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## Meeting Minutes

### Regional Planning Affiliation 1 (RPA-1) Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) meeting

Wednesday, June 17th, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

This meeting took place via electronic means pursuant to the provisions of the Iowa Open Meetings Law, Section 21.8, Code of Iowa.

As a result of the spread of COVID-19 in the state of Iowa and based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, it was impractical for the Transportation Advisory Group to meet in person. Therefore, the meeting took place virtually via the Zoom electronic meeting platform. It was open to the public and those in attendance could hear the proceedings and provide comments and questions as appropriate. Public notice of the meeting was issued in accordance with Iowa Code Section 21.4.

**Members in attendance:** Janna Diehl, NE Iowa Area Agency on Aging; Lori Egan, NEICAC EARL Transit; Lisa Curtin, WIOA Title 1 Director; Spif Slifka, Howard County Business and Tourism;

**Others in attendance:** Aaron Detter, UERPC Transportation Planner.

1. Detter started the meeting off with a welcome at 2:05 p.m.
2. Detter provided an update on Regional Planning Affiliation 1 (RPA-1) planning activities and work products, letting the group know that he is currently preparing the Transportation Improvement Program for public review and a public hearing at the Policy Board's July 7 meeting.
3. Detter initiated a discussion and review of the priorities and goals of RPA-1's Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP).

Slifka talked about the interconnectivity of all of the things we work on in the region such as housing, tourism, economic development, etc., and that the common bond is transportation.

Slifka and Egan discussed who some of the stakeholders are to reach out to, such as county supervisors, city councils, businesses, etc.

Slifka talked about the need to all be giving the same messaging about mobility and transportation when we are doing our work in the region. Members discussed the idea of a vision statement that is consistent and to be able to link that to one's specific focus area (transit, housing, etc.) when speaking publicly.

Members decided that an overall "mobility" vision statement is something to work on.

4. Detter opened the floor to any general updates from members on their activities and news.

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Diehl gave an update on the opening up of senior centers and the social distancing and sanitizing procedures that are required. She said they are delaying as long as they can and are looking at August 3 for an opening date.

Curtin discussed IowaWorks operations, saying that they are not sure as far as when they will open up and that they are still open by appointment only and nobody is coming into the center. She said there have been lots of claims currently and touched on some additional issues they are dealing with such as fraud, employees refusing to come back when called back, etc. She informed the group that Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation staff, who work in the same building, are not coming back to work in the office until September 1.

Detter explained that member Amy Chicos of Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services could not be at this meeting but that she had contacted him requesting that he add to the discussion the issue of anti-racism, racial equity, and social justice issues needing to be part of the continuing conversation in light of the current situation in American society.

Egan updated the group on the status of public transit operations. She informed members that EARL is in the end phases of a new schedule and dispatch system. She said the current system has been in use for 14-15 years and the new system will allow-same-day scheduling more readily and allow internet/website ride requests.

5. As a floor item, members discussed that an immediate focus for EARL Transit and all of its partners can and should be to reassure the public that transit is safe and that EARL is taking precautions to ensure riders and drivers are protecting themselves and others. They discussed the idea of putting out video or audio messaging in local media as well as having simple flyers.
6. Members discussed when the next meeting would be. Detter said that going forward the group would likely meet quarterly and that the next meeting would probably be late summer or early fall and that he would be in contact with group members as that time approaches.
7. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.