



Iowa Transportation Coordination Council
July 8, 2020, Meeting
via Microsoft Teams [link included in email]*
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order

The July 8, 2020, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau
Kristin Haar, Chair, Iowa DOT Public Transit Bureau
Scott Anderson, Access2Care
Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services
Brooke Lovelace, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Cathy Monroe, Federal Transit Administration
Roxanne Cogil, Epilepsy Foundation Iowa
Joe Drahos, Iowa DOT Systems Planning Bureau
Gerri Doyle, Federal Transit Administration
Hugh Lively, RIDES
Jerom Theunnissen, National Center for Mobility Management
Megan Hartwig, Iowa Association of Community Providers
Mindy Nguyen, Iowa DOT Motor Vehicle Division
Garrett Pedersen, Iowa DOT Systems Planning Bureau
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
Carl Lingen, Iowa Public Transit Association

II. Introductions

III. State Public Transit Long-Range Plan Update

Joe Drahos presented the final version of the State Public Transit Long-Range Plan. Mr. Drahos noted public comments were received from both the Iowa Primary Care Association, interested in partnerships, and the Iowa Environmental Council, wanting to ensure sustainable funding for transit in the future. Jeremy Johnson-Miller suggested the Iowa Primary Care Association be invited to join the ITCC as a member. Megan Hartwig added the Iowa Primary Care Association has both an urban and a rural focus so they would be a good fit for the ITCC. Chair Kristin Haar recommended having the Iowa Public Transit Association meet with both groups to see how they could work together on mutual areas of interest.

Mr. Drahos also informed the group that the transit dependency analysis could be made available to all public transit agencies and added that one item included with implementation of the plan was to define the minimum level of transit service desired.

IV. Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility Cost-Sharing Policy

Chair Haar presented the Coordinating Council on Access and Mobility's (CCAM) recently released cost-sharing policy statement. Chair Haar reminded the group that CCAM is chaired by the US Secretary of Transportation and has eleven member Federal agencies. The statement reads as follows: "CCAM agencies agree that Federal grantees should coordinate their transportation resources where possible, including sharing costs for mutually beneficial transportation services, in order to maximize the availability and efficiency of services." Sharing includes both vehicle and ride sharing and Federal fund braiding for local match across Federal programs.

The policy statement document includes the recommendation that before local partners share vehicles and rides they should first establish a cost-allocation agreement to detail how shared costs will be split. Jerom Theunnissen noted that the National Center for Mobility Management has created a cost allocation techniques course with the National Rural Transit Assistance Program to assist with this type of coordinated transportation effort.

Terry Bergen stated that nothing is different with the release of this policy statement, we won't get beyond what is already in place without a mandate to do so.

Chair Haar shared that in the Federal fund braiding guide there are 130 Federal programs able to pay for transportation. She suggested it might be worthwhile to determine the local agencies receiving these funds and begin to work with them to cost-share services.

Mr. Johnson-Miller added it would be nice to talk to CCAM and FTA directly to determine exactly how we implement this cost-sharing policy statement.

V. Member Roundtable

a. Topics:

- **How has your organization/industry adapted because of COVID-19/social distancing?**
- **How does the ITCC move forward on coordination initiatives despite social distancing?**

Mr. Bergen shared a number of examples: Schools are reaching out transit agencies to help with transporting students as the school districts are trying to ensure social distancing on buses. The American Cancer Society stopped the Road to Recovery program and reached out to public transit to provide trips to cancer treatment centers. Transit agencies are limiting the number of passengers, doing more cleaning, installing driver barriers, re-implementing fares, doing meal deliveries. Cedar Rapids Transit is working with the Iowa Department of Corrections to get parolees to job interviews, etc. HIRTA received a grant to hire a mobility manager. There are many unknowns in public transit such as how many riders will come back. There is talk about promoting transit safety.

Loren Bawn informed the group that the Bureau of Refugee Services had restarted refugee work transportation services, installed barriers for drivers, and reduced capacity because of social distancing. Refugees are going to work. Mr. Bawn stated that policy level changes need to happen; the overall framework needs to be set aside so coordination can be tried to see what is possible. Mr. Bawn suggested we may need regulatory relief. Chair Haar responded that the DOT would be asking for relief from the FTA school transportation rules.

Mr. Theunnissen shared a concern with Mobility4All grants. The grant money is just one source. How could service continue after the pilot project. That concern should be shared with FTA.

Mr. Johnson-Miller stated that the Area Agencies on Aging are using public transit for meal deliveries and sponsoring rides.

Eva Steinman introduced Gerri Doyle. Ms. Doyle will be FTA Region 7 community planner for Iowa.

Scott Anderson updated on Access2Care's non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) work through the pandemic. Trip numbers in April were only 40-50% of normal and in June they were 60-70% of normal. Waiver transportation is still very low. Mr. Anderson warned that deferring "non-essential" medical trips could lead to more serious issues later. For persons who are positive or symptomatic for COVID-19, that is not a NEMT trip, it is an ambulance trip. Mr. Anderson noted Iowa Medicaid Enterprise and Iowa Total Care are on board with that policy. One tricky part of scheduling NEMT trips at the moment is patients not allowed to enter the medical office until the exact appointment time and needing to leave the office immediately after the appointment. This does not work with NEMT scheduling.

Hugh Lively shared that RIDES obtained new dispatch software on July 1, 2020. RIDES just reopened services in Spencer in the last week of June but ridership is not what was expected. The transit agency has done a video, radio advertisement, and posted in the paper about transit safety but still only have about five passengers per day in Spencer. Mr. Lively informed that Buena Vista county is approaching 2000 cases of COVID-19. For the rest of RIDES' service areas they plan a staggered opening on July 27, August 3, and August 10. All vehicles have driver barriers. Facemasks are required and the drivers also have face shields for securing wheelchairs. Currently, RIDES is fare-free, but with the new dispatch system they can accept electronic payments. RIDES has not had any school transportation requests. NEMT trips are picking up and they provided dialysis and hospital trips through the entire pandemic. Mr. Lively also shared RIDES was the recipient of CARES Act money.

Mr. Johnson-Miller informed that Des Moines DART expanded use of Uber during the pandemic to serve more areas of town without bus routes during COVID.

Mr. Drahos stated that part of his job is to monitor the Iowa DOT's park and ride lots and their usage. In early to mid-April he was expecting very little usage, but the lot at Kirkwood Community College near Cedar Rapids was full and the lot in Davenport was 75% of normal.

VI. Statewide Mobility Manager Update – Johnson-Miller

Mr. Johnson-Miller shared that the Iowa DOT's Council Bluffs drivers license station had moved to a location off a bus route. He has been working with the local transit agencies and the city to find a solution. Mr. Johnson-Miller also shared that the services at the Polk County River Place drivers license station would be expanding to better serve those unable to get to the station in Ankeny.

VII. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**ITCC
September 9, 2020
Time and Location TBD**

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