

# **Iowa Transportation Coordination Council**

**March 8, 2017**

**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 March 8, 2017, 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

Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Frank Greise, League of Human Dignity

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

Loren Bawn, Bureau of Refugee Services

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Hugh Lively, Iowa Public Transit Association – via telephone

Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation of North Central Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska

Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society

Jordan Snow, Easter Seals Project Action/National Center on Mobility Management – via telephone

Tony Filippini, Ames Area MPO

Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

Connie Eastman, AARP

Deb Carney, Iowa DOT

Mindi Nguyen, Iowa DOT

### **II. Introductions**

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

### **III. Review of January 11, 2017, Meeting Notes**

No comments or revisions were received.

### **IV. Driving Retirement Brochure**

Deb Carney from the Iowa DOT's Office of Driver Services presented the 'Driving Retirement' brochure. Ms. Carney explained this brochure is one of five as part of the "Choices Not Chances" safe driving campaign. The Office of Driver Services would like to put together one resource rather than five, the focus would be on older drivers but the resource could be useful in many other ways.

Becky Harker noted that the brochure's content would be a great tool for persons with disabilities, too.

Connie Eastman suggested adding educational opportunities within the brochure.

Kristin Haar agreed with Ms. Harker, suggesting this brochure could be a template for other groups.

Loren Bawn remarked how the brochure could address functional limitations to driving no matter how you've come by them.

Chair Haar asked if there was a website focused just on persons who cannot drive. Roxanne Cogil stated that an online fillable form would be helpful to persons identifying their local transportation options and including volunteer networks in rural areas would be useful.

Mindi Nguyen stated the Office of Driver services does include transit information with the loss of driving privileges letter the DOT sends out.

Ms. Harker noted that a communication plan would be needed after the brochure has been updated/re-created.

Hugh Lively shared that the Region 3 transit system offers a program where they take a bus to a person who can no longer drive, introduce the driver, and gives the person free bus passes to make the process friendlier and less intimidating.

The ITCC representatives discussed further and suggested maybe only two brochures would be needed – one for retirement and one for those who aren't able to drive at all.

A subcommittee was formed to continue the discussion. Subcommittee members include Julie Bergeson, Connie Eastman, Roxanne Cogil, Becky Harker, Deb Carney, Mindi Nguyen, Jim Cushing from I4A and Carl Lingen.

## **V. Passenger Transportation Summit**

Chair Haar walked the ITCC through the agenda for the May 18 Passenger Transportation Summit.

ITCC representatives suggested demonstrating the new Iowa Rideshare website on a table at the back of the meeting room. Having a resource table available for registrants to offer information about their respective organizations was also recommended. For the rider panel discussion, it was asked if that session could be recorded.

## **VI. Update on Medicaid Integrated Settings Collaboration**

Mr. Lively shared that the Region 3 transit system has been getting many requests for after-hours service and weekends for work, social, and shopping trips.

Chair Haar informed the group the Iowa DOT does have State Transit Assistance Special Project funding available to transit agencies needing start up project cost assistance for coordinated-type services.

Ms. Harker lamented that some areas of the state are waiting until just before the integrated settings must be implemented – March 17, 2019 – to act.

ITCC representatives suggested conducting a webinar with LeAnn Moskowitz from Iowa Medicaid Enterprise on how to plan for the integrated settings rule. This would reach many around the state more quickly than doing in person regional presentations.

## **VII. LifeLong Links Project Update**

Julie Bergeson reported that six of the AAAs and 15 offices are now hardwired for the phone system accompanying the one-call portion of the LifeLong Links project.

Chair Haar shared the portion of the project to be funded with Iowa DOT and Federal Transit Administration money should be done by June 30, 2017. Chair Haar also added the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit would be adding a link to LifeLong Links to its website to direct people to that resource.

## **VIII. Member Roundtable**

Mr. Bawn informed the ITCC that much of the recent work of the Bureau of Refugee Services has been to assure refugees of their security.

Ms. Cogil spoke about the program she offers for bus drivers in dealing with seizures that happen on their vehicles. She also shared that there were two free epilepsy seminars coming up: May 3 in Dubuque and May 11 in Council Bluffs. The Seizure Smart conference is scheduled for November 4 this year and table space is still available.

Tony Filippini explained that CyRide has been undertaking an operations study. There are two service scenarios coming out of that study and public meetings are being held. Comments may be made through the CyRide website as well.

Ms. Eastman shared that AARP has been working on Livable Communities projects in the Des Moines Area, focusing on sidewalk studies in Carlisle, Windsor Heights, and Valley Junction. AARP has also been working on a business accessibility study with older consumers doing the evaluations.

Joe Drahos explained that he has been working on the Park and Ride System, focusing on the US 30 corridor. The construction planned along this corridor in Eastern Iowa will cause three Park and Ride locations to be closed. Mr. Drahos also has been enhancing the online park and ride maps using GIS survey tools.

Mr. Lively reported the state's transit agencies are working on completing their FY2018 consolidated applications and gathering input from their regional Transit Advisory Groups on transit projects. He reminded the group of the upcoming Iowa Public Transit Association annual conference May 31-June 2 in West Des Moines.

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared he had been invited to participate in the Council Bluffs Human Services group. There are new mobility managers starting in Linn County and Johnson County. He also informed the group that the Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit is working with the state's fixed route transit systems to get their transit route information in to the General Transit Feed Specification (GTFS) so the data may be used in trip planning applications such as Google Transit. Mr. Johnson-Miller announced the group going to a Design Thinking training focused on coordinating medical transportation would be himself, Kristin Haar, Kelly Angell, Megan Hartwig, and two representatives from the Regional Transit Authority around Dubuque.

Ms. Carney informed the group that the Iowa DOT Driver Services Division is working to train the front office staff on how to refer people to other transportation options once they've lost their driving privileges. She also shared about the availability of the DOT2GO RV to go to meetings and conferences for driver license renewals and ID issuances.

Megan Hartwig explained the state office of rural health at the Iowa Department of Public Health wants to include transportation in its next health plan. She also added that the focus of the Healthy Iowans 2020 plan is reducing obesity.

Ms. Harker reported that the Advocating for Change Day at the capitol would be April 5. Ms. Harker also announced her last day at the Developmental Disabilities Council would be May 11.

Ms. Bergeson stated the Iowa Department on Aging and the regional Area Agencies on Aging are working on their state plan and regional plans, covering four years. She also informed the group that instead of having a Governor's conference on aging and disability this year, regions are hosting local mini conferences. Reporting on the LifeLong Links project, Ms. Bergeson informed that in the call topics there are 10 categories on transportation. Since July 2016, 813 call topics have been focused on transportation. Overall there have been approximately 4,600 users of the LifeLong Links call center in that time.

Kelly Angell shared that the American Cancer Society (ACS) surveys on transportation knowledge have not yet been distributed, rather the ACS is assessing which hospitals to survey, likely starting with Des Moines and Iowa City. For the ACS' Road to Recovery program, the program in Iowa includes 128 drivers and have provided 2,600 rides.

Frank Greise reported that the South West Iowa Transit Agency (SWITA) would be taking over the Council Bluffs paratransit service in June. Eventually SWITA may also take over the Council Bluffs fixed route, as well.

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

Mr. Johnson-Miller reported he would be the feature of a transportation blog post in April with the focus on mobility management duties.

**X. Other Items of Interest**

None offered.

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

The ITCC will not meet in May and instead are asked to attend the Passenger Transportation Summit on May 18, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at the FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC Campus, 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, IA 50023.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.