

Passenger Transportation Plan - Regional Planning Affiliate 1, UERPC  
Transportation Advisory Group Meeting Minutes  
July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 325 Washington Street, Decorah, Iowa

Present: Sam Castro (NEICAC Transit), Curt McNew (NEICAC Transit), Michelle Barness (UERPC), Spiff Slifka (Howard Co. Business and Tourism), Fern Rissman (WIOA/Iowa Works), Lynda Springer (Iowa Dept. of Human Services)

1. Meeting called to order at 9:10 a.m.
2. Mobility Manager/Transit Update:
  - A crisis operation fund has been established. This is a short-term solution for individuals without money to pay for transit rides. The ride funds are targeted for people that need job search or essential medical related transit rides and can't afford them.
  - Sam Castro attended the Community Transportation Association of America conference. He shared information from the conference, including efforts underway by other transit organizations to merge paid and volunteer transit driver forces, and a marketing session he attended that touched on making marketing toolkits, online registration options for transit, digital options for making transit more accessible, etc.
  - EARL Public Transit will be providing shuttle service for Ragbrai in Cresco and Lansing Iowa in July. They will also be providing shuttle service for Nordic Fest in Decorah around the same time. These are donated rides meant for community outreach. They attain volunteer drivers for the events. Transit has a sign-up system for volunteer drivers now.
  - Transit will attain five new buses/vans through 2017, including a 7-person van with expanded handicap accommodation and several 18-passenger buses.
  - EARL Public Transit is working with Luther College in Decorah, IA and Upper Iowa University in Fayette, IA to establish 1 – 2 time per week fixed route service for students. Both schools will no longer provide in-house transit service. The routes will bring students into town to shop, run errands, etc. TAG members discussed issues/considerations around Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) attempting to establish service for students. A fixed route to NICC was explored previously but transit hasn't seen enough interest from students/the public to make it sustainable yet.
3. TAG members discussed that additional transit service coordination was needed to meet the needs of care facilities in Cresco, IA. McNew stated that EARL Public Transit should be able to meet demand but just needed more information.
4. TAG members discussed the upcoming Transportation Summit in October of 2017. The group discussed speakers and exhibitors for the summit, summit funding/grants, event registration and marketing details, and next steps by individual TAG members.
5. Barness reviewed the finalized agency and community transportation surveys for the Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP) update. TAG members will help distribute the surveys once forwarded out by Barness.
6. Planner Barness was asked to contact TAG members via email to arrange an upcoming meeting date.
7. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.