

**PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION PLAN  
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019**

**MINUTES**

Leseman called the meeting of the Iowa Northland Regional Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) to order at 9:00 a.m.

|                    |                     |  |
|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Meeting Attendees: | Carolina Arce       | Alternatives Center                            |
|                    | Lori Glover         | Black Hawk County Emergency Management         |
|                    | Jan Heidemann       | Bremer County of the East Central Region (ECR) |
|                    | Debra Hodges-Harmon | Cedar Valley Iowa Works                        |
|                    | Sheila Baird        | Cedar Valley United Way                        |
|                    | Aric Schroeder      | City of Waterloo                               |
|                    | Todd Rickert        | Grundy County Social Services                  |
|                    | Susan Backes        | House of Hope, Pillars                         |
|                    | Mark Little         | MET Transit                                    |
|                    | Ben Kvigne          | INRCOG, INRTC                                  |
|                    | Codie Leseman       | INRCOG   |

The first item was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the June 5, 2018 and September 11, 2018 Transit Advisory Committee meetings. It was moved by Little, seconded by Glover to approve the June 5 and September 11 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Next on the agenda was to introduce Ben Kvigne, the new Director of Transit for the Iowa Northland Regional Transit Commission (RTC). Ben described his background at INRCOG as an environmental planner prior to taking on this new role. The RTC may seek an additional part-time driver. The RTC currently has drivers who regularly operate in Buchanan, Black Hawk, Bremer, and Chickasaw Counties. There is interest in expanding service into additional areas.

The next item was an update on Remix and the transit route planning project for MET. Little described how the MET board agreed to purchase a three-year license to use Remix, and they are currently in year two. MET has considered multiple improvements to services including a new route for workers along Airline Highway and the possibility of having two dedicated routes within Cedar Falls. Leseman demonstrated the features of Remix to the group. Leseman then showed the most up-to-date draft of the potential changes to the fixed-route system. Benefits of the proposed changes include improved schedule reliability, more direct service for many passengers, improved service within downtown Waterloo, and increased service to the San Marnan Drive retail area. The primary drawback of the proposed changes is the reduction of coverage in some areas. Backes said adding bus shelters would help parents with children. Schroeder said that the City intends to install new shelters as part of its ADA compliance requirements. The City has already updated some of the existing bus stops to meet ADA design standards.

Next on the agenda was to discuss topics relating to regional passenger transportation. Little said he has been hearing that agencies have been having issues with some of the providers and plans to set up a meeting with agency directors and MCOs to discuss the issue further. The City Councils have set their budgets for MET Transit. Cedar Falls increased their amount by 2.5 percent, and there was no increase in the Waterloo budget. The

increase in Cedar Falls will fund three more hours for Route 9 service, allowing it to operate all day long. Kvigne said he is working on a consolidated grant focused on bus replacement. The RTC received 12 buses in 2009 and maintenance is a challenge. Backes said House of Hope recently conducted a transportation-related survey of their clients. 33 percent of those surveyed did not use public transit, but 33 percent did, and 22 percent currently don't but did in the past. The survey also found that 89 percent of respondents said they would use transit if it ran more often.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman  
Acting Secretary