



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council
May 13, 2020, Meeting
via Microsoft Teams [link included in email]*
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau
Kristin Haar, Chair, Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau
Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services
Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa
Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Systems Planning Bureau
Hugh Lively, RIDES
Jerom Theunnissen, National Center for Mobility Management
Megan Hartwig, Iowa Association of Community Providers
Mindy Nguyen, Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Division
Samra Hiros, Iowa Department of Public Health Rural Health Bureau
Eva Steinman, Federal Transit Administration
Terry Bergen, Linn County Mobility Coordinator/Iowa Mobility Managers Network
Jon Wolseth, Iowa State University Extension
Vienna Hoang, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services
Connie Eastman, AARP Iowa
Kelly Angell, American Cancer Society
Cord Overton, Iowa Department of Corrections
Scott Anderson, Access2Care

II. Introductions

III. American Cancer Society Road to Recovery Program Partnership with Public Transit

Kelly Angell updated the ITCC members that the Road to Recovery volunteer transportation program had been suspended on March 25, 2020. To continue assisting cancer patients in accessing their treatments and appointments, the Iowa Cancer Consortium reallocated \$4,000 from transportation and lodging to transit agencies providing those trips, mainly in Des Moines and the Quad Cities. Des Moines DART, HIRTA, and River Bend Transit had all been contacted to assist.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller stated this works well because the transit agencies are already cleaning the buses to CDC guidelines and have capacity.

Ms. Angell stated the grant money must be used by June 30, 2020.

Terry Bergen noted Linn County LIFTS had offered rides to persons for cancer treatment but had not had any requests to date.

IV. State Public Transit Long-Range Plan Update

Joe Drahos gave an update on the State Public Transit Long-Range Plan. The 45-day public comment period would start in mid-May (May 18th).

Loren Bawn asked if any innovations were included in the vehicle cost projections. Mr. Drahos responded stating that standard configurations were used for the projections, didn't anticipate automated vehicle technology for buses with this update, but Systems Planning is working with Iowa DOT staff specializing in automated vehicle technologies on projections for future use.

Mr. Bawn asked what public hearing mechanisms the DOT is using to get input on the plan. Mr. Drahos stated that the DOT was relying on website distribution and using contacts to distribute the plan and public comment opportunity.

Mr. Bawn suggested creating an executive summary document and Mr. Drahos responded that he would be working on one.

V. Public Transit and COVID-19 Update

Hugh Lively informed that RIDES was doing 700-800 trips per day before COVID-19 hit the state. Now, RIDES is providing only 25-50 rides per day, mostly dialysis and non-emergency medical transportation. RIDES had to lay off the majority of their drivers and office staff, going from 75 drivers to 12. The maintenance staff thoroughly cleaned each vehicle prior to putting it into storage and for the vehicles in use a thorough cleaning is done at the end of each shift.

Mr. Lively continued sharing that the northwest Iowa COVID cases are spiking. RIDES has suspended meatpacking plant trips. RIDES has constructed driver barriers with clear shower curtains, bungee cords and a few screws for about \$20 per bus. RIDES is offering masks to passengers. Currently, RIDES is fare-free.

RIDES staff is working to phase in an approach to 'business as usual' and discussing what happens if this pandemic extends into fall.

Mr. Bawn requested a picture of the driver barrier.

Mr. Drahos asked if technology needs had changed because of the pandemic. Mr. Lively replied they had – needed more laptops for home use, surveillance cameras in vehicle storage facilities, dispatch software useable from anywhere such as home or on a phone.

Mr. Bergen suggested adding a statement about COVID-19 in the long-range transit plan.

Mr. Anderson shared that they have masks available for their transit contractors.

VI. IMMN Update

Mr. Bergen shared that he is in a group response team, representing public transit. This group is making sure people have essential rides and connecting people to food banks, finding new solutions to old problems and doing meal deliveries.

Mr. Bergen also has been coordinating with the department of corrections to deliver bikes to halfway houses since Cedar Rapids Transit is not operating at this time. Most mobility managers are keeping in touch with community needs.

Jerom Theunnissen added that many mobility managers around the country are working with 211 and he could share examples at a later date. Mr. Johnson-Miller added that the Des Moines 211 is filtering calls about transportation to Catlin Curry, the Polk County mobility manager. The Des Moines 211 also has a connection to the COVID-19 testing sites.

VII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Mr. Johnson-Miller stated that the Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau has been command central between the transit agencies and FTA for the first month. The bureau is now working on what is eligible for CARES Act funding.

For mobility management work, Mr. Johnson-Miller reported being involved with the American Cancer Society setting up partnerships with the transit agencies for transportation to cancer treatment. Mr. Johnson-Miller has also been working with Mindi Nguyen of the DOT's Motor Vehicle Division to onboard a new employee, a full-time staff member stationed at the Newton Correctional Facility to help with discharging prisoners back into society, making sure they have an ID or drivers license and a way to get transportation. This new staff member formerly worked at the Cedar Rapids drivers license station. Mr. Johnson-Miller would like to arrange a meeting for this staff member and representatives from HIRTA and DART to discuss public transit. Chair Kristin Haar suggested having him present at a future ITCC meeting about his work at the correctional facility. Cord Overton added we could host a future ITCC meeting at the Newton Correctional Facility.

VIII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

**ITCC
July 8, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Polk County River Place, Room 2
2309 Euclid Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50310**

***(Back-up) Conference Call: 866-685-1580; Code: 9115 06 9782**