundtable

Dylan reported that the Des Moines Area MPO and CIRTPA are working to engage other non-public transit transportation providers in the PTP process.

Shanell explained that her agency has an interest in transportation because they coordinate early childhood activities and some Headstart programs.

Heather reported that her region of the American Cancer Society had used volunteers for 3,768 rides from September 1, 2010 – August 31, 2011. They also have been working with hotels to provide free lodging to cancer patients traveling for treatment.

Lisa stated that Angie will be presenting on the topic of mobility management to the United Ways of Iowa. Iowa Workforce Development also will be presenting on the new service delivery models. Lisa also noted that the United Ways were concerned about the CPCs being regionalized rather than having one per county. The Area Agencies on Aging also are being consolidated across the state.

Doreen informed the group that the Iowa Department of Public Health had recently completed a statewide assessment for those receiving public health assistance and transportation was a big interest area, showing the need for greater awareness of the services available. She suggested connecting the local mobility managers with the health field consultants. Doreen also mentioned the I-Smile program's need to access oral health clinics. The Healthy Iowans 2020 plan is currently being developed.

Anne noted that the Iowa DOT's long-range transportation plan is currently being created and it will likely be adopted by the Transportation Commission in April 2012.

Margi stated that the Partnership for Mobility Management, including CTAA, APTA, and ESPA, already has 300 members. Easter Seals Project Action (ESPA) has hired a staff member to work with mobility managers establishing performance measures. For FTA, 'back to work' may be their next initiative to focus grant dollars. Margi also reported that the federal Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility is currently working on a strategic plan.

XII. Other Items of Interest

XIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

January 11, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 3A
2309 Euclid Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50310