

Passenger Transportation Plan - Regional Planning Affiliate 1, UERPC  
Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Notes  
January 13, 2012, 10:00 a.m. - 325 Washington Street, Decorah, Iowa

Present: Fern Rissman (WIA, UERPC), Brita Nelson (Opportunity Homes), Karn Pankow (NEICAC Transit), Daniel Rotto (Hometown Taxi), Karla Organist (UERPC)

Invited but unable to attend: Katie Hageman/Mindy Buchheit (Postville Childcare), Louise Scott/TJ Warren (UIU), Mindy Meyers/Katie Angell (Helping Services of NE Iowa), Bruce Butters (Northland Agency), Rachel Jaster (G&G), Lori Matter (Howard Cty. Res. Care Facility), Fay Halverson (Gunderson Clinic – Lansing), Ed Josten (RISE), Dee Hosek (Howard Cty. Veterans), Earl Henry (NEICAC)

The meeting was guided and informed by the attached PowerPoint presentation.

1. Meeting attendees discussed the composition and purpose of the Transportation Advisory Group “TAG.” Suggested additions to the group included the CPCs (Central Point of Coordination) for the five-county area. Karn will send the contact information to Karla to invite to the next meeting.
2. Attendees discussed the goals and elements of the full Passenger Transportation Plan “PTP” and reviewed the current plan.
3. Attendees reviewed the elements required for the PTP annual update and reviewed last year’s update.
4. Attendees reviewed and confirmed the needs, gaps and issues from last year’s update and further discussed the following issues:
  - Recent closure of area workforce offices is forcing the unemployed to drive further for services and to fulfill the requirements of some programs (Family Investment Agreements must be personally signed, Promise Jobs requires participation at workshops)
  - Second shift transportation lacking
  - Existing public transportation options cost prohibitive for many
5. Reviewed the current PTP projects for progress, issues or changes.
  - Utilize New Freedom and JARC programs
  - Marketing and outreach to citizens (riders)
  - Explore new collaborations with community groups to provide ride subsidies
  - Outreach to community and county officials to help them understand transportation gaps
  - Public Transit fleet replacement
  - Consider Mobility Manager for the region
6. Discussed the benefits a Mobility Manager could bring to the region – considered costs and match requirements. Angie O’Brien, the statewide Mobility Manager provided some documentation to Karla to share with the group regarding the work that other mobility managers across the state are doing. Angie will be attending the meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup> to provide more information in person
7. Other discussion surrounded the following topics:
  - Extending taxi-type service to other communities (entrepreneurial development? What is a good business model?)
  - Is there an existing ride share website for our area?
  - Wheels for Work program concept (Wisconsin model)
  - What are the types of statistics each human service agency collects as it pertains to clientele transportation?
  - Education for elected officials as to legislative barriers and what our needs are.
8. Next Meeting: January 27, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at UERPC’s Decorah office