

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

Present: Fern Rissman (WIA, UERPC), Dee Hosek (Howard Cty. VA), Earl Henry (NEICAC Transit), Katie Angell (Helping Services of NE Iowa), Rachel Jaster (G&G), Carol Keune (Fayette County CPC), Heather Homewood (Allamakee Cty. VA), Lynda Springer (IDHS), TJ Warren – via phone (UIU), Karla Organist (UERPC)

Invited but unable to attend: Katie Hageman/Mindy Buchheit (Postville Childcare), Shanna Hale (Opportunity Homes), Bruce Butters (Northland Agency), Daniel Rotto (Hometown Taxi), Lori Matter (Howard Cty. Res. Care Facility), Fay Halverson (Gunderson Clinic – Lansing), Ed Josten (RISE), Jean Gage (Clayton County CPC), Chalsea Carroll (Howard County CPC), Jan Heikes (Winneshiek & Allamakee County CPC), Karn Pankow (NEICAC Transit)

1. Introductions and a review of the notes from the January 27th meeting
2. The proposed final 2013 PTP Update was reviewed. Changes since the committee last met were identified:

- Per DOT comments, date range of most recent telephone survey was included
- Addition of the “Wheels to Work” program section

Adjustments made by the committee:

- In the Mobility Manager section, adjust the wording to reflect that the funding was approved.
- In the Wheels to Work section, adjust the wording to reflect that the program funding has not been approved yet.
- In the Transit Improvement section, remove the mention of the tablets. This won't work for the system, so Transit is just replacing the old Rangers with a newer version.

The Policy Board will be meeting on April 19<sup>th</sup> to approve the Final PTP for submission to the DOT by May 1.

3. Updates from NEICAC:

- Earl provided more of the details about how the Wheels to Work program would operate and the loan terms: max loan amount is \$4500, applicants must be employed, loans amortized up to 30 months, cars will be fitted with an on-time payment device, loan client must carry full insurance coverage and pay tax, title and license fees from own funds. Others attending this meeting noted that this program would be an excellent option for some of their clientele and that it would also enhance an existing car repair program as an option when car repairs exceed the value of the car needing repair.
- The Mobility Manager position was posted and closed recently. Interviewing has not begun. NEICAC plans to keep the job description flexible to adapt quickly to identified needs or program improvements. Initially, the Mobility Manager will reach out to community stakeholders, residents and organizations to understand passenger transportation needs. In addition, the Mobility Manager will collect information on existing passenger transportation providers, all with the goal of having a true understanding of what we have and what we lack for a passenger transportation system that works for our residents. Long term goals include a website, with a carpool calendar, among other information.

4. PTP Project Discussion:

- Marketing: Committee members discussed the need to work on this – Earl will send brochures to several. Karla would like mailing addresses from all committee members. Earl was able to answer questions regarding service to others at the meeting.
- Collaborations: Discussion turned to Oelwein as the second-largest community in the region, but with limited transportation services (no taxi, however, it was noted that Transit does an in-town route from 9:00 am to 1:30 p.m. \$2.00 ride fee). It was mentioned that a survey to see if an evening route, one night a week, might be warranted. The new Mobility Manager, Karla and Carol will pursue this. The group also talked about where gaps were occurring in some reimbursement programs such as Title 19 and Medicaid.
- Outreach: Discussion surrounded the possibility of coordinating transportation needs messaging for “Day on the Hill” events next year. Providing the same message from a number of different special interests may help embed it!

5. Next Meeting: July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 10:00 a.m. at UERPC's Decorah office