

Iowa Transportation Coordination Council

March 11, 2015, 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 March 11, 2015, meeting of the Iowa Transportation Coordination Council was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

ITCC Representatives in attendance:

Kristin Haar, Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) Office of Public Transit, Chair

Terry Bergen, Iowa Mobility Managers Network

Jeremy Johnson-Miller, Iowa DOT Office of Public Transit

Scott Anderson, TMS

Hugh Lively, Regional Transit Authority – RIDES

Jennifer Roberts, Iowa DOT Office of Systems Planning

David Mitchell, Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Tim Weltzin, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

Loren Bawn, Iowa Bureau of Refugee Services

Heather Byron, American Cancer Society

Julie Bergeson, Iowa Department on Aging

Heidi Wicks, Iowa Workforce Development

Becky Harker, Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council

II. Introductions

Those in attendance introduced themselves.

III. Review of January 14, 2015, Meeting Notes

No comments or revisions were received.

IV. 2015 Passenger Transportation Summit

Chair Haar presented the draft agenda for the May 14, 2015, Passenger Transportation Summit for review and comment. Chair Haar requested assistance in brainstorming ideas for the breakout sessions.

The group concurred that participants at the summit would break into their service regions: Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, Southwest, and Central. Each region would learn about local Transit Advisory Groups (TAGs) first, then discuss the same topic as other regions.

These topics would be issues solicited from Iowa's TAGs. Jeremy Johnson-Miller suggested using a conversation facilitation method from a meeting he attended earlier in the Spring.

ITCC members volunteering to lead breakout sessions were: Mr. Johnson-Miller, Jennifer Roberts, Loren Bawn, Terry Bergen, and Heidi Wicks.

V. Passenger Transportation-related Legislation

Chair Haar presented to the group proposed legislation related to passenger transportation working its way through the Iowa Statehouse this session. Included were the Revitalize Iowa Infrastructure Fund budget, which included \$1.5 Million for the Public Transit Infrastructure Fund; SF0234, the Iowa Employment Rides Initiative; HF0158 concerning public transit bus operator assault penalties; HF0394, regulating transportation network companies such as Uber; and HF0510 on substance abuse/mental illness transportation program. Another issue not included in any bill this session was the Iowa Public Transit Association request for bus capital funding at \$25 Million/year for five years.

Terry Bergen also mentioned the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) working to allow the expenditure of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars on public transit. Chair Haar explained IEDA was working to change the administrative rules of their program to allow the funding of public transit projects and that these funds, through the state, would only be available for public transit systems serving areas under 50,000 in population. Areas over 50,000 receive their own allocations of CDBG dollars.

VI. Member Roundtable

Becky Harker shared that the Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council is working on its five-year plan, due August 15, 2016. Input received into the plan shows that the number one issue is transportation such as hours of service, accessible parking, availability in rural areas, and Des Moines to Iowa City trips. Ms. Harker also would like to highlight Transit Advisory Groups (TAGs) in the plan.

Tim Weltzin stated the non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) request for proposals had been pulled due to the Governor's announcement of Medicaid modernization. Under the modernization, two to four managed care organizations (MCOs) will win the bid and must serve the entire state. The MCOs will begin January 1, 2016.

Mr. Weltzin also explained there are two NEMT rules in process, which will be effective July 1, 2015. The first sets a deadline of 120 days to submit a claim. The second allows persons claiming only mileage reimbursement to call the Medicaid NEMT broker the day of an appointment rather than a two-day advance notice. Public comments on both of these rule changes are due March 2, 2015.

Finally, Mr. Weltzin informed the group that the next NEMT Advisory Group meeting would be held March 12, 2015.

Scott Anderson shared the new ADA paratransit fare reimbursement for Medicaid NEMT rides is being used on Waterloo. Other transit systems will come online as needed by Medicaid members.

Hugh Lively explained that the transit systems are working on budgets and contracts for next year. Also, Medicaid issues are an unknown for the transit systems right now.

Terry Bergen expressed that the MHDS region re-alignment has created some issues with needs and gaps and finding agencies to fill them. Mr. Bergen also shared he had upcoming meetings with the local Community Action Program concerning their service needs and with Public Health and the local Area Agency on Aging concerning chronic health conditions.

Mr. Bergen informed the group that the Cedar Rapids Transit bus locator mobile phone application was now available and he had helped apply for a grant for more supplies and transportation for a homeless shelter.

Jeremy Johnson-Miller has been working on learning the procurement rules and working with the Iowa Public Transit Association on a 30-second commercial.

Jennifer Roberts provided an update on the Iowa DOT's Park and Ride System Plan and policy. The Iowa DOT is working on implementation, mapping/signage, and advertising of current sites, then will start looking at new sites. Ms. Roberts is chairing subcommittees working on the Iowa Commuter Transportation Study to implement an express bus between Cedar Rapids and Iowa City. Ms. Roberts also has been working to review the planning agencies' Passenger Transportation Plans.

Heidi Wicks reported that the Workforce Investment Act is now the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) which asks Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) to coordinate with aging networks, transportation providers, etc. Ms. Wicks stated there is a focus on employment programs for youth, persons with disabilities, and those with low incomes. IWD is also working to address the middle skills gap. IWD's workforce plan is due June 30, 2016.

Julie Bergeson shared that she will be on the road in the next couple months meeting with the Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs). Among items being discussed are family caregiver programs and transportation. The Iowa Department on Aging is also meeting frequently with the AAAs discussing the LifeLong Links product. The AAAs are developing standard operating procedures for LifeLong Links.

Heather Byron stated the American Cancer Society (ACS) revised its lodging program at the end of January. Under the new program, there is no longer a 50-mile threshold to qualify for lodging. Ms. Byron also mentioned the ACS has a new employee responsible for the transportation and lodging program in Iowa.

Loren Bawn informed the group that refugees are now being sought out for open jobs in Iowa, a sign the economy has improved. Mr. Bawn also shared legislation under

consideration which would create a community navigator program for refugees to help refugees.

VII. IMMN Update

Terry Bergen provided the Iowa Mobility Managers Network update. Mr. Bergen stated that the mobility coordinators are receiving many questions on Medicaid modernization. The mobility coordinators will be in attendance at the travel training course in April and Passenger Transportation Summit in May.

VIII. Statewide Mobility Manager Update

Jeremy Johnson-Miller informed the group of the travel training course the Iowa DOT is bringing to Ames in April, presented by Easter Seals Project Action Consulting. Mr. Johnson-Miller agreed to provide the course information to the ITCC for interested persons to attend.

IX. Other Items of Interest

None presented.

X. Adjournment/Next Meeting Date and Location:

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The next meeting is the Passenger Transportation Summit, scheduled for May 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m., Iowa Valley Continuing Education, Conference Center, 3702 South Center Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158.