

Transit Action Group
Tuesday March 17th, 2015
11am-1pm
ECIA

Meeting Minutes

Present: Debra Christiansen, Peggy Petlon, Ann Bauer, Greg Orwoll, Susan Hostert, Margee Woywood, Jodi Johnson, Michelle Huseman, Dan Fox, Jane Dubert, Ashley Robins and Bridget Bartlett

Bridget Bartlett welcomed everyone to the TAG meeting and handed out the agenda and previous meeting minutes.

Jule Update & Urban Subcommittee Update – Jodi Johnson; the Jule Operations Supervisor

Jodi reported that the ridership has increased which they are excited about. Jodi mentioned the Smarter Travel Project and encouraged everyone to sign up. Dan reported that it hasn't officially launched yet, but it is designed to determine transportation patterns in Dubuque. Participants will be selected via email once they complete the demographic information, they are looking for people who either live in Dubuque or travel to Dubuque. Jodi reported that the Intermodal Facility should open sometime in August, construction is underway. Nightrider continues to grow stronger and is very popular by the general public.

RTA Update & Rural Subcommittee Update – Bridget Bartlett, RTA Mobility Coordinator

Bridget displayed the RTA website and walked through how to view the services we have available and encouraged TAG members to utilize this as a tool when working with clients. Last July until now we have provided over 87,000 rides; over 12,000 in Delaware County, over 19,000 in Jackson County and over 55,000 in Dubuque. Ridership continues to grow as people learn what services we have available. Bridget mentioned the Project Pass Program which is funding received from the Women's Giving Circle for financial assistance to women with or without children. Money is still available so Bridget encouraged members to call Project Concern for a referral. Bridget continues to hold Learn to Ride sessions and one was just held for Penn Center residents. A transportation work group has been developed with Greg Orwall with DuRide, Greg Zars with Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging and the Veterans Freedom Center. This work group is designed to increase awareness of transportation services that are available and how we can reduce duplication of services.

Bridget talked about the mental health redesign and how many counties are combined as a region; Bridget showed the map on the screen so that members are aware of the boundaries that will affect our three county area. Peggy Petlon and Ann Bauer helped to clarify the specifics of the redesign and the structure. The East Central Region has met on numerous occasions to discuss transportation concerns and options. Jane Dubert reported that she has not heard much about transportation for her area in the Eastern Iowa Region.

Passenger Transportation Plan presentation – Dan Fox ECIA Transportation Planner

Dan stated that the draft PTP was sent in and the final will be due May 2015. Dan handed out information on our priorities and strategies and asked for input from the TAG. The following suggestions were made from TAG members:

- A referral system for transportation providers – DuRide
- Update the Transportation Resource Guide – Bridget
- A separate website for transportation options according to county
- Evening transportation during the week to include 6-7pm

- Spell out acronyms (ARC, ARK, etc.)

Dan reminded members if their agency provides transportation to fill out a survey so we can take an inventory of all transportation options available.

The next TAG meeting will be Tuesday September 15th, 2015

Respectfully submitted by,

Bridget Bartlett