

**PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION PLAN
TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

IOWA NORTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

MINUTES

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

Meeting Attendees:	Lori Glover	Black Hawk County Emergency Management
	Jan Heidemann	Bremer County of the East Central Region (ECR)
	Sheila Baird	Cedar Valley United Way
	Mark Little	MET Transit
	Lon Kammeyer	MET Transit Board
	Janna Diehl	Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A)
	Codie Leseman	INRCOG

The first item was to review and consider approval of the minutes for the March 12, 2019 Transit Advisory Committee meeting. It was moved by Little, seconded by Diehl to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

The next item was to discuss the development schedule for the FY 2020-2024 Passenger Transportation Plan (PTP). Leseman said the draft Plan is due February 1, 2020, and the final is due May 1, 2020. If anybody in the committee has any suggestions for topics to include in the Plan, they should contact Kyle Durant or Codie Leseman. The current PTP can be downloaded on the INRCOG website.

Next on the agenda was an update on Remix and the transit route planning project for MET. Little said there may be a presentation to the MET Transit Board in October. From there, MET and INRCOG staff can meet with the city councils of Waterloo and Cedar Falls in November, with the goal of submitting a budget request in December. Additional service may include adding a route in Cedar Falls and possible peak hour service along Airline Highway. The restructuring should result in less idle time and fewer transfers. Discussion continued about paratransit.

The next item was an update on the new ADA-compliant bus stop landings in Waterloo. Leseman said the City of Waterloo recently removed most of its bus benches in response to a letter from the Department of Justice, and installed around two dozen ADA-compliant landings at select locations. There is currently no immediate plan to replace the bus benches. INRCOG will facilitate a discussion with City departments to establish a process for reinstalling benches. This effort ties in to a contract between the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and INRCOG called SNAP-Ed which will focus on education and planning for improving walkability around low-income senior housing and congregate meal sites. INRCOG staff recently reached out to a few of the senior housing agencies, and have been told the lack of bus benches is problematic for their residents. INRCOG staff will meet with NEI3A staff next week to discuss this further.

Next on the agenda was to discuss agency and user needs and funding needs. The Cedar Valley United Way's Rally for the Valley went well, and there was substantial community support. Bremer County of the ECR is looking for a new CEO. Discussion continued about the reserving booths at the National Cattle Congress Fair.

The next item was to discuss the potential restructure of the Transit Advisory Committee. Leseman said the Black Hawk County MPO is working on updating its bylaws, and part of that includes identifying voting members for each committee. There had been discussion about creating a new committee to focus on pedestrian and bicycle issues, and one idea was to merge the Transit Advisory Committee with this new committee. The proposed new committee would meet every other month, and at least two meetings would need to focus specifically on transit issues to meet federal requirements. Little said he would be concerned about attendance if meetings last longer than an hour. Leseman said the meetings would be one hour in length from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. just before the Technical Committee meetings. This could also encourage attendance. There is still the concern of maintaining relevant discussion topics for the social service organizations outside of Black Hawk County. Anybody that would like to add an item to a meeting agenda should contact either Kyle Durant or Codie Leseman. We should have more direction after the MPO meeting later this week, and will report back to this committee with more information.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Codie Leseman
Acting Secretary