

Passenger Transportation Plan - Regional Planning Affiliate 1, UERPC

Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Notes

July 12th, 9:00 a.m. - 325 Washington Street, Decorah, Iowa

Present: Dee Hosek (Howard Cty. VA), Troy Vande Lune (NICC), Jan Heikes (County Social Services), Lynda Springer (DHS), Karn Pankow (NEICAC Transit), Karla Organist (UERPC)

1. Reviewed last meeting notes, introduced new member, Troy Vande Lune from NICC, Troy is the Student Life Director and has found transportation to be an issue for many students – we appreciate having Troy on the committee!
2. Job Access Mobility Institute Update:
 - Final webinar for the institute was wrapped up, but our work is continuing. Parking Lot prototyping to get input on the ideas is in the scheduling stages. Should be prototyping at at least one large employer per county.
 - A survey to gather more input is available at www.EARLtransit.com – committee members were asked to spread the word. We hope to send a reminder to the local media in the beginning of August for a final push for input as the survey will be over on the 15th of August.
 - Karn and Karla reported briefly on their field trip to WI to check out the SMRT bus just across the river in the Prairie area.
3. Updates on PTP TAG Projects:
 - Mobility Manager: Busy as usual making transportation the link and never the barrier! Karn's latest projects include (1) Housing shuttle between Oelwein and Postville started this month – they have funding to support the program for a year, so hope to build ridership by then. The shuttle runs the second Monday of the month. Karn distributed brochures to the committee member. (2) A Luther College break service is being developed that will stop at UIU too (breaks coincide!). For a flat \$25 ticket, the service will stop in Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Boondocks truck stop, Ames, Ankeny and Des Moines. As with all of NEICAC's Transit services, anyone can use the service if it works for them. (3) Karn is also working with Amy Tucker at UIU to develop a weekly bus service between Fayette and West Union. (4) The Wheels for Work loan documents are finally done and at the attorney's for final review. After an upcoming DOT meeting NEICAC hopes to be able to officially announce the program.
 - Marketing: Discussed the progress on the NE Iowa Transportation Portal website. Troy and Dee agreed to review pages and items as Karn needs input as it comes together.
 - Collaborations: Everything we do is a collaborative effort! New partners (such as NICC and NE Iowa Families First) are joining in to work on our transportation issues all the time. The JAMI survey has led to new interest in public transportation!
 - Stakeholder Outreach: Dee spoke with Bruce Braley's rep about the issue with the state's veterans appropriation that she can no longer use for "direct services to veterans" – this is where she needs funds – but they are only to be used for office-type expenditures. Karn will be putting together a transportation talking points and fact sheet about how funding works and how it could be better. As the new MAP-21 bill comes up for discussion again in another year, we need to share with our legislators how it has impacted our area.
4. Committee member items:
 - There was much discussion regarding transportation to Crescent Health Center in Dubuque, and a gap in care from now until January as Iowa Cares is not going to accept any new applicants. Jan will keep committee informed of progress on the new program that will start in January. It is hoped that the program will allow the use of local clinics to alleviate the transportation issue. In the meantime, Karn and Jan will look into a once a month ride and touch base with the Free Clinic to try to determine if there are any funds to subsidize a ride – and what the potential ridership might be. Teresa Fullheart at the local VA Clinic could be a good resource too, although she needs transportation to the Iowa City Clinic.
 - Troy and Karn are going to be looking at some student numbers to see where and when transportation is needed, and how large the need is. Troy mentioned that the campus' Crisis Fund is overwhelmingly used for transportation-related issues. In addition, the campus seeks to be more environmentally friendly too – would like to see public transportation used by staff as well. They will look into possibilities for funding subsidies for rides.
5. The next meeting was set for October 25th, 2013, at 9:00 a.m. in UERPC's Decorah office