

Jackson County Transit Action Group (TAG)
Thursday, August 6, 2020 11am-1pm
ECIA Zoom Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Present: Stephanie Sagers (JCEA), Ted Strait (Farmers Market), Mike Steines (JC Board of Supervisors), Ronelle Clark (ONV), Angela Martensen (ITP), Michelle Huseman (EIRHA), Deb Courter (DHS), Lynn Bopes (MHDS), Chandra Ravada (ECIA) & Tricia Wagner (RTA)

Introductions & Agency updates: Group agreed to just take attendance at the beginning and go right into the agenda, rather than doing agency updates.

Agenda item #1: TAG structure – missing members: Hospital, Schools & MCO Case Manager - Tom Meyer joined TAG committee from Bellevue Schools. Need to add someone from Maquoketa Community School District, Stephanie will find one and introduce to Tricia who will then email details and seal the deal. Lynn Bopes will reach out to Dawn Rude at the Regional Health Center. Tricia will send the recruit email to Lynn and Stephanie for this purpose, and copy all members as well.

Tricia asked if there is any need for assistance for school transportation for Maquoketa Community School District, to get feedback for IDOT for their conversations with FTA and Dept. of Education. Contact is Dan Selzer, Tricia will reach out. Transportation Director for Bellevue CSD is Tim Roth.

Tricia requested members accept all calendar requests unless know ahead can't attend. Email Tricia week before meeting only if can't attend.

Agenda item #2: Select Chair & Vice Chair, Proxies – Tricia will reach out to individuals to request Chair and VC. Chair will request agenda items from members and send to Tricia who will type up agenda and send out. Need a primary member and at least one proxy for every agency, all welcome to attend, at least one required, and only one vote per action item per meeting. Technical Committee (RTA TAG) will vote on and recommend projects to the Policy Board (RTA Board). Tricia shared the new format for meeting minutes (and agendas) and list of members for attendance. Committee will need to agree on what our quorum will be. Tricia will write up by-laws and post all of these things on the website. Meetings are all open to the public.

Agenda item #3: Update on Coordination Project –

- MFA grant, we were not awarded
- AIM grant award will be announced in Fall 2020
- DRA no news, postponed until October

Agenda item #4: Update on Service Improvement Plan (County Funding) – Taking off in Jackson County! Tricia shared Chandra's PPT outlining COVID affects on RTA and RTA's response. Meals on Wheels contract with NEIAAA were the only rides during peak COVID. General public rides have increased in Jackson largely due to the subsidy and the TAG promoting it. Looking for more drivers in all three counties, particularly in Delaware.

Miles or any rural area, we will need a minimum group of 3 riders to cover costs to do the trip. Discussion on how to coordinate/communicate this. Mike suggested advertising in the Preston Times, talk to the City Councils, and then up to the individuals to coordinate their group trips. Stephanie suggested Sabula and Preston's FB pages, contact Patty Cuffman. Mike said Preston does have a nice Dollar Store, if getting to Maquoketa isn't feasible.

Michelle did a mailer to all of their residents in Bellevue (12), Sabula (8) and Miles (8). Wondered if we have a way to track whether they've reached out to us. RTA has a trip rejection tracking spreadsheet, so if they called and we couldn't do the trip it should be on there. Michelle will have her clients call Tricia, or get Tricia their numbers to call them. Tricia will do a Learn to Ride, either virtually somehow or social distance group outing.

Agenda item #5: Update on Maquoketa Farmers Market (Ted Strait) – Maquoketa Community Services grant just ended, and they are closed so funds are low, so unable to fund the remainder of the season. Ted identified another funding source; grant thorough the Community Foundation of Jackson County, and their Disaster Recovery Fund for COVID. Ridership lower than last year because people are leery of getting on a bus with strangers during the pandemic. But some regular riders, and new riders are taking advantage of the free service. Market has a special seating area for RTA riders. Tricia is sending in application for the CFJC grant this afternoon, and part of the request is for advertising. Include in advertising RTA safety measures. Ted and Angela mentioned that drivers aren't always wearing masks, Chandra addressed with Operations Managers during the call, they will talk to our drivers to remind them this is mandatory.

Agenda item #6: United Way Rides for Wellness Grant – awarded a \$3500 for GP, \$4000 for IVRS camps; the camps were cancelled, so the \$4K is being reviewed by UW to approve IVRS using the funding for similar type of services for same population throughout the school year. Ronelle is instrumental in getting the grant money utilized in Jackson County! Vouchers/ride tickets and applications are available at her office.

Agenda item #7: Topic from last meeting: RTA is not only for the elderly – Stephanie suggested PSA message on the radio and You Tube video like ECIA did for the Pocket Neighborhood that everyone can share on their FB pages. Ronelle suggested events like National Night Out held end of Aug-Mid Sept, bring a bus and let kids get on the bus and check it out. Iowa WFD puts on the career fair every year, that would be a good one. Y also had a community event for a drive through resource fair, something like that Ronelle will be sure to let me know. Ronelle said people need to meet the drivers because they are so friendly and she doesn't think many people know that. We all agreed Ronelle should be a spokesperson/testimonial for the RTA! Ted suggested to incorporate tag line "RTA Is For Everybody" to help get rid of the stigma, use this in any ads we do. Lynn suggested adding it to the side of the bus, Mike suggested we just change the tag line on our logo altogether. Something we could propose to the policy board. Tricia will review the Loras marketing projects from 2017-18 and talk to Chandra about possibly rebranding.

Agenda item #8: Combined/All County Meeting December 2. Request Chair to address the group with brief updates and come with questions for the IDOT.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 2, 2020 11 AM – 1 PM (likely Zoom)