

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2021**

MINUTES

Durant called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 9:01 a.m.

Meeting Attendees:	Lori Glover	Black Hawk County Emergency Management Agency
	Jan Heidemann	Bremer County CPC
	Susan Backes	House of Hope
	David Sturch	MET Transit
	Lon Kammeyer	MET Transit Board
	Janna Diehl	NEI3A
	Kyle Durant	INRCOG
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item was to review and consider approval of the agenda. It was moved by Diehl, seconded by Glover to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the January 29, 2020 Transit Advisory Committee meeting. It was moved by Glover, seconded by Diehl to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item was an update on MET Transit fixed route restructuring. Sturch said staff have been driving routes to making sure timings are down. MET Transit is adjusting Waterloo's routes for a break-even cost. The restructuring could result in a couple extra routes being added. Cedar Falls is also looking for a break-even cost estimate and may adjust Route 9. The goal is to start the route restructuring this summer, though a launch date has yet to be determined. MET Transit would like to conduct public outreach, preferably in person, late this spring.

Leseman said INRCOG staff have been working on a project through the Iowa Department of Public Health funded by SNAP-ED which helped staff spend more time focusing on areas impacted by the route restructuring, specifically low-income senior housing locations. This will allow residents living near the Crossroads and North End shopping areas of Waterloo to take one bus route to their destination and a different bus route back home without needing to travel downtown and back. Leseman offered to provide a presentation at the next TAC meeting.

Next on the agenda was updates on projects and initiatives included in the FY 2021-2025 Passenger Transportation Plan. Durant said INRCOG staff have working on the MET Transit route restructuring and rebranding of the Regional Transit Commission. Backes asked if there are limits on the number of riders per bus due to COVID. Sturch said MET Transit is limiting buses to 10 passengers and requiring masks for the foreseeable future. Sturch provided updates on projects MET Transit has working on including 5310 funding, route restructuring, and bus stops and shelters. With the route restructuring this year, the group could look at marketing efforts. Leseman said Waterloo is working on a 2030 Strategic Visioning Plan, and as part of those discussions people have mentioned the need to expand transit service. This could be a way to address expanding transit to City Council. Backes said it is difficult to market transit services until we know what the restructured routes will be. Diehl said when a transit ambassador program is started, she would like to be a part of the effort.

Next was agency updates. Durant provided an overview of OnBoard Public Transit. The Regional Transit Commission is now called OnBoard Public Transit. The buses have been wrapped with the new logo.
<http://onboardpublictransit.com/>.

In other business, Durant said the Iowa DOT completed the Public Transit Long Range Plan in 2020. As part of the planning process, a transit dependency analysis was conducted to determine statewide needs. The document can be accessed at <https://iowadot.gov/iowainmotion/Modal-Plans/Public-Transit-Plan>. Backes asked if there was an update on bus pads, benches, and shelters in Waterloo. Sturch and Leseman both responded that there is no update. Durant recommended having staff from the City of Waterloo attend the next TAC meeting to provide an update on bus pads and shelters. Sturch said Goodwill is interested in having a bus stop installed on Falls Ave in front of their facility. Leseman said as planned, the new Route 8 would go right in front of the Goodwill location and operate all day. Leseman encouraged individuals to contact him with any questions on the proposed routes. Diehl said NEI3A is working to help people get transportation to vaccine appointments as well as providing information on where they can get shots.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman
Acting Secretary